

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Linda Wong, Assistant Clerk by *Victor Young*  
Budget and Finance Committee

DATE: June 23, 2020

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Budget and Finance Committee

The Board of Supervisors' Budget and Finance 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. 200648**

**Motion ordering submitted to the voters an Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to: 1) reduce the annual Business Registration Fee for businesses with \$1,000,000 or less in San Francisco gross receipts, 2) increase the small business exemption ceiling for the Gross Receipts Tax to \$1,500,000 and increase the annual Business Registration Fee on businesses benefiting from this increased exemption ceiling, 3) modify the Gross Receipts Tax rates, 4) repeal the Payroll Expense Tax, 5) increase the Gross Receipts Tax on certain taxpayers for ten years if a court strikes down the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, 6) impose a new general tax on the gross receipts from the lease of certain commercial space for 10 years if a court strikes down the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance, and 7) make other changes to the City's business taxes; and to increase the City's appropriations limit by the total revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code for four years from November 3, 2020, at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.**

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.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **No Comment**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Recommendation Attached**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson, Small Business Commission**

1 [Initiative Ordinance - Business and Tax Regulations Code - Business Tax Changes]

2  
3 **Motion ordering submitted to the voters an Ordinance amending the Business and Tax**  
4 **Regulations Code to: 1) reduce the annual Business Registration Fee for businesses**  
5 **with \$1,000,000 or less in San Francisco gross receipts, 2) increase the small business**  
6 **exemption ceiling for the Gross Receipts Tax to \$1,500,000 and increase the annual**  
7 **Business Registration Fee on businesses benefiting from this increased exemption**  
8 **ceiling, 3) modify the Gross Receipts Tax rates, 4) repeal the Payroll Expense Tax,**  
9 **5) increase the Gross Receipts Tax on certain taxpayers for 10 years if a court strikes**  
10 **down the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, 6) impose a new general tax**  
11 **on the gross receipts from the lease of certain commercial space for 10 years if a court**  
12 **strikes down the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance, and**  
13 **7) make other changes to the City’s business taxes; and to increase the City’s**  
14 **appropriations limit by the total revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of the**  
15 **Business and Tax Regulations Code for four years from November 3, 2020, at an**  
16 **election to be held on November 3, 2020.**

17  
18 **MOVED,** That the Board of Supervisors hereby submits the following ordinance to the  
19 voters of the City and County of San Francisco, at an election to be held on  
20 November 3, 2020:

21  
22 **Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to: (1) reduce the annual**  
23 **Business Registration Fee for businesses with \$1,000,000 or less in San Francisco**  
24 **gross receipts, (2) increase the small business exemption ceiling for the Gross**  
25 **Receipts Tax to \$1,500,000 and increase the annual Business Registration Fee on**

1 **businesses benefiting from this increased exemption ceiling, (3) modify the Gross**  
2 **Receipts Tax rates, (4) repeal the Payroll Expense Tax, (5) increase the Gross Receipts**  
3 **Tax on certain taxpayers for 10 years if a court strikes down the Homelessness Gross**  
4 **Receipts Tax Ordinance, (6) impose a new general tax on the gross receipts from the**  
5 **lease of certain commercial space for 10 years if a court strikes down the Early Care**  
6 **and Education Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance, and (7) make other changes to the**  
7 **City’s business taxes; and to increase the City’s appropriations limit by the total**  
8 **revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of the Business and Tax Regulations**  
9 **Code for four years from November 3, 2020.**

10  
11 **NOTE:** **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain font.  
12 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
13 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
14 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
15 subsections or parts of tables.

16  
17 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

18 Section 1. Pursuant to Article XIII C of the Constitution of the State of California, this  
19 ordinance shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City and County of San Francisco  
20 at the November 3, 2020, consolidated general election.

21 Section 2. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by revising  
22 Section 6.9-3 of Article 6, to read as follows:  
23  
24  
25

1 **SEC. 6.9-3. DETERMINATIONS, RETURNS AND PAYMENTS; REMITTANCES.**

2 (a) **Remittances.** Notwithstanding the due dates otherwise provided in Section 6.9-1,  
3 taxpayers shall make remittances of taxes and third-party taxes to the Tax Collector as  
4 follows:

5 \* \* \* \*

6 (3) **Payroll Expense Tax, Gross Receipts Tax, Early Care and Education**  
7 **Commercial Rents Tax, Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax, and Cannabis Business**  
8 **Tax: Estimated Tax Payments.** Except as provided in Section 6.9-3(a)(3)(G) with respect to  
9 estimated tax payments of the gross receipts tax, every person or combined group liable for  
10 payment of the payroll expense tax (Article 12-A), the gross receipts tax (Article 12-A-1)  
11 (including the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under Section 953.8 of  
12 Article 12-A-1), the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax (Article 21), the  
13 Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax (Article 28) (including the homelessness administrative  
14 office tax imposed under Section 2804(d) of Article 28), or the Cannabis Business Tax  
15 (Article 30) shall make three estimated tax payments, in addition to the annual payments in  
16 Section 6.9-3(a)(4), as follows:

17 \* \* \* \*

18 (C) **Gross Receipts Tax Estimated Tax Payments.** For purposes of  
19 this Section 6.9-3, a person or combined group's estimated tax payments of gross receipts  
20 tax, including the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under Section 953.8  
21 of Article 12-A-1, ~~for any tax year shall be as follows: each equal the lesser of:~~

22 (i) For any tax year other than tax year 2021, the lesser of:

23 (i)a. 25% of the gross receipts tax liability (including any  
24 liability for the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under Section 953.8 of  
25 Article 12-A-1) shown on the person or combined group's return for the tax year (or, if no

1 return is filed, 25% of the person or combined group's actual gross receipts tax liability for the  
2 tax year); or

3 ~~(ii)~~b. 25% of the gross receipts tax liability (including any  
4 liability for the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under Section 953.8 of  
5 Article 12-A-1) shown on the person or combined group's return for the preceding tax year. If  
6 the person or combined group did not file a return for the preceding tax year, the person or  
7 combined group shall be deemed to have filed a return showing no liability for purposes of this  
8 Section 6.9-3(a)(3)(C)(~~ii~~)b., and no estimated tax payments of gross receipts taxes shall be  
9 due for the current tax year.

10 (ii) For tax year 2021, the lesser of:

11 a. 25% of the gross receipts tax liability (including any liability  
12 for the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under Section 953.8 of Article 12-A-1)  
13 shown on the person or combined group's return for tax year 2021 (or, if no return is filed, 25% of the  
14 person or combined group's actual gross receipts tax liability for tax year 2021); or

15 b. 25% of the payroll expense tax liability and gross receipts tax  
16 liability (including any liability for the tax on administrative office business activities imposed under  
17 Section 953.8 of Article 12-A-1) shown on the person or combined group's return for tax year 2020. If  
18 the person or combined group did not file a return for tax year 2020, the person or combined group  
19 shall be deemed to have filed a return showing no liability for purposes of this  
20 Section 6.9-3(a)(3)(C)(ii)b., and no estimated tax payments of gross receipts taxes shall be due for tax  
21 year 2021.

22 \* \* \* \*

1 Section 3. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by revising  
2 Sections 855 and 856 of Article 12, to read as follows:

3  
4 **SEC. 855. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE – FEE.**

5 ~~(a) Fee for registration years ending on or after June 30, 2004, but ending on or before~~  
6 ~~June 30, 2014. Except as otherwise provided in this Section and Section 856 of this Article, the annual~~  
7 ~~fee for obtaining a registration certificate for registration years ending on or after June 30, 2004, but~~  
8 ~~ending on or before June 30, 2014, payable in advance, shall be as follows:~~

9

<i>San Francisco Payroll Expense Tax for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</i>	<i>Annual Registration Fee</i>
<i>Less than \$1</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>\$1 to \$10,000</i>	<i>\$150</i>
<i>\$10,000.01 to \$50,000</i>	<i>\$250</i>
<i>More than \$50,000</i>	<i>\$500</i>

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15 ~~(b) In the event that an applicant for a registration certificate, for registration years ending on~~  
16 ~~or after June 30, 2004, but ending on or before June 30, 2014, has not filed a tax return for the~~  
17 ~~immediately preceding tax year as required by Section 6.9-2 of Article 6, the Tax Collector shall~~  
18 ~~determine the amount of the registration fee required based on the applicant's estimated tax liability~~  
19 ~~under Article 12-A (Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance) for the period covered by the registration~~  
20 ~~certificate.~~

21 ~~(c) Fee for Registration Year Commencing July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015. Except~~  
22 ~~as otherwise provided in this Section and Section 856 of this Article, the annual fee for obtaining a~~  
23 ~~registration certificate, for the registration year commencing July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015,~~  
24 ~~payable in advance, shall be as follows:~~

<i>San Francisco Payroll Expense for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</i>	<i>Annual Registration Fee</i>
\$0 to \$66.66	\$75
\$66.67 to \$75,000	\$150
\$75,001 to \$100,000	\$250
\$100,001 to \$150,000	\$500
\$150,001 to \$200,000	\$700
\$200,001 to \$250,000	\$800
\$250,001 to \$1,000,000	\$300
\$1,000,001 to \$2,500,000	\$800
\$2,500,001 to \$5,000,000	\$5,000
\$5,000,001 to \$10,000,000	\$15,000
\$10,000,001 to \$25,000,000	\$25,000
\$25,000,001 to \$40,000,000	\$30,000
\$40,000,001 or more	\$35,000

(d) *In the event that an applicant for a registration certificate, for registration year commencing July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, has not filed a tax return for the immediately preceding tax year as required by Section 6.9-2 of Article 6, the Tax Collector shall determine the amount of the registration fee required based on the applicant's payroll expense under Article 12-A (Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance) for the period covered by the registration certificate.*

**(ae) Fee for Registration Years Ending After June 30, 2015, but On or Before June 30, 2021.**

(1) **General Rule.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section 855 and Section 856 of this Article 12, the annual fee for obtaining a registration certificate, for the registration years ending after June 30, 2015, but on or before June 30, 2021, payable in advance, shall be as follows:



<b><i>San Francisco Gross Receipts for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Registration Fee</i></b>
\$0 to \$100,000	\$90
\$100,001 to \$250,000	\$150
\$250,001 to \$500,000	\$250
\$500,001 to \$750,000	\$500
\$750,001 to \$1,000,000	\$700
\$1,000,001 to \$2,500,000	\$300
\$2,500,001 to \$7,500,000	\$500
\$7,500,001 to \$15,000,000	\$1,500
\$15,000,001 to \$25,000,000	\$5,000
\$25,000,001 to \$50,000,000	\$12,500
\$50,000,001 to \$100,000,000	\$22,500
\$100,000,001 to \$200,000,000	\$30,000
\$200,000,001 and over	\$35,000

