File No. <u>180054</u>

Committee Item No. <u>6</u> Board Item No. <u>2</u>

## COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: <u>Rules Committee</u>

Date \_ February 28, 2018

Date Nacin 13, 2018

**Board of Supervisors Meeting** 

## Cmte Board

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| Π         | f      | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report         |
| Π         | Π.     | Youth Commission Report                       |
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| Ħ         | Π      | Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)             |
| Π         | Π      | Grant Information Form                        |
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| OTHER     |        | (Use back side if additional space is needed) |
| X         | X      | BIL RESPONSE - FEBRUARY ZI, 2018              |
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|           | $\Box$ |   |
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| Completed by: | Alisa Somera | Date | February 23, | 2018 |
|---------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| Completed by: | JOHD CARROL  | Date | MARCHI       | 2018 |

### FILE NO. 180054

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[Building Code - Waiver and Refund of Investigation Fee for Persons Registered with the Office of Cannabis]

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code,

Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, Section 1602) registered with

the Office of Cannabis.

NOTE: Unchanged Code text and uncodified text are in plain Arial font. Additions to Codes are in <u>single-underline italics Times New Roman font</u>. Deletions to Codes are in <u>strikethrough italics Times New Roman font</u>. Board amendment additions are in <u>double-underlined Arial font</u>. Board amendment deletions are in strikethrough Arial font. Asterisks (\* \* \* \*) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

(a) To ensure that the cannabis industry in San Francisco operates in a manner that promotes health and safety, and that otherwise conforms to applicable regulatory standards, the City and County of San Francisco has encouraged potential participants in that industry to register with the Office of Cannabis. Indeed, Persons (as defined in Police Code Section 1602) who wish to operate a Cannabis Business (as defined in the same Section) are required, under Police Code Section 1605, to be registered with the Office of Cannabis to obtain a Temporary Cannabis Business Permit. Persons who register with the Office of Cannabis are required to submit to inspections of the proposed Cannabis Business's premises by the Department of Building Inspection, in addition to certain other City departments, agencies, and offices.

(b) Building Code Section 107A.5 imposes an investigation fee for any work performed without a required Building Code permit. As described in Building Code Table 1A-K

Supervisor Sheehy BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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("Penalties, Hearings, Code Enforcement Assessments"), the amount of this investigation fee is generally "9 times the Permit Issuance Fee plus the original permit fee." Imposing this investigation fee on Persons who are registered with the Office of Cannabis would likely be perceived as unfair or punitive by those who have cooperated with the City's efforts to regulate the cannabis industry in a manner that promotes health and safety. Likewise, imposing this fee might discourage similar cooperation by such Persons in the future.

Section 2. Waiver of Investigation Fee Imposed by Building Code Section 107A.5; Refund of Fees Previously Collected.

(a) The investigation fee imposed by Section 107A.5 of the Building Code is hereby waived with respect to Persons who are registered with the Office of Cannabis. Accordingly, neither the Department of Building Inspection, nor any other City department, agency, or office, may collect this fee from any Person who is registered with the Office of Cannabis.

(b) This ordinance is retroactive to September 26, 2017. Accordingly, the Department of Building Inspection, and, if applicable, any other City department, agency, or office, shall refund any fees described in subsection (a) that have, as of the effective date of this ordinance, already been collected.

Section 3. Sunset Provision.

Section 2 of this ordinance shall be inoperative after December 31, 2018. After that date, Persons registered with the Office of Cannabis shall again be subject to the investigation fee imposed by Section 107A.5 of the Building Code. After that date, the Department of Building Inspection, and, as applicable, other City departments, agencies, or offices, may impose this fee on Persons registered with the Office of Cannabis, for unpermitted work that occurs, or other Building Code violations that exist, after that date.

Supervisor Sheehy BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Section 4. Effective Date; Retroactivity.

(a) This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

(b) As stated in subsection (b) of Section 2 of this ordinance, the fee waiver described in Section 2 of this ordinance shall be retroactive to September 26, 2017.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

W LEE

By:

Deputy City Attorney

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Supervisor Sheehy BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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#### LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Building Code - Waiver and Refund of Investigation Fee for Persons Registered with the Office of Cannabis]

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code Section 1602) registered with the Office of Cannabis.

#### Existing Law

To obtain a Temporary Cannabis Business Permit, applicants must register with the Office of Cannabis.

Registered cannabis businesses are required to submit to inspections of their premises by the Department of Building Inspection, in addition to other City agencies. These DBI inspections have discovered work that was performed without required Building Code permits. Building Code Section 107A.5 imposes a fee (which Section 107A.5 describes as an "investigation fee") for work performed without a required Building Code permit. The amount of this fee is substantial-generally, "9 times the Permit Issuance Fee plus the original permit fee."

#### Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance waives the "investigation fee" imposed by Building Code Section 107A.5 with respect to potential cannabis businesses registered with the Office of Cannabis. This fee waiver is retroactive to September 26, 2017 (the date on which the Office of Cannabis began accepting registrations); thus, the ordinance would require the City to refund fees collected since that date.

The ordinance sunsets after December 31, 2018. After that date, registered cannabis businesses shall again be subject to "investigation fees" under Building Code Section 107A.5.

Nothing in this ordinance would exempt registered cannabis businesses from the responsibility to bring their premises into compliance with the Building Code, or from any other fees imposed by the Building Code.



## **BUILDING INSPECTION COMMISSION (BIC)**

Department of Building Inspection Voice (415) 558-6164 - Fax (415) 558-6509 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414

Mark Farrell Mayor

COMMISSION

Angus McCarthy President

Debra Walker Vice-President

Kevin Clinch Gail Gilman John Konstin Frank Lee James Warshell

Sonya Harris Secretary

Shirley Wong Assistant Secretary

Tom C. Hui Director Ms. Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board Board of Supervisors, City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

February 21, 2018

RE: File No. 180054

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, Section 1602) registered with the Office of Cannabis.

The Building Inspection Commission met and held a public hearing on February 21, 2018 regarding File No. 180054 on the proposed ordinance referenced above. The Commissioners voted unanimously to support the ordinance.

The Commissioners voted as follows:

President McCarthy Commissioner Clinch Commissioner Konstin Commissioner Warshell

Yes Excused Yes Yes Vice-President Walker Commissioner Gilman Commissioner Lee Yes

Yes

Yes

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 558-6164.

Sincerely,

Sonya Harris Commission Secretary

CC:

Tom C. Hui, S.E., Director Nicole Elliott, Director Supervisor Jeff Sheehy Board of Supervisors Mayor Mark Farrell



San Francisco Board of Supervisors 1 Carlton Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102 Via email

Re: Support for File # 180054 "Waiver and Refund of Investigation Fee for Persons Registered with the Office of Cannabis"

Founded in 2004, The Green Cross prides itself on its "patients first" mantra and compassionate approach to cannabis. Legally permitted by the City and County of San Francisco, The Green Cross has operated at its current retail storefront location at 4218 Mission Street since 2013. Our store provides patient education, neighborhood safety services, and low-priced quality medicine. In addition to retailing cannabis products, apparel, and other accessories, The Green Cross also manufactures edible cannabis products under the IncrediMeds brand. We appreciate the Board of Supervisors's attention to cannabis regulation, especially over the past year, and your consideration of our comments and suggestions below.

We ask that you support the ordinance to waive or refund the investigation fee that has been levied on cannabis facilities following temporary permit safety inspections. While we have not yet received these burdensome bills, we may in the future, and we sympathize with our peers. Contrary to popular misconception, many responsible operators of cannabis businesses do not have significant cash reserves. The overwhelming new (state and local) regulatory burdens our industry faces are tremendously greater than those of any other industry. In particular, The Green Cross operates as a nonprofit organization and, even though cannabis businesses may now operate for-profit, most San Francisco cannabis businesses are still notfor-profits to this day. We have continually improved our prices and reinvested in services for our members, not saved up against the day when these inspection fees would come.

