



September 15, 2017

The Honorable London Breed, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room #244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: File #170419 (Peskin): Planning Code - North Beach, Telegraph Hill, Broadway and Chinatown Area Controls (OPPOSE unless amended to remove new Health Service restrictions in the North Beach NCD)

Dear Supervisor Breed:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses with over 200,000 employees, must oppose the above noted legislation unless further amended.

While we appreciate that Supervisor Aaron Peskin amended this legislation to remove the section that would have required all uses now listed under the category "Sales and Service, Retail" in the Planning Code be subject to Formula Retail controls in Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCDs) citywide, the Chamber agrees with the Zoning Administrator's interpretation that these sorts of uses, especially Health Services, are not and should not be considered Formula Retail. While we understand Supervisor Peskin does not agree with this interpretation, we appreciate his offer to work with the Chamber, Hospital Council and others if and when he continues to seek to expand the application of Formula Retail controls across the city.

However, the Chamber and our partners, including most of San Francisco's major health care providers, do not support provisions in the legislation that impose additional controls on Health Services in the North Beach NCD. Specifically we are not in favor of banning Health Services in ground floor retail spaces in North Beach or in any NCD. Health services are neighborhood serving; medical clinics in merchant corridors bring necessary services closer to where people live, enhancing accessibility. And they can fill the growing number of vacant retail spaces in North Beach and other NCDs. Defining Formula Retail uses to include these vitally important health services will do a great disservice to residents of the city, especially if this becomes precedent for future legislative actions.

The Chamber therefore opposes this legislation unless it is further amended to remove new Health Service restrictions, especially the ban on Health Services in ground floor retail spaces, in the North Beach NCD. We urge the Board of Supervisors to vote to oppose this legislation unless so amended when it comes before you on September 19, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Lazarus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Mayor Ed Lee