(2) **Fee for Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade and Certain Services.** Except as otherwise provided in this Section 855 and Section 856 of this Article 12, for registration years ending after June 30, 2015, but on or before June 30, 2021, the annual fee for obtaining a registration certificate, payable in advance, for a business that was required to report all of its gross receipts pursuant to Article 12-A-1, Section 953.1 for the preceding tax year, shall be as follows:

<b><i>San Francisco Gross Receipts for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Registration Fee</i></b>
\$0 to \$100,000	\$75
\$100,001 to \$250,000	\$125
\$250,001 to \$500,000	\$200
\$500,001 to \$750,000	\$400
\$750,001 to \$1,000,000	\$600

1	\$1,000,001 to \$2,500,000	\$200
2	\$2,500,001 to \$7,500,000	\$400
3	\$7,500,001 to \$15,000,000	\$1,125
4	\$15,000,001 to \$25,000,000	\$3,750
5	\$25,000,001 to \$50,000,000	\$7,500
6	\$50,000,001 to \$100,000,000	\$15,000
7	\$100,000,001 to \$200,000,000	\$20,000
8	\$200,000,001 and over	\$30,000

8 **(b) Fee for Registration Years Beginning On or After July 1, 2021.**

9 **(1) General Rule.** *Except as otherwise provided in this Section 855 and Section 856 of*  
10 *this Article 12, the annual fee for obtaining a registration certificate, for the registration years*  
11 *beginning on or after July 1, 2021, payable in advance, shall be as follows:*

12	<b><u>San Francisco Gross Receipts for the</u></b>	
13	<b><u>Immediately Preceding Tax Year</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Registration Fee</u></b>
14	<u>\$0 to \$100,000</u>	<u>\$52</u>
15	<u>\$100,000.01 to \$250,000</u>	<u>\$86</u>
16	<u>\$250,000.01 to \$500,000</u>	<u>\$144</u>
17	<u>\$500,000.01 to \$750,000</u>	<u>\$288</u>
18	<u>\$750,000.01 to \$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$403</u>
19	<u>\$1,000,000.01 to \$1,500,000</u>	<u>\$575</u>
20	<u>\$1,500,000.01 to \$2,500,000</u>	<u>\$345</u>
21	<u>\$2,500,000.01 to \$7,500,000</u>	<u>\$575</u>
22	<u>\$7,500,000.01 to \$15,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,725</u>
23	<u>\$15,000,000.01 to \$25,000,000</u>	<u>\$5,751</u>
24	<u>\$25,000,000.01 to \$50,000,000</u>	<u>\$14,379</u>
25	<u>\$50,000,000.01 to \$100,000,000</u>	<u>\$25,882</u>
	<u>\$100,000,000.01 to \$200,000,000</u>	<u>\$34,510</u>
	<u>\$200,000,000.01 and over</u>	<u>\$40,261</u>

1                    (2) Fee for Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade and Certain Services. Except as otherwise  
 2 provided in this Section 855 and Section 856 of this Article 12, for registration years beginning on or  
 3 after July 1, 2021, the annual fee for obtaining a registration certificate, payable in advance, for a  
 4 person or combined group that was required to report all of its gross receipts pursuant to Section 953.1  
 5 of Article 12-A-1 for the preceding tax year, shall be as follows:

<u>San Francisco Gross Receipts for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</u>	<u>Annual Registration Fee</u>
<u>\$0 to \$100,000</u>	<u>\$43</u>
<u>\$100,000.01 to \$250,000</u>	<u>\$72</u>
<u>\$250,000.01 to \$500,000</u>	<u>\$115</u>
<u>\$500,000.01 to \$750,000</u>	<u>\$230</u>
<u>\$750,000.01 to \$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$345</u>
<u>\$1,000,000.01 to \$1,500,000</u>	<u>\$475</u>
<u>\$1,500,000.01 to \$2,500,000</u>	<u>\$230</u>
<u>\$2,500,000.01 to \$7,500,000</u>	<u>\$460</u>
<u>\$7,500,000.01 to \$15,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,294</u>
<u>\$15,000,000.01 to \$25,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,313</u>
<u>\$25,000,000.01 to \$50,000,000</u>	<u>\$8,627</u>
<u>\$50,000,000.01 to \$100,000,000</u>	<u>\$17,255</u>
<u>\$100,000,000.01 to \$200,000,000</u>	<u>\$23,006</u>
<u>\$200,000,000.01 and over</u>	<u>\$34,510</u>

20                    (cf) Except as provided in subsection (dg) (Fee for Persons Subject to Administrative  
 21 Office TaxBusiness Activities), in the event that an applicant for a registration certificate, for a  
 22 registration year ending after June 30, 2015, has not filed a tax return for the immediately  
 23 preceding tax year as required by Section 6.9-2 of Article 6, the Tax Collector shall determine  
 24 the amount of the registration fee required based on the applicant's estimated gross receipts  
 25

1 under Article 12-A-1 (Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance) for the period covered by the  
2 registration certificate.

3 ~~(dg)~~ **Fee for Persons Subject to Administrative Office Tax Business Activities**. Except as  
4 otherwise provided in this Section 855 and Section 856 of this Article 12, the annual fee for  
5 obtaining a registration certificate, payable in advance, for a person or combined group that was  
6 required to pay the Administrative Office Tax Administrative Office Business Activities under  
7 Section 953.8 of Article 12-A-1 for the preceding tax year, for the registration years ending after  
8 June 30, 2015, payable in advance, shall be as follows:

<b><u>San Francisco Payroll Expense for the Immediately Preceding Tax Year</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Registration Fee</u></b>
\$0 to \$2,500,000	\$15,000
\$2,500,000.01 to \$25,000,000	\$25,000
\$25,000,000.01 or more	\$35,000

14 ~~(eh)~~ In the event that an applicant for a registration certificate that was required to pay the  
15 for Administrative Office Tax Business Activities under Section 953.8 of Article 12-A-1 for the  
16 preceding tax year, for a registration year ending after June 30, 2015, has not filed a tax return  
17 for the immediately preceding tax year as required by Section 6.9-2 of Article 6, the Tax  
18 Collector shall determine the amount of the registration fee required based on the applicant's  
19 estimated payroll expense under Article 12-A-1 for the period covered by the registration  
20 certificate.

21 ~~(fi)~~ The amount of annual registration fee under subsections ~~(ae)~~ and ~~(dg)~~ of this  
22 Section 855, for all registration years ending after June 30, 2016, shall be adjusted annually in  
23 accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the  
24 San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau  
25

1 of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31st of the preceding year,  
2 beginning July 1, 2016.

3 (g) The amount of annual registration fee under subsection (b) of this Section 855, for all  
4 registration years ending after June 30, 2022, shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the  
5 increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose  
6 Area for All Items as reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that  
7 index, as of December 31st of the preceding year, beginning July 1, 2022.

8 (hj) Any organization that is exempt from income taxation by Chapter 4 (commencing with  
9 Section 23701) of Part 11 of Division 2 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or Subchapter F  
10 (commencing with having a formally recognized exemption from income taxation pursuant to  
11 Section 501(e), 501(d) or 401(a) of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
12 as amended, as qualified by Sections 502, 503, 504, and 508 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
13 1986, as amended, shall not be exempt from the required to pay a registration fee under this  
14 Article 12, only so long as those exemptions continue to exist under state or federal law unless the  
15 organization is also engaged within the City in an unrelated trade or business within the meaning of  
16 Section 906 of Article 12-A or Section 954 of Article 12-A-1.

17 (ik) A person shall be exempt from paying the registration fee required by this  
18 Section 855 if and to the extent that, and only so long as, federal or state law prohibits the  
19 imposition of the registration fee upon such person.

20 (jt) The business registration fee is a tax imposed for general governmental purposes  
21 and may not be extended or increased without a vote of the people, as provided in  
22 Article XIII C of the California Constitution. This tax may be collected in any manner legally  
23 permitted to the City.

1     **SEC. 856. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE – APPLICATION AND ISSUANCE.**

2           (a) Each person engaging in business within the City shall apply to the Tax Collector  
3 for a registration certificate, using the form prescribed by the Tax Collector. The application  
4 shall be accompanied by the person’s registration fee as determined under this Article 12,  
5 except for the initial application filed for a person that is part of a combined group (as  
6 described in Section 956.3 of Article 12-A-1) where the combined group has already paid the  
7 fee on a combined basis. A combined group as described in Section 956.3 of Article 12-A-1  
8 shall apply for a separate certificate for each person in the combined group that is engaging in  
9 business within the City, but shall calculate and remit its fee on a combined basis and shall file  
10 only one application for renewal for all entities in the combined group.

11           (b) A person shall have 15 days after commencing business within the City to apply for  
12 a registration certificate. The registration fee for newly-established businesses shall be  
13 prorated as follows:

14                   (1) ~~For the registration year commencing on or after July 1, 2014 and ending~~  
15 ~~June 30, 2015, the fee for obtaining a registration certificate for a newly established business shall be~~  
16 ~~determined pursuant to Section 855(c) of this Article using the applicant’s estimated payroll expense~~  
17 ~~under Article 12-A (Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance) for the tax year in which the person commences~~  
18 ~~such business within the City.~~ For registration years commencing on or after July 1, 2015, but  
19 ending on or before June 30, 2021, the fee for obtaining a registration certificate for a newly  
20 established business shall be determined pursuant to Section 855(ae) of this Article 12 using  
21 the applicant’s estimated gross receipts under Article 12-A-1 (Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance)  
22 for the tax year in which the person commences such business within the City. For  
23 registration years commencing on or after July 1, 2021, the fee for obtaining a registration certificate  
24 for a newly established business shall be determined pursuant to Section 855(b) of this Article using the  
25 applicant’s estimated gross receipts under Article 12-A-1 (Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance) for the tax

1 year in which the person commences such business within the City. The registration fee shall be  
2 prorated as follows: For persons commencing business between January 1st and  
3 March 31st, the registration fee shall be ~~50%~~percent of the annual fee; for persons  
4 commencing business between April 1st and June 30th, the registration fee shall be ~~25%~~  
5 percent of the annual fee; for persons commencing business between July 1st and  
6 September 30th, the registration fee shall be ~~100%~~percent of the annual fee; and for persons  
7 commencing business between October 1st and December 31st, the registration fee shall be  
8 ~~75%~~percent of the annual fee. Where a registration certificate is issued for a period other than  
9 for a registration year, the Tax Collector shall have discretion to prorate the registration fee in  
10 accordance with this model.