Note that the city of Berkeley has recently lowered its local sales tax on adult-use cannabis from 10% to 5%, and the city of Oakland is considering following suit. These measures will help those cities' retailers stay competitive, and even stay in business, as we continue to realize the full impact of the new state cultivation taxes and state excise tax. We urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, not only to

4218 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94112

TheGreenCross.org

O: 415.648.4420 F: 415.431.2420



waive inspection fees for all of 2018 as recommended by the Building Inspection Commission, but also to avoid placing a burdensome cannabis tax on this November's city ballot. Such an additional tax would only fuel the illicit market that avoids regulation and testing, thus hurting patients. The cannabis industry is at a fragile crossroads. In this burdensome regulatory transition, we are losing many advocates for drug policy reform to profit incentives.

Please pass File No. 180054, and transmit responses and any other relevant correspondence to <u>KevinReed@TheGreenCross.org</u> and jesse.stout@greenbridgelaw.com.

Regards,

S=1-(

Kevin Reed Founder & President The Green Cross

4218 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94112

TheGreenCross.org

O: 415.648.4420 F: 415.431.2420

## Somera, Alisa (BOS)

| From:    |  |
|----------|--|
| Jent:    |  |
| To:      |  |
| Subject: |  |

Board of Supervisors, (BOS) Tuesday, March 06, 2018 10:08 AM BOS-Supervisors; Somera, Alisa (BOS) FW: Investigation Fee

## From: bridget [mailto:bridgetmay@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2018 9:26 AM

To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Breed, London (BOS) <london.breed@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Malia (BOS) <malia.cohen@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Kim, Jane (BOS) <jane.kim@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Sheehy, Jeff (BOS) <jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Tang, Katy (BOS) <katy.tang@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org> Cc: bridget may <bridget@littlegreenbee.net>

Subject: Investigation Fee

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I understand that you will be hearing the ordinance put forward by the Office of Cannabis and Supervisor Sheehy's Office that seeks to waive or refund the Investigation Fee that has been levied on numerous facilities as a result of the temporary permit life safety inspections.

I run a small business struggling to survive in San Francisco and am doing my very best to comply with everything put before me. I urge you .o pass this ordinance. In January I signed an affidavit promising to stop production until I am fully compliant and permitted. I am now running low on cash and don't have a clear idea of when I will be able to start up my business again. This means I have had no cash flow for several months already.

Cannabis businesses are not able to get business loans. All the seed money I have is from my own savings. Also, I'm being taxed at a higher rate not to mention I won't be able to write off many of the normal business expense afforded to any other business. Because of this I am already making significant contributions to city revenues

It would be wonderful if the regulators could work with us to help us make this transition feasible. there are many responsible business owners, like myself, who have agreed to the inflated costs of accelerating build-outs in order to come into compliance within the short time frame following the passage of legislation, the clarification of inspection protocols, and the scheduled date of inspection.

Given the complexity and comprehensiveness of the regulations, small cannabis businesses like mine have also had to hire numerous consultants and attorneys to move toward compliance in a short period. The idea that all cannabis businesses are loaded with money is just not true! I wish I was. Many are tiny start ups facing huge financial challenges and many are going out of business already. Just ask my CPA. He is freaking out and is now demanding a retainer for new clients.

I respectfully request that you acknowledge the hardships of being in the first round of businesses under this new and complex regulatory structure, as well as the general challenges of surviving as a small business in San Francisco today. My industry faces widespread **price gouging by landlords**, in addition to the high regulatory costs. I am doing everything I can to come into compliance in this short time frame and appreciate your support and understanding.

Thank you so much for everything you do!

Bridget May Little Green Bee (415) 652-1335

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

# MEMORANDUM

TO:

Tom Hui, Director, Department of Building Inspection Sonya Harris, Secretary, Building Inspection Commission

FROM:

Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: January 25, 2018

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following legislation, introduced by Supervisor Sheehy on January 9, 2018:

File No. 180054

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, Section 1602) registered with the Office of Cannabis.

The proposed ordinance is being transmitted pursuant to Charter, Section D3.750-5, for public hearing and recommendation. It is pending before the Land Use and Transportation Committee and will be scheduled for hearing upon receipt of your response.

