



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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May 17, 2018

Honorable Supervisor Breed  
Ms. Angela Calvillo  
Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
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**RE: Opportunity for the Historic Preservation Commission to provide comment on the Process for Establishment of Cultural Districts Ordinance, Board File No. 171140**

Dear Ms. Calvillo, President Breed, and Supervisors:

The Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”) values its work with the Board and the people of San Francisco to promote and protect the City’s diverse cultural heritage. We are heartened by the momentum across San Francisco to formalize a process to develop tools and strategies that expand on conventional historic preservation practice. And we are eager to review the draft Ordinance introduced by Supervisor Ronen to establish a process for the creation of cultural districts.

As of today, the HPC has not had an opportunity to provide comment and engage the public on the draft legislation that amends the Administrative Code to create a process for establishment of cultural districts (Board File No. 171140). However, at our May 16, 2018 hearing we learned that the Rules Committee heard the draft legislation on May 9, 2018 and unanimously moved to pass the Ordinance out of Committee and to the full Board of Supervisors for first reading on May 15.

The HPC was created by a vote of the people of San Francisco in 2008, and is tasked with the responsibility to “advise the City on historic preservation matters (and) participate in processes that involve historic or cultural resources.” (Charter Section 4.135). To implement that obligation, the Charter provides, in pertinent part, that “[t]he following matters *shall*, prior to passage by the Board of Supervisors, be submitted for written report by the Historic Preservation Commission regarding effects upon *historic or cultural resources*: ordinances and resolutions concerning historic preservation issues and historic resources....” (Charter Section 4.135 [emphasis added].) Review of the draft Ordinance appears to fall squarely within the scope of the HPC’s duties under the Charter. For example, the ordinance would require the preparation of Cultural, History, Housing and Economic Sustainability Strategy Reports that would “*analyze and record the tangible and intangible elements of the Cultural District’s cultural heritage; identify areas of concern that could inhibit the preservation of the Cultural District’s unique culture; and propose legislative, economic and other solutions and strategies to support the Cultural District.*” (Draft Ordinance, Section 107.4(b)(7).) Thus, because the ordinance would affect “historic or cultural resources,” the HPC believes that the Charter requires that the HPC review and comment on the Ordinance prior to its adoption.

The HPC respectfully requests the Board of Supervisors continue the second reading of the Ordinance, which we understand is currently scheduled to occur on May 22, to allow the HPC an

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opportunity to provide review and written comment, in accordance with the City Charter. We hope the Board is amenable to this continuance as our intent is to provide comments will only further enrich this important piece of legislation. The HPC will schedule its review at its next regularly scheduled hearing on June 6, 2018.

Both I and the other HPC Commissioners are excited to provide our comments on this important legislation to ensure inclusive and equitable representation of San Francisco's many cultures and people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wolfram". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Wolfram  
President  
Historic Preservation Commission