11 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article 12, no person obtaining a  
12 registration certificate for a newly established business that qualifies for the minimum  
13 registration fee set forth in Section 855 of this Article shall be entitled to prorate the  
14 registration fee under this Section 856, but instead shall pay the minimum registration fee.

15 \* \* \* \*

16  
17 Section 4. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by deleting  
18 Article 12-A, consisting of Sections 901 through 909, as follows:

19  
20 ~~**SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.**~~

21 ~~*This ordinance shall be known as the “Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance” and the tax imposed*~~  
22 ~~*herein shall be known as the “Payroll Expense Tax.”*~~

1 **~~SEC. 902. OPERATION OF DEFINITIONS.~~**

2 ~~Except where the context otherwise requires, terms not defined in this Article that are defined in~~  
3 ~~Article 6 shall have the same meaning as given to them in Article 6.~~

4  
5 **~~SEC. 902.1. PAYROLL EXPENSE.~~**

6 ~~(a) The term “Payroll Expense” means the compensation paid to, on behalf of, or for the~~  
7 ~~benefit of an individual, including shareholders of a professional corporation or a Limited Liability~~  
8 ~~Company (“LLC”), including salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, property issued or transferred in~~  
9 ~~exchange for the performance of services (including but not limited to stock options), compensation for~~  
10 ~~services to owners of pass-through entities, and any other form of compensation, who during any tax~~  
11 ~~year, perform work or render services, in whole or in part in the City; and if more than one individual~~  
12 ~~or shareholders of a professional corporation or members of an LLC, during any tax year performs~~  
13 ~~work or renders services in whole or in part in the City, the term “Payroll Expense” means the total~~  
14 ~~compensation paid including salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, property issued or transferred in~~  
15 ~~exchange for the performance of services (including but not limited to stock options), in addition to any~~  
16 ~~compensation for services to owners of pass-through entities, and any other form of compensation for~~  
17 ~~services, to all such individuals and shareholders of a professional corporation or members of an LLC.~~

18 ~~(b) Any person that grants a service provider a right to acquire an ownership interest in such~~  
19 ~~person in exchange for the performance of services shall include in its payroll expense for the tax year~~  
20 ~~in which such right is exercised an amount equal to the excess of (i) the fair market value of such~~  
21 ~~ownership interest on the date such right is exercised over (ii) the price paid for such interest.~~

22 ~~(c) Any individual compensated in his or her capacity as a real estate salesperson or mortgage~~  
23 ~~processor shall be deemed an employee of the real estate broker or mortgage broker for or under~~  
24 ~~whom such individual performs services, and any compensation received by such individual, including~~  
25 ~~compensation by way of commissions, shall be included in the payroll expense of such broker. For~~



1 ~~purposes of this Section, “real estate broker” and “mortgage broker” refer to any individual licensed~~  
2 ~~as such under the laws of the State of California who engages the services of salespersons or a~~  
3 ~~salesperson, or of mortgage processors or a mortgage processor, to perform services in the business~~  
4 ~~which such broker conducts under the authority of his or her license; a “salesperson” is an individual~~  
5 ~~who is engaged by a real estate broker to perform services, which may be continuous in nature, as a~~  
6 ~~real estate salesperson under an agreement with a real estate broker, regardless of whether the~~  
7 ~~individual is licensed as a real estate broker under the laws of the State of California; a “mortgage~~  
8 ~~processor” is an individual who is engaged by a real estate broker or mortgage broker to perform~~  
9 ~~services which may be continuous in nature, as a mortgage processor under an agreement with such~~  
10 ~~real estate broker or mortgage broker, regardless of whether the mortgage processor is also licensed~~  
11 ~~as a mortgage broker under the laws of the State of California.~~

12 ~~(d) All compensation, including all pass-through compensation for services paid to, on behalf~~  
13 ~~of, or for the benefit of owners of a pass-through entity, shall be included in the calculation of such~~  
14 ~~entity’s payroll expense tax base for purposes of determining such entity’s tax liability under this~~  
15 ~~Article. For purposes of this section, the “pass-through compensation for services” of a pass-through~~  
16 ~~entity shall be the aggregate compensation paid by such entity for personal services rendered by all~~  
17 ~~such owners, and shall not include any return on capital investment. The taxpayer may calculate the~~  
18 ~~amount of compensation to owners of the entity subject to the Payroll Expense Tax, or the taxpayer~~  
19 ~~may presume that, in addition to amounts reported on a W-2 form, the amount subject to the payroll~~  
20 ~~expense tax is, for each owner, an amount that is two hundred percent (200%) of the average annual~~  
21 ~~compensation paid to, on behalf of, or for the benefit of the employees of the pass-through entity whose~~  
22 ~~compensation is in the top quartile (i.e., 25%) of the entity’s employees who are based in the City;~~  
23 ~~provided, the total number of employees of the entity based in the City is not less than four.~~

1 **~~SEC. 902.2. PASS-THROUGH ENTITY.~~**

2 ~~The term “pass-through entity” includes a trust, partnership, corporation described in~~  
3 ~~Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limited liability company, limited~~  
4 ~~liability partnership, professional corporation, and any other person or entity (other than a~~  
5 ~~disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes) which is not subject to the income tax imposed by~~  
6 ~~Subtitle A, Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or which is allowed a~~  
7 ~~deduction in computing such tax for distributions to the owners or beneficiaries of such person or~~  
8 ~~entity. Any person exempt from payment of the Payroll Expense Tax under Section 905-A or 906 of this~~  
9 ~~Article shall not be disqualified from or denied such exemption as result of being a “pass-through~~  
10 ~~entity” under this Section.~~

11  
12 **~~SEC. 903. IMPOSITION OF PAYROLL EXPENSE TAX.~~**

13 ~~(a) A tax for general governmental purposes is hereby imposed upon every person engaging in~~  
14 ~~business within the City as defined in Section 6.2-12 of Article 6; provided, that such tax shall be levied~~  
15 ~~only upon that portion of the person’s payroll expense that is attributable to the City as set forth in~~  
16 ~~Section 904.~~

17 ~~(b) The Payroll Expense Tax is imposed for general governmental purposes and in order to~~  
18 ~~require commerce and the business community to carry a fair share of the costs of local government in~~  
19 ~~return for the benefits, opportunities and protections afforded by the City. Proceeds from the tax shall~~  
20 ~~be deposited in the City’s general fund and may be expended for any purposes of the City.~~

21  
22 **~~SEC. 903.1. RATE OF PAYROLL EXPENSE TAX.~~**

23 ~~(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the rate of the payroll expense tax shall be~~  
24 ~~1½ percent. The amount of a person’s liability for the payroll expense tax shall be the product of such~~  
25 ~~person’s taxable payroll expense multiplied by the rate of the payroll expense tax expressed as a~~

1 ~~decimal (e.g., for a payroll expense tax rate of 1½ percent, 0.015). The amount of such tax for~~  
2 ~~Associations shall be the sum of the payroll expense of such Association and the total distributions~~  
3 ~~made by such Association by way of salary to those having an ownership interest in such Association,~~  
4 ~~multiplied by the rate of the payroll expense tax expressed as a decimal (e.g., for a payroll expense tax~~  
5 ~~rate of 1½ percent, 0.015). Amounts paid or credited to those having an ownership interest in such~~  
6 ~~Association prior and in addition to the distribution of ownership profit or loss shall be presumed to be~~  
7 ~~distributions “by way of salary” and for personal services rendered, unless the taxpayer proves~~  
8 ~~otherwise by clear and convincing evidence.~~

9 ~~(b) Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the rate of the~~  
10 ~~payroll expense tax shall be computed by the Controller in accordance with subsections (c) and (d).~~  
11 ~~The Controller shall certify and publish such rate on or before September 1 of each year.~~

12 ~~(c) Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance:~~

13 ~~(1) For any tax year in which the payroll expense tax rate, computed in accordance~~  
14 ~~with subsection (d), is less than zero, then the payroll expense tax rate for that year and all subsequent~~  
15 ~~years shall be zero. The Controller shall certify and publish such rate on or before September 1 of that~~  
16 ~~year.~~

17 ~~(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or Article 12-A-1, the payroll~~  
18 ~~expense tax rate for 2019 and all future years shall be the rate in effect in tax year 2018. The~~  
19 ~~Controller shall certify and publish such rate on or before September 1, 2019, at which time the~~  
20 ~~Controller’s duty to compute, certify and publish the payroll expense tax rate shall cease.~~

21 ~~(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or Article 12-A-1, in no event~~  
22 ~~shall the payroll expense tax rate for any year exceed 1½ percent.~~

23 ~~(d) Payroll Expense Tax Rate Computation. The Controller shall compute the payroll expense~~  
24 ~~tax rate for each tax year according to the following table and formulas:~~

1 *(1) Payroll Expense Tax Rate Computation Table*

2

3

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Payroll Expense Tax Rate (PAYRATE<sub>year</sub>)</i>
2014	$PAYRATE_{14} = 1.350\%$
2015	$PAYRATE_{15} = 1.125\% + PAdj_{15}$
2016	$PAYRATE_{16} = 0.750\% + PAdj_{16}$
2017	$PAYRATE_{17} = 0.375\% + PAdj_{17}$
2018	$PAYRATE_{18} = 0\% + PAdj_{18}$

4

5

6

7

8 *Where: "PAdj<sub>year</sub>" is the payroll expense tax rate adjustment factor expressed as a percentage and*

9 *computed in accordance with subsection (d)(2).*

10 *(2) Payroll Expense Tax Rate Adjustment Factor Computation. Unless the prior year's*

11 *payroll expense tax rate is zero, in which case the payroll expense tax adjustment factor does not apply,*

12 *the Controller shall compute the payroll expense tax rate adjustment factor (PAdj<sub>year</sub>) according to*

13 *the following table and formulas:*

14 *Payroll Expense Tax Rate Adjustment Factor Computation Table*

15

16

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Payroll Expense Tax Rate Adjustment (PAdj<sub>year</sub>)</i>
2015	$PAdj_{15} = MR_{15} / (PAYTAX_{14} / PAYRATE_{14})$
2016	$PAdj_{16} = MR_{16} / (PAYTAX_{15} / PAYRATE_{15})$
2017	$PAdj_{17} = MR_{17} / (PAYTAX_{16} / PAYRATE_{16})$
2018	$PAdj_{18} = MR_{18} / (PAYTAX_{17} / PAYRATE_{17})$

17

18

19

20

21 *Where:*

22 *(A) "PAYTAX<sub>year</sub>" = is, for any year, the actual payroll expense tax revenue*

23 *(not including penalties, interest, or administrative fees) due for that year and collected on or before*

24 *June 30 of the following year;*

1 (B) “PAYRATE<sub>year</sub>” = is, for any year, the payroll expense tax rate in effect for  
 2 that year; and

3 (C) “MR<sub>year</sub>” is computed in accordance with subsection (d)(3).

