



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

January 29, 2019

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. 181211 – Health, Planning, and Police Codes - Small Business Permit Streamlining

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

This motion passed unanimously (7 to 0).

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On January 28, 2019 the Small Business Commission (SBC) heard BOS File No. 181211 – Health, Planning, and Police Codes - Small Business Permit Streamlining. Mr. Juan Carlos Cancino, aide to Supervisor Brown and Mr. Ben Van Houten of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, provided the SBC with an overview of the legislation.

The SBC enthusiastically supports the intent of this legislation which will enable retail businesses to diversify offerings to strengthen existing businesses and attract new business models to vacant storefronts by:

- Reducing costs and barriers for retail businesses to more easily offer to-go food service by aligning local health code with state requirements.
- Help retail businesses incorporate entertainment and events by eliminating unnecessary permitting requirements.

The legislation also increases opportunities for retail, restaurant, and nightlife businesses to fill vacant storefronts and enhance neighborhood vibrancy by:

- Allowing businesses to save time and money to open patios and other outdoor spaces by streamlining permitting process for outdoor uses.
- Increasing opportunities for appropriate retail, restaurant, and nightlife businesses in NC-1 zoning.
- Supporting open air food service in retail, restaurant, and nightlife businesses by aligning local health code with state requirements.
- Increasing opportunities for arcade uses in retail and nightlife businesses by reducing zoning barriers.

San Francisco existing live music venues and support new venues are strengthened by reducing duplicative and otherwise burdensome requirements by:

- Reducing delays and costs for new entertainment businesses by eliminating duplicative inspections.
- Supporting all-ages music venues by better aligning requirements for entertainment venues that also operate as restaurants.

And lastly it fixes ambiguous Planning Code provisions and brings consistency to the permitting process for retail, restaurants, and nightlife businesses by:

- Saving new businesses time and money in navigating the permitting process by clarifying definitions of restaurant and bar uses.
- Supporting retail businesses' ability to incorporate food uses by clarifying accessory use provisions of the Planning Code.

The Small Business Commission thanks the Office of Economic and Workforce Development in taking the lead to work on this extensive package of legislative changes with the corresponding departments. These changes are very much needed and will help new businesses save time and money through a more streamlined permitting process. These streamlining efforts should help fill storefront vacancies more quickly, and to help strengthen existing businesses through allowing them to evolve, adapt, and expand with greater ease.

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

Sincerely,



Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

cc: Kanishka Karunaratne Cheng, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Vallie Brown, Member, Board of Supervisors,
John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department
Stephanie Cushing, Director, Environmental Health, Department of Public Health
Maggie Weiland, Director, Entertainment Commission
Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Erica Major, Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee