



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

September 12, 2016

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: BOS File No. 160748 [Planning Code - Amusement Arcades in South of Market and Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts]

Small Business Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors: **Approval**

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On August 8, 2016, the Small Business Commission voted unanimously (6-0, 1 absent) to recommend approval of the legislation.

The Small Business Commission also unanimously approved BOS File No: 140776, which amended the Police Code - Regulating Mechanical Amusement Devices and Arcade. This code amendment eased the permit requirements, maintained the Entertainment Commission's oversight, and streamlined the permit process to be more in line with other entertainment practices.

Amusement Arcades are trending and are a positive economic recreational business model that would be good to have in many areas of the City. Currently a vast majority the San Francisco's business districts are off limits to amusements arcades and each area would have to modify its zoning controls through legislation to allow for an amusement arcade to open. Modifying zoning controls can be too costly for a business, both in terms of time and money, therefore removing from consideration a business district that would benefit from having an amusement arcade.

The current proposed revisions to the Planning Code, Article 7 smartly modifies this antiquated restriction. The proposed revisions to Article 7 move the definition of Sec. 790.4. Amusement Game Arcade (Mechanical Amusement Devices), to Sec. 102. Definitions, Entertainment General, and categorizes the use under the Entertainment, Arts, and Recreation Use Category. This would allow for amusement arcades to be either conditional use or permitted based upon the area of the City and/or other business elements that arcade may be partnered with.

During public comment, speakers made points related to community, contributions to the neighborhood, diversity of business, and facilitating recreation. Commissioners took into account these comments, as well as the legislative history around arcades, as it developed its recommendation.

Thank you for considering the Commission's comments. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

cc: Jane Kim, Board of Supervisors
Nicole Elliott, Mayor's Office
Todd Rufo, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Aaron Starr, Planning Department
Alisa Somera, Land Use & Transportation Committee