4 (3) ~~Missing Revenue Factor Computation. The Missing Revenue Factor (MR<sub>year</sub>) is,~~  
 5 ~~for any year, the amount by which the combined revenue actually collected from the payroll expense~~  
 6 ~~tax, gross receipts tax, and business registration fee for the previous year differs from the sum of~~  
 7 ~~expected payroll tax revenue, business registration fees, and administrative costs for the previous year.~~  
 8 ~~Unless the prior year’s payroll expense tax rate is zero, in which case the missing revenue factor does~~  
 9 ~~not apply, the Controller shall compute the missing revenue factor (MR<sub>year</sub>) according to the following~~  
 10 ~~table and formulas:~~

11 *Missing Revenue Factor Computation Table*

Tax Year	Missing Revenue (MR <sub>year</sub> )
2015	$MR_{15} = ADM_{14} + \$37,216,000 + ER_{14} - (1.125\%/1.350\%) \times$ $PAYTAX_{14} - (25\%/10\%) \times GRTAX_{14} - REG_{14}$
2016	$MR_{16} = ADM_{15} + \$38,071,000 + ER_{15} - (0.750\%/PAYRATE_{15}) \times$ $PAYTAX_{15} - (50\%/25\%) \times GRTAX_{15} - REG_{15}$
2017	$MR_{17} = ADM_{16} + \$38,951,650 + ER_{16} - (0.375\%/PAYRATE_{16}) \times$ $PAYTAX_{16} - (75\%/50\%) \times GRTAX_{16} - REG_{16}$
2018	$MR_{18} = ADM_{17} + \$39,858,720 + ER_{17} - (100\%/75\%) \times GRTAX_{17}$ $- REG_{17}$

19  
 20 *Where:*

21 (A) “GRTAX<sub>year</sub>” is, for any year, the actual gross receipts tax revenue (not  
 22 including penalties, interest, or administrative fees) due for that year and collected on or before  
 23 June 30 of the following year;

24 (B) “REG<sub>year</sub>” is, for any year, the business registration fee revenue for the  
 25 fiscal year beginning in that year and collected on or before June 30 of that year;

1 (C) “ER<sub>year</sub>” is the computed in accordance with subsection (d)(4);

2 (D) “\$37,216,000,” “\$38,071,000,” “38,951,650,” and “39,858,720” are the  
3 amounts of total business registration fee revenue expected for the year prior to the year for which  
4 MR<sub>year</sub> is being computed; and

5 (E) “ADM<sub>year</sub>” is an estimate of the additional expense incurred by the Tax  
6 Collector in administering the tax. It shall be established annually by the Controller and shall not  
7 exceed 2 percent of the sum of the actual payroll expense tax revenue and gross receipts tax revenue  
8 for the prior year.

9 (4) ~~Expected Revenue Factor Computation.~~ The ~~Expected Review Factor (ER<sub>year</sub>) is,~~  
10 ~~for any year, an estimate of the amount of payroll expense tax that would have been collected had a~~  
11 ~~1½ percent payroll expense tax rate been in effect based on the actual amount of payroll expense tax~~  
12 ~~collected in the previous year, the previous year’s payroll expense tax rate, and an assumed growth of~~  
13 ~~3 percent in the tax base. Unless the prior year’s payroll expense tax rate is zero, the Controller shall~~  
14 ~~compute the expected revenue factor (ER<sub>year</sub>) according to the following table and formulas:~~

15 *Expected Revenue Factor Computation Table*

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Expected Revenue (ER<sub>year</sub>)</i>
2014	$ER_{14} = PAYTAX_{13} \times 1.03$
2015	$ER_{15} = (1.500\% / 1.350\%) \times PAYTAX_{14} \times 1.03$
2016	$ER_{16} = (1.500\% / PAYRATE_{15}) \times PAYTAX_{15} \times 1.03$
2017	$ER_{17} = (1.500\% / PAYRATE_{16}) \times PAYTAX_{16} \times 1.03$

22 **~~SEC. 904. APPORTIONMENT OF PAYROLL EXPENSE.~~**

23 ~~Where payroll expense is incurred by reason of work performed or services rendered by an~~  
24 ~~individual wholly within the City, all of the payroll expense for such individual shall be attributable to~~  
25 ~~the City and subject to tax hereunder. Where payroll expense is incurred by reason of work performed~~

1 ~~or services rendered by an individual partly within and partly without the City, the portion of such~~  
2 ~~payroll expense attributable to the City (and subject to tax hereunder) shall be determined as follows:~~

3 ~~(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the portion of such payroll expense~~  
4 ~~attributable to the City shall be the portion of such payroll expense which the total number of working~~  
5 ~~hours employed within the City bears to the total number of working hours within and without the City.~~

6 ~~(b) If the amount of such payroll expense depends on the volume of business transacted by such~~  
7 ~~individual, then the portion of such payroll expense attributable to the City shall be the portion of such~~  
8 ~~payroll expense which the volume of business transacted by such individual in the City bears to the~~  
9 ~~volume of business transacted by such individual within and without the City.~~

10 ~~(c) If it is impracticable, unreasonable or improper to apportion such payroll expenses as~~  
11 ~~aforesaid either because of the particular nature of the services of such individual, or on account of the~~  
12 ~~unusual basis of compensation, or for any other reason, then the amount of such payroll earnings~~  
13 ~~reasonably attributable to work performed or services rendered in the City shall be determined on the~~  
14 ~~basis of all relevant facts and circumstances of the particular case, in accordance with any rulings or~~  
15 ~~regulations issued or promulgated by the Tax Collector for the purpose.~~

16 ~~(d) If the Tax Collector determines that the percentage of payroll expenses attributable to the~~  
17 ~~City, for any one or more persons, is a relatively stable percentage, the Tax Collector may establish~~  
18 ~~that percentage as a prima facie evidence of payroll expense attributable to the City; provided, that the~~  
19 ~~Tax Collector shall condition the establishment of such fixed percentage upon the obligation of the~~  
20 ~~taxpayer to report immediately to the Tax Collector any significant change in the taxpayer's mode of~~  
21 ~~business which may impact the portion of the person's payroll expense which is attributable to the City;~~  
22 ~~and, provided further, that the Tax Collector may rescind any such fixed percentage at any time by~~  
23 ~~providing written notice to the taxpayer of such rescission.~~

1 **~~SEC. 905-A. SMALL BUSINESS TAX EXEMPTION.~~**

2 ~~(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article 12-A, a “small business enterprise” as~~  
3 ~~hereinafter defined, shall be exempt from payment of the payroll expense tax; provided, however, that a~~  
4 ~~small business enterprise shall pay the annual registration fee pursuant to Section 855 of Article 12.~~

5 ~~(b) The term “small business enterprise” shall mean and include any person whose taxable~~  
6 ~~payroll expense does not exceed \$250,000.~~

7 ~~(c) For the 2011 tax year, and each second succeeding tax year the Tax Collector shall~~  
8 ~~increase the ceiling for the small business tax exemption (rounded to the nearest \$10,000 increment) to~~  
9 ~~reflect increases in the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price~~  
10 ~~index for all urban customers for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area for each of the preceding~~  
11 ~~two tax years.~~

12  
13 **~~SEC. 906. EXEMPTION PROVISIONS.~~**

14 ~~(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b) of this Section, an organization having a formally~~  
15 ~~recognized exemption from income tax pursuant to Sections 501(c) or 501(d) or 401(a) of the Internal~~  
16 ~~Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as qualified by Sections 502, 503 and 504 of the Internal Revenue~~  
17 ~~Code of 1986, as amended, shall be exempt from taxation under this Article.~~

18 ~~(b) Except for an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of~~  
19 ~~1986, as amended, an organization otherwise exempt from taxation under Subsection (a) of this Section~~  
20 ~~that is directly engaged within the City in an unrelated trade or business within the meaning of~~  
21 ~~Section 513(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and has, from its own operations,~~  
22 ~~unrelated business taxable income within the meaning of Section 512(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue~~  
23 ~~Code of 1986, as amended, shall pay the Payroll Expense Tax equal to the amount calculated by~~  
24 ~~multiplying the tax which would have been due under this Article if the organization were not an~~  
25 ~~exempt organization by the percentage which its unrelated business receipts bear to its total receipts.~~



1 ~~If it is impracticable, unreasonable or improper to allocate such organization's payroll expense as~~  
2 ~~aforesaid either because of the particular nature of the organization's unrelated trade or business or~~  
3 ~~the particular nature of the services provided to the organization in connection therewith by its~~  
4 ~~employees, or on account of the unusual basis of compensation, or for any other reason, then the~~  
5 ~~amount of such payroll expense reasonably attributable to work performed or services rendered in the~~  
6 ~~City shall be determined on the basis of all relevant facts and circumstances of the particular case, in~~  
7 ~~accordance with any rulings or regulations issued or promulgated by the Tax Collector for the~~  
8 ~~purpose.~~

9 ~~(c) Blind persons licensed under the provisions of Chapter 6A of Title 12 of the United States~~  
10 ~~Code ("Vending Stands for Blind in Federal Buildings") and Article 5 of Chapter 6 of Part 2 of~~  
11 ~~Division 10 of the Welfare and Institutions Code of the State of California ("Business Enterprises for~~  
12 ~~the Blind") need not include in the computation of payroll expense the first \$15,000 of payroll expense~~  
13 ~~in any one year which is attributable to their licensed operations within the City.~~

14 ~~(d) Skilled Nursing Facilities licensed under the provisions of Title 22, California~~  
15 ~~Administrative Code, Division 5 ("Licensing and Certification of Health Facilities and Referral~~  
16 ~~Agencies") Chapter 3 ("Skilled Nursing Facilities"), shall be exempt from taxation under this Article.~~

17 ~~(e) For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited from imposing the tax under~~  
18 ~~this Article, the following persons shall be exempt from the Payroll Expense Tax:~~

19 ~~(1) Banks and financial corporations exempt from local taxation under Article XIII,~~  
20 ~~Section 27 of the California Constitution and Revenue and Taxation Code Section 23182;~~

21 ~~(2) Insurance companies exempt from local taxation under Article XIII, Section 28 of~~  
22 ~~the California Constitution;~~

23 ~~(3) Persons engaging in business as a for-hire motor carrier of property under Revenue~~  
24 ~~and Taxation Code Section 7233;~~