Please forward me the Commission's recommendation and reports at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: <u>alisa.somera@sfgov.org</u>.

c: William Strawn, Department of Building Inspection Carolyn Jayin, Department of Building Inspection

#### **BOARD of SUPERVISORS**



City Hall Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

# MEMORANDUM

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director Small Business Commission, City Hall, Room 448

FROM: Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: January 19, 2018

TO:

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Land Use and Transportation Committee

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following legislation, which is being referred to the Small Business Commission for comment and recommendation. The Commission may provide any response it deems appropriate within 12 days from the date of this referral.

File No. 180054

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, Section 1602) registered with the Office of Cannabis.

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

**RESPONSE FROM SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION - Date:** 

No Comment

Recommendation Attached

Chairperson, Small Business Commission

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS** 



City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244 San Francisco 94102-4689 Tel. No. 554-5184 Fax No. 554-5163 TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

# MEMORANDUM

TO:

Tom Hui, Director, Department of Building Inspection Nicole Elliott, Director, Office of Cannabis William Scott, Police Chief, Police Department



Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: January 19, 2018

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Sheehy on January 9, 2018:

File No. 180054

Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, Section 1602) registered with the Office of Cannabis.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: <u>alisa.somera@sfgov.org</u>.

c: William Strawn, Department of Building Inspection Carolyn Jayin, Department of Building Inspection Rowena Carr, Police Department Kristine Demafeliz, Police Department

| • | President, District 5<br>BOARD of SUPERVISORS<br>FIL No. 554-7630<br>Fax No. 554-7634   | AIL CALL ATT |
|---|---|--------------|
|   | TDD/TTY No. 544-5227  | a .          |
|   | London Breed  |              |
|   | PRESIDENTIAL ACTION   |              |
|   | Date: 02/22/2018  |              |
|   | To: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  | 202<br>SOS   |
| ; | Madam Clerk,<br>Pursuant to Board Rules, I am hereby:   | ن            |
|   | □ Waiving 30-Day Rule (Board Rule No. 3.23)   |              |
|   | File No.  | . •          |
|   | Title.  |              |
|   | Transferring (Board Rule No 3.3)  |              |
|   | File No. <u>180054</u> <u>Sheehy</u><br>(Primary Sponsor)   |              |
|   | Title.<br>Ordinance waiving and refunding investigation fees imposed by<br>Building Code, Section 107A.5, for persons (as defined in Police Code, | 1            |
| · | From: Land Use & Transportation Committee   | •            |
|   | To: <u>Rules</u> Committee  | •            |
|   | Assigning Temporary Committee Appointment (Board Rule No. 3.1)  |              |
|   | Supervisor  |              |
|   | Replacing Supervisor  | •            |
|   | For: Meeting  |              |
|   | Jondon Breed  |              |
|   | London Breed, President<br>Board of Supervisors   |              |
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| Print Form   |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Introduction Form  | BOARD OF SUPERVISORS           |
| By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or May                         | 2010 JAN -9 PH 4: 32           |
| ·  | Time stamp                     |
| I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): |                                |
| ✓ 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or  | r Charter Amendment).          |
| 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.     |                                |
| 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.               | •                              |
| 4. Request for letter beginning :"Supervisor                           | inquiries"                     |
| 5. City Attorney Request.  |                                |
| 6. Call File No. from Committee.                                       | :                              |
| 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).                   |                                |
| 8. Substitute Legislation File No.                                     |                                |
| 9. Reactivate File No.   |                                |
| 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on     |                                |
|  |                                |
| Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be | •                              |
| Small Business Commission  Youth Commission                            | Ethics Commission              |
| Planning Commission Building   | Inspection Commission          |
| Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agen  | ada), use the Imperative Form. |
| Sponsor(s):  |                                |
| Sheehy   |                                |
| Subject:   |                                |
| Building Code - Waiver and Refund of Building Code Section 107A.5 Inv  | vestigation Fee                |
| The text is listed:  |                                |
|  |                                |
|  |                                |
| Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:                                    | Sell 5 hindre                  |
| For Clerk's Use Only   | 2 A Thursday                   |
| TO CIVILY ON OWN   |                                |
|  |                                |