1                   (4) ~~Persons engaging in intercity transportation as a household goods carrier under~~  
2 ~~Public Utilities Code Section 5327;~~

3                   (5) ~~Charter party carriers operating limousines that are neither domiciled nor maintain~~  
4 ~~a business office with the City under Public Utilities Code Section 5371.4;~~

5                   (6) ~~Any person upon whom the City is prohibited under the Constitution or statute of the~~  
6 ~~state of California from imposing the Payroll Expense Tax.~~

7                   (f) ~~To the extent that any taxpayer has paid a substantially similar tax to any other taxing~~  
8 ~~jurisdiction on any payroll expense taxed under this Article, the tax paid to such taxing jurisdiction~~  
9 ~~shall be credited against the tax due under this Article.~~

10                  (g) ~~Nothing in this Article shall be construed as requiring the payment of any tax for engaging~~  
11 ~~in a business or the doing of an act when such payment would be in violation of the Constitution or a~~  
12 ~~statute of the United States or of the Constitution or a statute of the State of California.~~

13  
14 **~~SEC. 906A. ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX CREDIT.~~**

15                  (a) ~~A credit against this tax shall be allowed for each person who maintains a fixed place of~~  
16 ~~business within the San Francisco Enterprise Zone and who, between January 1, 1992 and the effective~~  
17 ~~date of this legislation, creates one or more new jobs and hires employees who qualify under~~  
18 ~~Subsection (b) of this Section; provided, however, that in no event shall the tax credit reduce a person's~~  
19 ~~tax liability to less than zero. Moreover, the tax credits shall only serve as an offset against the~~  
20 ~~additional tax that would be paid as a result of additional hiring by a business within the zone. Each~~  
21 ~~person claiming this credit shall file with the Tax Collector, on a form prescribed by the Tax Collector,~~  
22 ~~an affidavit attesting to facts establishing his or her entitlement to the tax credit; said affidavit shall be~~  
23 ~~supported by state tax credit forms (EDD, DSS, and PIC).~~

24                  (b) ~~An employee is a "qualified employee" for purposes of computing this tax credit if he or~~  
25 ~~she is newly hired by the taxpayer on or after January 1, 1992 and either (1) is receiving subsidized~~

1 *employment training or services under the terms of the Federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA);*  
2 *or (2) is registered in the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program; or (3) is certified by the*  
3 *Employment Development Department as eligible for the federal Work Opportunity Credit Program; or*  
4 *(4) is receiving General Assistance.*

5 *(c) The tax credit, for each qualified employee, shall be a varying percentage of the additional*  
6 *tax that would be incurred as a result of additional wages paid for work performed within the*  
7 *Enterprise Zone, and the dollar amount of such tax credit shall depend both upon the duration of*  
8 *employment as of the date payroll taxes are due, and the eligible wages paid, as follows:*

9 *(1) The eligible wages to which the percentage is applied shall be limited to wages paid*  
10 *for work performed by the qualified employee while physically present within San Francisco.*

11 *(2) The percentage to be applied to eligible wages shall depend upon the employee's*  
12 *duration of employment as follows:*

<i><b>Duration of Employment</b></i>	<i><b>Credit Allowed on Payroll Tax Liability</b></i>
<i>First 24 months</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Second 24 months</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Third 24 months</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Fourth 24 months</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Fifth 24 months</i>	<i>10%</i>

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19 *(d) On or after the effective date of this legislation a credit against this tax shall be allowed for*  
20 *each person who maintains a fixed place of business within the San Francisco Enterprise Zone and*  
21 *who hires new employees who qualify under Subsection (f) of this Section; provided, however, that in*  
22 *no event shall the tax credit reduce a person's tax liability to less than zero. Moreover, the tax credits*  
23 *shall only serve as an offset against the tax that would be paid as a result of hiring by a business within*  
24 *the zone. Each person claiming this credit shall file with the Tax Collector, on a form prescribed by the*  
25 *Tax Collector, an affidavit attesting to facts establishing his or her entitlement to the tax credit; said*

1 ~~affidavit shall be supported by applicable State tax credit forms (EDD, DSS) and an approved state~~  
2 ~~enterprise zone voucher.~~

3 ~~(e) “Enterprise zone” means the area within the City and County of San Francisco designated~~  
4 ~~as an enterprise zone by the State Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to~~  
5 ~~Chapter 12.8 (commencing with Section 7070) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.~~

6 ~~(f) “Qualified employee” means a San Francisco resident who meets all of the following~~  
7 ~~requirements:~~

8 ~~(1) At least 90 percent of whose services for the taxpayer during the taxable year are~~  
9 ~~directly related to the conduct of the taxpayer’s trade or business located in an enterprise zone.~~

10 ~~(2) Performs at least 50 percent of his or her services for the taxpayer during the~~  
11 ~~taxable year in an enterprise zone.~~

12 ~~(3) Is hired by the taxpayer after the date of original designation of the area in which~~  
13 ~~services were performed as an enterprise zone.~~

14 ~~(4) Is any of the following:~~

15 ~~(i) Immediately preceding the qualified employee’s commencement of~~  
16 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a person eligible for services under the Federal Job Training~~  
17 ~~Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 1501 et seq.), or its successor, who is receiving, subsidized~~  
18 ~~employment, training, or services funded by the Federal Job Training Partnership Act, or its successor.~~

19 ~~(ii) Immediately preceding the qualified employee’s commencement of~~  
20 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a person eligible to be a voluntary or mandatory registrant under~~  
21 ~~the Greater Avenues for Independence Act of 1985 (GAIN) provided for pursuant to Article 3.2~~  
22 ~~(commencing with Section 11320) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions~~  
23 ~~Code, or its successor.~~

24 ~~(iii) Immediately preceding the qualified employee’s commencement of~~  
25 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was an economically disadvantaged individual 14 years of age or older.~~



1 ~~(hh) Has been terminated or laid off or has received a notice of~~  
2 ~~termination or layoff, as a consequence of compliance with the Clean Air Act.~~

3 ~~(v) Immediately preceding the qualified employee's commencement of~~  
4 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a disabled individual who is eligible for or enrolled in, or has~~  
5 ~~completed a state rehabilitation plan or is a service-connected disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam~~  
6 ~~era, or veteran who is recently separated from military service.~~

7 ~~(vi) Immediately preceding the qualified employee's commencement of~~  
8 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was an ex-offender. An individual shall be treated as convicted if he or~~  
9 ~~she was placed on probation by a state court without a finding of guilt.~~

10 ~~(vii) Immediately preceding the qualified employee's commencement of~~  
11 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a person eligible for or a recipient of any of the following:~~

12 ~~(aa) Federal Supplemental Security Income benefits.~~

13 ~~(bb) Aid to Families with Dependent Children.~~

14 ~~(cc) Food stamps.~~

15 ~~(dd) State and local general assistance.~~

16 ~~(viii) Immediately preceding the qualified employee's commencement of~~  
17 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, band, or other~~  
18 ~~group of Native American descent.~~

19 ~~(ix) Immediately preceding the qualified employee's commencement of~~  
20 ~~employment with the taxpayer, was a member of a targeted group, as defined in Section 51(d) of the~~  
21 ~~Internal Revenue Code, or its successor.~~

22 ~~(g) The tax credit, for each qualified employee, shall be a varying percentage of the tax that~~  
23 ~~would be incurred as a result of wages paid for work performed within the Enterprise Zone, and the~~  
24 ~~dollar amount of such tax credit shall depend both upon the duration of employment as of the date~~  
25 ~~payroll taxes are due, and the eligible wages paid, as follows:~~

1                   (1) ~~The eligible wages to which the percentage is applied shall be limited to wages paid~~  
2 ~~for work performed by the qualified employee while physically present within San Francisco.~~

3                   (2) ~~The percentage to be applied to eligible wages shall depend upon the employee's~~  
4 ~~duration of employment as follows:~~

<b><i>Duration of Employment</i></b>	<b><i>Credit Allowed on Payroll Tax Liability</i></b>
<i>First 24 months</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Second 24 months</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Third 24 months</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Fourth 24 months</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Fifth 24 months</i>	<i>10%</i>

11                   ~~(h) This Section 906A shall expire by operation of law on December 31, 2021, unless extended~~  
12 ~~by the Board of Supervisors or the voters, and the City Attorney shall cause it to be removed from~~  
13 ~~future editions of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.~~

14  
15 ***SEC. 906.1. BIOTECHNOLOGY EXCLUSION.***

16                   ~~(a) Any person engaging in biotechnology business within the city may exclude from their~~  
17 ~~payroll expense all compensation paid to, on behalf of or for the benefit of all employees of that person,~~  
18 ~~and all distributions by an Association by way of salary to those having an ownership interest in such~~  
19 ~~Association, who or that perform substantially all work or render substantially all services in direct~~  
20 ~~support of such person's biotechnology business, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in~~  
21 ~~this Section. For purposes of this Section, outside contractors shall not be considered employees of the~~  
22 ~~biotechnology business. For purposes of this Section, "biotechnology business" means conducting~~  
23 ~~biotechnology research and experimental development, and operating laboratories for biotechnology~~  
24 ~~research and experimental development, using DNA, cells, and/or bioprocessing techniques, as well as~~  
25

1 ~~the application thereof to the development of therapeutics, diagnostic products and/or devices to~~  
2 ~~improve human health, animal health, and agriculture.~~

3 ~~(b) For purposes of this section, “DNA” is a nucleic acid sequence, or fragment thereof, that~~  
4 ~~contains the genetic information for cell growth, division, and function. Examples of DNA include~~  
5 ~~recombinant DNA, RNA, mRNA, antisense, RNAi, genes and ESTs.~~

6 ~~(c) For purposes of this section, “cells” are membrane bound structures containing~~  
7 ~~biomolecules, such as nucleic acids, proteins, and polysaccharides. This definition includes both~~  
8 ~~prokaryotic (bacterial) and eukaryotic (animal or plant) cells. Examples include primary cells,~~  
9 ~~transformed or cultured cells, stem cells, iPS, ESCs, fused cells and cell lines.~~

10 ~~(d) For purposes of this section, “bioprocessing” is the use of microbial, plant, or animal cells~~  
11 ~~or portions thereof, for the production of therapeutics or diagnostics. Bioprocessing includes the~~  
12 ~~extraction of compounds from biomaterials; reaction of biomaterials, such as microbial fermentation,~~  
13 ~~cell culture, cell fusion or biotransformation by enzymes; and separation of product from biomaterials~~  
14 ~~using filtration, purification, precipitation, centrifugation, solvents, chromatography or other means.~~

15 ~~(e) The biotechnology exclusion authorized under this Section shall be available to and may be~~  
16 ~~taken by each person engaging in the biotechnology business in the City for a period of seven and one-~~  
17 ~~half years from the effective date of this Section or the commencement of the person’s biotechnology~~  
18 ~~business in the City, whichever is later. The date the Director of Public Health or his or her designee~~  
19 ~~received the person’s application for a business registration certificate for the person’s biotechnology~~  
20 ~~business shall be presumed to be the date of commencement of such business unless the person~~  
21 ~~establishes a different commencement date to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.~~

22 ~~(f) In order to be eligible for the payroll expense tax exclusion authorized under this Section,~~  
23 ~~persons wishing to claim the exclusion must:~~

24 ~~(1) Complete and submit an initial application to the Director of the Department of~~  
25 ~~Public Health or his or her designee for review and evaluation. The Director of the Department of~~



1 ~~Public Health, or his or her designee shall have authority to develop eligibility criteria for the~~  
2 ~~biotechnology exclusion, which shall include participation in the City's First Source Hiring Program~~  
3 ~~as defined in Section 83.4 of the Administrative Code.~~

4 ~~(2) After approval, file an annual affidavit with the Department of Public Health~~  
5 ~~affirming that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria as determined by the Department of Public~~  
6 ~~Health. The affidavit must be filed with the Department of Public Health on or before January 31 of~~  
7 ~~every year after the year the application is first approved.~~

8 ~~(3) Maintain a reasonable method of documentation that can be reviewed or verified~~  
9 ~~objectively that tracks how employees whose compensation qualifies for the payroll expense tax~~  
10 ~~exclusion spend their time at work, and provide such documentation to the Tax Collector upon request.~~

11 ~~(4) File an annual Payroll Expense Tax Return with the Tax Collector regardless of the~~  
12 ~~amount of tax liability shown on the return after claiming the exclusion provided for in this Section.~~

13 ~~(5) File annual affidavits with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development~~  
14 ~~detailing the total number of individuals hired, the number of individuals hired who were referred by~~  
15 ~~the San Francisco Workforce Development System, and the duration of employment for each individual~~  
16 ~~hired. The affidavits must be filed with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development on or~~  
17 ~~before January 31 of every year after the year the application is first approved.~~

18 ~~(g) The biotechnology exclusion authorized under this Section shall expire on the tenth~~  
19 ~~anniversary date of the effective date of this Section. Unless exempted under Sections 906 of this~~  
20 ~~Article, every person engaging in the biotechnology business in the City shall pay the tax imposed~~  
21 ~~under this Article on the full amount of the person's payroll expense attributable to the City from and~~  
22 ~~after the expiration of this Section.~~

23 ~~(h) If a person's taxable payroll for any year does not exceed the small business exemption~~  
24 ~~amount as defined in Section 905-A, the person shall be exempt from payment of the Payroll Expense~~  
25 ~~Tax for that year.~~

1           (i) ~~The Tax Collector shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each year~~  
2 ~~for which the biotechnology exclusion authorized under this Section is available that sets forth~~  
3 ~~aggregate information on the dollar value of the biotechnology exclusions taken each year, the number~~  
4 ~~of businesses taking the exclusion, the change in the number of biotechnology businesses engaging in~~  
5 ~~business in the City, and any increase or decrease in the number of jobs in the biotechnology business~~  
6 ~~sector compared to the number of jobs in the biotechnology business sector for the immediately~~  
7 ~~preceding calendar year.~~

8           (j) ~~The Assessor-Recorder and the Tax Collector shall jointly prepare and submit an annual~~  
9 ~~report to the Board of Supervisors for each year for which the biotechnology exclusion authorized~~  
10 ~~under this Section is available that sets forth any increases in property taxes resulting from~~  
11 ~~biotechnology businesses location, relocation or expansion to or within the City.~~

12           (k) ~~The Mayor's Office of Economic Development shall coordinate community educational~~  
13 ~~workshops on the biotechnology industry.~~

14           (l) ~~The Controller, after five years from the enactment of this Ordinance, shall perform an~~  
15 ~~assessment and review of the effect of the biotechnology tax exclusion. Based on such assessment and~~  
16 ~~review the Controller shall prepare and submit an analysis to the Board of Supervisors. The analysis~~  
17 ~~shall be based on criteria deemed relevant by the Controller, and may include but is not limited to, data~~  
18 ~~contained in the annual reports to the Board of Supervisors as required by subsections (i) and (j) of this~~  
19 ~~Section.~~

20  
21 **~~SEC. 906.2. CLEAN TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS EXCLUSION.~~**

22           (a) ~~Any person that employs a full-time staff of not more than one hundred employees and is~~  
23 ~~engaging in a clean technology business may exclude from the person's payroll expense all~~  
24 ~~compensation paid to, on behalf of or for the benefit of the person's employees, and all distributions by~~  
25 ~~an association by way of salary to those having an ownership interest in such association, who or that~~

1 ~~perform substantially all work or render substantially all services in direct support of such person's~~  
2 ~~clean technology business activities, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in this Section.~~  
3 ~~For purposes of this Section, outside independent contractors shall not be considered employees of the~~  
4 ~~clean technology business.~~

5 ~~(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:~~

6 ~~(1) The term "person" includes the combination of all domestic subsidiaries, affiliates~~  
7 ~~and other business entities related by ownership including but not limited to partnerships, joint~~  
8 ~~ventures, limited liability companies, corporations and other business organizations of whatever form.~~  
9 ~~Any beneficial ownership of the stock of publicly traded corporations shall not be considered for~~  
10 ~~purposes of this definition.~~

11 ~~(2) The term "business" is as defined in Section 6.2-5 of Article 6 of the San Francisco~~  
12 ~~Business and Tax Regulations Code.~~

13 ~~(3) The term "association" is as defined in Section 6.2-4 of Article 6 of the San~~  
14 ~~Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code.~~

15 ~~(4) "Clean energy" means energy utilizing energy produced by wind, solar energy,~~  
16 ~~landfill gas, geothermal resources, ocean thermal energy conversion, quantifiable energy conservation~~  
17 ~~measures, tidal energy, wave energy, biomass, biofuels, or hydrogen fuels derived from renewable~~  
18 ~~sources, excluding (A) any fossil fuel based energy production, including but not limited to, clean coal,~~  
19 ~~clean diesel, natural gas and hydrogen from natural gas, (B) any nuclear based energy production,~~  
20 ~~(C) waste to energy via combustion or incineration, or/and (D) other technologies that are detrimental~~  
21 ~~to human health.~~

22 ~~(5) "Clean technology business" means a business in which at least seventy-five~~  
23 ~~percent of all business activities carried on during the tax year are directly related to one or more of~~  
24 ~~the following activities:~~

1                   (A) ~~research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying~~  
2 ~~scientific advances to the production, distribution or storage of clean energy;~~

3                   (B) ~~research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying~~  
4 ~~scientific advances to prototype or commercially viable materials and products powered by clean~~  
5 ~~energy, including but not limited to single passenger vehicles and fueling infrastructure;~~

6                   (C) ~~research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying~~  
7 ~~scientific advances to prototype or commercially viable techniques, materials and products that~~  
8 ~~materially improve energy efficiency, water conservation or air quality;~~

9                   (D) ~~research and development, manufacture and/or installation of solar panels;~~  
10 ~~or~~

11                   (e) ~~In order to be eligible for the payroll expense tax exclusion authorized under this Section,~~  
12 ~~persons wishing to claim the exclusion must:~~

13                   (1) ~~Complete and submit an initial application to the Director of the Department of the~~  
14 ~~Environment for review and evaluation.~~

15                   (2) ~~After approval, file an annual affidavit with the Department of the Environment~~  
16 ~~affirming that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria set forth in regulations adopted by the~~  
17 ~~Department of the Environment. The affidavit must be filed with the Department of the Environment on~~  
18 ~~or before January 31 of every year after the year the application is first approved.~~

19                   (3) ~~Maintain a reasonable method of documentation that can be reviewed or verified~~  
20 ~~objectively that tracks how employees whose compensation qualifies for the payroll expense tax~~  
21 ~~exclusion spend their time at work, and provide such documentation to the Tax Collector upon request.~~

22                   (4) ~~File an annual Payroll Expense Tax Return with the Tax Collector regardless of the~~  
23 ~~amount of tax liability shown on the return after claiming the exclusion provided for in this Section.~~

24                   (5) ~~For clean technology businesses in business sectors eligible for Green Business~~  
25 ~~recognition from the City under Chapter 15 of the Environment Code and implementing regulations,~~

1 ~~qualify as a Green Business, and (2) complete and submit all required applications for Green Business~~  
2 ~~recognition at least ninety days prior to the close of the tax year for which the payroll tax exemption is~~  
3 ~~requested.~~

4 ~~(d) The Director of the Department of the Environment shall:~~

5 ~~(1) No later than the effective date of this ordinance, after a public hearing, adopt rules,~~  
6 ~~regulations and forms regarding eligibility and the application process for the payroll tax expense~~  
7 ~~exclusion. The Director of the Department of the Environment may amend such rules, regulations and~~  
8 ~~forms from time to time as necessary.~~

9 ~~(2) Review all applications for completeness and if an application is approved issue a~~  
10 ~~certificate of eligibility to the applicant. The Director's decision on the application shall be final.~~

11 ~~(3) Provide the Tax Collector with a list of persons eligible to claim the tax exclusion~~  
12 ~~authorized under this Section for the preceding tax year by March 1 of each year. The Tax Collector~~  
13 ~~shall grant or deny the tax exclusion on the basis of the Department of the Environment's~~  
14 ~~determination along with the review, at the Tax Collector's option, of the documentation maintained by~~  
15 ~~the employer under Subsection (e)(3) of this Section.~~

16 ~~(e) The clean technology exclusion authorized under this Section shall be available to and may~~  
17 ~~be taken by a person for each tax year that person holds a valid certificate of eligibility for a period of~~  
18 ~~ten years from the effective date of this Section or the commencement of the person's clean technology~~  
19 ~~business in the City, whichever is later. The date the Tax Collector first received the person's~~  
20 ~~application for a business registration certificate for the person's clean technology business shall be~~  
21 ~~presumed to be the date of commencement of such business unless the person establishes a different~~  
22 ~~commencement date to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.~~

23 ~~(f) The clean technology exclusion authorized under this Section shall expire on the fifteenth~~  
24 ~~anniversary date of the effective date of this Section. A person may not use or claim any unused~~  
25 ~~portion of the ten year clean technology exclusion after the expiration date of this Section. Unless~~

1 ~~exempted under Sections 906 of this Article, every person engaging in a clean technology business in~~  
2 ~~the City shall pay the tax imposed under this Article on the full amount of the person's payroll expense~~  
3 ~~attributable to the City from and after the expiration of this Section.~~

4 ~~(g) If a person's calculated liability for the Payroll Expense Tax does not exceed the ceiling~~  
5 ~~specified in Section 905-A for the tax year after applying the clean technology exclusion under this~~  
6 ~~Section, the person shall be exempt from payment of the Payroll Expense Tax for that tax year as~~  
7 ~~provided in Section 905-A.~~

8 ~~(h) The effective date of this Section 906.2 shall be January 1, 2006 except that the amendments~~  
9 ~~to Section 906.2 made by Ordinance 313-08 do not apply to tax years beginning before~~  
10 ~~January 1, 2009.~~

11 ~~(i) The Tax Collector shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each year~~  
12 ~~for which the clean technology exclusion authorized under this Section is available that sets forth~~  
13 ~~aggregate information on the dollar value of the clean technology exclusions taken each year, the~~  
14 ~~number of businesses taking the exclusion, the change in the number of clean technology businesses~~  
15 ~~engaging in business in the City, and any identifiable increase or decrease in the number of jobs in the~~  
16 ~~clean technology business sector compared to the number of jobs in the clean technology business~~  
17 ~~sector for the immediately preceding calendar year.~~

18 ~~(j) The Assessor-Recorder shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each~~  
19 ~~year for which the clean technology exclusion authorized under this Section is available that sets forth~~  
20 ~~any identifiable increases in property taxes resulting from clean technology businesses location,~~  
21 ~~relocation or expansion to or within the City.~~

22 ~~(k) The Controller, after three years from the enactment of this Ordinance, shall perform an~~  
23 ~~assessment and review of the effect of the clean technology tax exclusion. Based on such assessment~~  
24 ~~and review the Controller shall prepare and submit an analysis to the Board of Supervisors. The~~  
25 ~~analysis shall be based on criteria deemed relevant by the Controller, and may include but is not~~

1 ~~limited to, data contained in the annual reports to the Board of Supervisors as required by~~  
2 ~~subsections (i) and (j) of this Section.~~

3 ~~(l) A misrepresentation or misstatement by any person regarding eligibility for the clean~~  
4 ~~technology payroll expense tax exclusion authorized by this section that results in the underpayment or~~  
5 ~~underreporting of the payroll expense tax shall be subject to penalties as provided in Section 6.17-2 of~~  
6 ~~Article 6 of the San Francisco Business and Tax Administrative Code.~~

7  
8 **~~SEC. 906.3. CENTRAL MARKET STREET AND TENDERLOIN AREA PAYROLL EXPENSE~~**  
9 **~~TAX EXCLUSION.~~**

10 ~~(a) An exclusion from the payroll expense tax shall be allowed for each person who maintains a~~  
11 ~~fixed place of business within the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area for payroll expense~~  
12 ~~attributable to that fixed location; provided, however, that in no event shall the tax exclusion reduce a~~  
13 ~~person's tax liability to less than the person's Base Year payroll expense tax liability.~~

14 ~~(b) For purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:~~

15 ~~(1) "Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area" means the area located in downtown~~  
16 ~~San Francisco, generally including: parcels fronting the south side of Market Street from Eleventh~~  
17 ~~Street to Sixth Street; a portion of the parcels fronting the south side of Market Street from Sixth Street~~  
18 ~~to Fifth Street (odd numbered addresses from 999 to 933 Market Street); parcels fronting the north side~~  
19 ~~of Market Street from Van Ness Avenue to Eighth Street; 875 Stevenson Street; and parcels in the area~~  
20 ~~bordered by: Ellis Street from Polk Street to Mason Street (south side only); Mason Street, from Ellis~~  
21 ~~Street to Market Street (west side only); Market Street, from Mason Street to Charles J. Brenham Place~~  
22 ~~(north side only); Charles J. Brenham Place, from Market Street to McAllister Street (east side only);~~  
23 ~~McAllister Street, from Charles J. Brenham Place to Larkin Street (north side only); Larkin Street,~~  
24 ~~from McAllister Street to Eddy Street (east side only); Eddy Street, from Larkin Street to Polk Street~~  
25 ~~(north side only); and Polk Street, from Eddy Street to Ellis Street (east side only). The exclusion~~

1 ~~applies exclusively to the following Assessor's Lots: the entirety of Blocks 0331, 0332, 0333, 0334,~~  
2 ~~0335, 0336, 0337, 0338, 0339, 0340, 0342, 0343, 0344, 0345, 0346, 0347, 0348, 0349, 0350, and 0740;~~  
3 ~~Block 0813, Lots, 7, 8, 9 and 10; Block 0835, Lots 1, 2 and 3; Block 3701, Lots 50 and 59; Block 3702,~~  
4 ~~Lots 1, 45, 46, 47, 48, 48A, and 53; Block 3703, Lots 1, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68,~~  
5 ~~70, 74, 75, 76, 78 and 88; Block 3704, Lots 70, 69, 68, 67 and 78; Block 3507, Lots 39 and 41;~~  
6 ~~Block 3508, Lots 1 and 39; Block 0355, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15; and Block 0351, Lots 1, 22,~~  
7 ~~39, 41, 46, 47, 49 and 51.~~

8 (2) ~~“Base Year” means the 2010 tax year for a person who maintains a fixed place of~~  
9 ~~business in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area on the effective date of this ordinance,~~  
10 ~~provided that the person maintained a fixed place of business in the Area for the entirety of such tax~~  
11 ~~year. If the person did not maintain a fixed place of business in the Area for the entirety of 2010, then~~  
12 ~~the first full tax year that person maintains a fixed place of business in the Area shall be the Base Year.~~  
13 ~~For a person who moves a business to the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area from another~~  
14 ~~part of San Francisco, Base Year means that person's full tax year for the year prior to entering into a~~  
15 ~~lease agreement or buying real property in the Area, provided that person was doing business in~~  
16 ~~San Francisco for the entirety of such tax year. For a person who commences to maintain a fixed place~~  
17 ~~of business in San Francisco after the effective date of this ordinance, Base Year means that person's~~  
18 ~~first full tax year in the Area.~~

19 (c) ~~In order to be eligible for the payroll expense tax exclusion authorized under this Section,~~  
20 ~~persons wishing to claim the exclusion must:~~

21 (1) ~~Complete and submit an initial application to the Office of Economic and Workforce~~  
22 ~~Development for review and evaluation. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development will use~~  
23 ~~this application to verify that applicants claiming the payroll expense tax exclusion under this Section~~  
24 ~~meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this subsection (c). The Office of Economic and Workforce~~  
25 ~~Development and the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector shall prescribe the form of the~~



1 ~~application and, consistent with this ordinance, the rules and regulations regarding eligibility for the~~  
2 ~~Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area payroll expense tax exclusion, which shall include~~  
3 ~~participation in the City's First Source Hiring Program as defined in Section 83.4 of the Administrative~~  
4 ~~Code.~~

5 ~~(2) File an annual affidavit with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development~~  
6 ~~affirming that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria as determined by the Office of Economic and~~  
7 ~~Workforce Development. The annual affidavit should detail the total number of individuals hired~~  
8 ~~during the year, the number of individuals who were referred by the San Francisco Workforce~~  
9 ~~Development System during the year, and the duration of employment for each individual hired during~~  
10 ~~the year. The affidavit must be filed with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development on or~~  
11 ~~before December 31 of each year subsequent to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development's~~  
12 ~~initial approval of the application.~~

13 ~~(3) Maintain records and documents in a manner acceptable to the Tax Collector. Such~~  
14 ~~records and documents must objectively substantiate any exclusion claimed under this Section and be~~  
15 ~~provided to the Tax Collector upon request.~~

16 ~~(4) File a timely annual Payroll Expense Tax Return and affidavit with the Tax~~  
17 ~~Collector regardless of the amount of tax liability, if any, shown on the return after claiming the~~  
18 ~~exclusion provided for in this Section.~~

19 ~~(5) Any person whose annual payroll expense exceeds one million dollars (\$1,000,000)~~  
20 ~~shall enter into a binding Community Benefit Agreement with the City Administrator in order to be~~  
21 ~~eligible for the payroll expense tax exclusion under this Section. Such Community Benefit Agreement~~  
22 ~~may include commitments to engage in community activities in the Central Market Street and~~  
23 ~~Tenderloin Area as well as participation in workforce development opportunities.~~

1           ~~(d) The Office of Economic and Workforce Development shall:~~

2                     ~~(1) Together with the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector, adopt rules,~~  
3 ~~regulations and forms regarding eligibility and the application process for the Central Market Street~~  
4 ~~and Tenderloin Area payroll expense tax exclusion. The rules, regulations and forms may be amended~~  
5 ~~from time to time as necessary.~~

6                     ~~(2) Review all applications for completeness and upon approval, issue a certificate of~~  
7 ~~eligibility to the applicant. The decision of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development~~  
8 ~~regarding eligibility for the exclusion may not be appealed by an applicant.~~

9                     ~~(3) Provide the Tax Collector with a list of persons eligible to claim the tax exclusion~~  
10 ~~authorized under this Section for the preceding tax year by March 1 of each year.~~

11           ~~(e) The Tax Collector shall verify that any exclusion claimed pursuant to this Section is~~  
12 ~~appropriate.~~

13           ~~(f) The Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion authorized under this Section~~  
14 ~~shall be available to and may be taken by each person for each tax year that person holds a valid~~  
15 ~~certificate of eligibility for a period not to exceed six years from the effective date of this ordinance or~~  
16 ~~the commencement of the person's business in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area,~~  
17 ~~whichever is later. The date the Tax Collector first received the person's application for a business~~  
18 ~~registration certificate for the person's Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area business shall be~~  
19 ~~presumed to be the date of commencement of such business unless the person establishes a different~~  
20 ~~commencement date to the satisfaction of the Tax Collector.~~

21           ~~(g) The Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion authorized under this Section~~  
22 ~~shall expire on the eighth anniversary date of the effective date of this Section. A person may not use or~~  
23 ~~claim any unused portion of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion after the~~  
24 ~~expiration date of this Section. Unless exempted under Section 906 of this Article, every person~~  
25 ~~engaging in a business in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area in the City shall pay the tax~~

1 ~~imposed under this Article on the full amount of the person's payroll expense attributable to the City~~  
2 ~~from and after the expiration of this Section.~~

3 ~~(h) If a person's calculated liability for the payroll expense tax does not exceed the ceiling~~  
4 ~~specified in Section 905-A for the tax year after applying the Central Market Street and Tenderloin~~  
5 ~~Area exclusion under this Section, the person shall be exempt from payment of the payroll expense tax~~  
6 ~~for that tax year as provided in Section 905-A.~~

7 ~~(i) The Tax Collector shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each year~~  
8 ~~for which the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion authorized under this Section is~~  
9 ~~available that sets forth aggregate information on the dollar value of the Central Market Street and~~  
10 ~~Tenderloin Area exclusions taken each year, the number of businesses taking the exclusion and the~~  
11 ~~change in the number of businesses located in the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area of the~~  
12 ~~City.~~

13 ~~(j) The Office of the City Administrator shall submit an annual report to the Board of~~  
14 ~~Supervisors for each year for which the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion~~  
15 ~~authorized under this Section is available that sets forth any and all Community Benefit Agreements~~  
16 ~~that have been entered into with the Office of the City Administrator during that year.~~

17 ~~(k) The Assessor-Recorder shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each~~  
18 ~~year for which the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area exclusion authorized under this Section~~  
19 ~~is available that sets forth any identifiable increases in property value resulting from businesses'~~  
20 ~~location, relocation or expansion to or within the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area.~~

21 ~~(l) The Controller, not later than three years after the effective date of this ordinance, shall~~  
22 ~~perform an assessment and review of the effect of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area~~  
23 ~~payroll expense tax exclusion on the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area. Based on such~~  
24 ~~assessment and review the Controller shall prepare and submit an analysis to the Board of Supervisors.~~  
25 ~~The analysis shall be based on factors that the Controller deems relevant, and may include, but shall~~

1 ~~not be limited to, data contained in the annual reports to the Board of Supervisors as required by~~  
2 ~~subsections (i), (j) and (k) of this Section.~~

3 ~~(m) The Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area payroll expense tax exclusion set forth in~~  
4 ~~this Section may not be claimed concurrently with any other payroll expense tax exclusion.~~

5 ~~(n) A misrepresentation or misstatement by any person regarding eligibility for the Central~~  
6 ~~Market Street and Tenderloin Area payroll expense tax exclusion authorized by this Section that results~~  
7 ~~in the underpayment or underreporting of the payroll expense tax shall be subject to penalties.~~

8  
9 ~~**SEC. 906.3-1. CENTRAL MARKET STREET AND TENDERLOIN AREA CITIZEN'S**~~  
10 ~~**ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**~~

11 ~~(a) There shall be a Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area Citizen's Advisory Committee~~  
12 ~~(the "Citizen's Advisory Committee").~~

13 ~~(b) The Citizen's Advisory Committee shall be an advisory body whose purpose is to make~~  
14 ~~recommendations to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City Administrator, and Office of Economic and~~  
15 ~~Workforce Development on policies and programs that mitigate the effects of development, bolster~~  
16 ~~economic development, local employment, and community sustainability, and seek to stabilize and~~  
17 ~~protect existing tenants, community based organizations, and small businesses in and around the~~  
18 ~~Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area.~~

19 ~~(c) Duties of the Citizen's Advisory Committee shall include:~~

20 ~~(1) Advise the City Administrator of community issues in order to better align the~~  
21 ~~Community Benefit Agreements called for under the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area~~  
22 ~~Payroll Expense Tax Exclusion in Section 906.3 of this Code, with the community needs.~~

23 ~~(2) Make recommendations to the City Administrator about terms and conditions in the~~  
24 ~~Community Benefit Agreements called for under the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area~~  
25 ~~Payroll Expense Tax Exclusion.~~

1                   (3) ~~Provide a report in March and October of each year to the Board of Supervisors~~  
2 ~~regarding the implementation and execution of the Community Benefit Agreements called for under the~~  
3 ~~Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area Payroll Expense Tax Exclusion. The report shall include,~~  
4 ~~at minimum, a summary of the Citizen's Advisory Committee's recommendations and votes regarding~~  
5 ~~proposed Community Benefit Agreements, a summary of actions taken by the City Administrator in~~  
6 ~~response to the Citizen's Advisory Committee's recommendations, and a list of vacant seats on the~~  
7 ~~Citizen's Advisory Committee.~~

8                   (4) ~~Make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Office of Economic and~~  
9 ~~Workforce Development on policies, initiatives, and programs that bolster economic development,~~  
10 ~~local employment, and community sustainability and seek to stabilize and protect existing tenants,~~  
11 ~~community based organizations, and small businesses in and around the Central Market Street and~~  
12 ~~Tenderloin Area.~~

13                   (5) ~~Advise the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and City Administrator on the creation of a~~  
14 ~~community development fund that may support workforce development, community infrastructure and~~  
15 ~~programs to mitigate potential displacement of small businesses, community based organizations, and~~  
16 ~~tenants.~~

17                   (6) ~~Help facilitate partnerships between persons claiming the Central Market Street and~~  
18 ~~Tenderloin Area Payroll Expense Tax Exclusion and community organizations, local schools, and~~  
19 ~~small businesses.~~

20                   (7) ~~Hold public hearings regarding Community Benefit Agreements as set forth in~~  
21 ~~subsection 906.3-1(i).~~

1           ~~(d) The Citizen’s Advisory Committee shall be composed of five members appointed by the~~  
2 ~~Board of Supervisors:~~

3                     ~~(1) Seat 1 shall be held either by a person with expertise in job creation or workforce~~  
4 ~~development or by a person who is a resident of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area or~~  
5 ~~Adjacent Area.~~

6                     ~~(2) Seat 2 shall be held either by a person who represents a community-based~~  
7 ~~organization or provides direct services to the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area or Adjacent~~  
8 ~~Area or by a person who is a resident of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area or Adjacent~~  
9 ~~Area.~~

10                    ~~(3) Seat 3 shall be held either by a person with expertise on homelessness, transitional~~  
11 ~~age youth, or supportive housing, and familiarity with the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area~~  
12 ~~or Adjacent Area or by a person who is a resident of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area or~~  
13 ~~Adjacent Area.~~

14                    ~~(4) Seats 4 and 5 shall be held by residents of the Central Market Street and Tenderloin~~  
15 ~~Area or Adjacent Area with expertise or life experience involving homelessness or affordable housing.~~

16                    ~~(e) For purposes of this Section 906.3-1, “Adjacent Area” shall mean the area in District 6,~~  
17 ~~bounded on the southern side by 13th Street and Townsend Street.~~

18                    ~~(f) The terms of members of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee in office on the effective date of~~  
19 ~~the ordinance in Board of Supervisors File No. 170741 and whose seats were not eliminated by that~~  
20 ~~ordinance shall continue; provided that the terms then in effect for members in renumbered Seats 1~~  
21 ~~and 3 shall end at noon on November 2, 2017; and the terms then in effect for members in renumbered~~  
22 ~~Seats 2, 4, and 5 shall end at noon on November 2, 2019. The Board of Supervisors shall appoint~~  
23 ~~members to new terms, which shall commence on the expiration of the previous terms. All of the new~~  
24 ~~terms shall end on January 31, 2021. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of~~  
25 ~~Supervisors and may be removed by the Board of Supervisors at any time.~~

1           ~~(g) Once each year, the Citizen's Advisory Committee members shall select such officer or~~  
2 ~~officers as deemed necessary by the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The Citizen's Advisory Committee~~  
3 ~~shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary for the conduct of its business under this~~  
4 ~~Section 906.3-1. In the event a vacancy occurs, a successor shall be appointed to fill the vacancy~~  
5 ~~consistent with the process and requirements to appoint the previous appointee. When a vacancy~~  
6 ~~occurs for a reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee to fill such vacancy shall~~  
7 ~~hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor. Any member who misses four meetings~~  
8 ~~within a twelve-month period, without the approval of the Citizen's Advisory Committee at or before~~  
9 ~~each missed meeting, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Citizen's Advisory Committee ten days~~  
10 ~~after the fourth unapproved absence. The City Administrator shall inform the Clerk of the Board of any~~  
11 ~~such resignation.~~

12           ~~(h) The Citizen's Advisory Committee shall comply with all applicable public records and~~  
13 ~~meetings laws and shall be subject to all applicable conflict of interest provisions in State and local~~  
14 ~~law.~~

15           ~~(i) Duties of the City Administrator.~~

16                     ~~(1) The City Administrator shall provide administrative support for the Citizen's~~  
17 ~~Advisory Committee, and shall arrange for the Citizen's Advisory Committee to meet no less than four~~  
18 ~~times each calendar year.~~

19                     ~~(2) At least 15 days before entering into negotiations regarding the terms of a~~  
20 ~~Community Benefit Agreement, the City Administrator shall inform the members of the Citizen's~~  
21 ~~Advisory Committee in writing about the initiation of negotiations. After receiving the written notice,~~  
22 ~~the Citizen's Advisory Committee may submit written recommendations to the City Administrator~~  
23 ~~regarding the possible terms of the Community Benefit Agreement.~~

24                     ~~(3) Within five days of reaching tentative agreement regarding the terms of a~~  
25 ~~Community Benefit Agreement, the City Administrator shall transmit copies of the proposed agreement~~

1 ~~to the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and shall coordinate with the members of the Citizen's Advisory~~  
2 ~~Committee to convene a meeting to review the agreement. At any such meeting, the Citizen's Advisory~~  
3 ~~Committee may recommend that the City Administrator execute the Community Benefit Agreement,~~  
4 ~~recommend that the City Administrator not execute the Community Benefit Agreement, or make no~~  
5 ~~recommendation. If the Citizen's Advisory Committee does not recommend that the City Administrator~~  
6 ~~execute the Community Benefit Agreement, the Committee shall state the reasons therefor. The City~~  
7 ~~Administrator shall not execute any Community Benefit Agreement until after the Citizen's Advisory~~  
8 ~~Committee has held at least one meeting to review and provide recommendations regarding the~~  
9 ~~agreement; provided that the City Administrator may execute the agreement if the Citizen's Advisory~~  
10 ~~Committee fails to meet within 45 days after the transmission of the proposed agreement to the~~  
11 ~~Citizen's Advisory Committee. Within five days after executing the agreement, the City Administrator~~  
12 ~~shall transmit the agreement to the Citizen's Advisory Committee with a report describing the City~~  
13 ~~Administrator's response to each of the Citizen's Advisory Committee's recommendations, if any.~~

14 ~~(4) If the Citizen's Advisory Committee fails to provide a biannual report to the Board~~  
15 ~~of Supervisors in March or October as required in subsection 906.3-1(e)(3), the City Administrator~~  
16 ~~shall prepare and submit a report to the Board of Supervisors providing the same information by~~  
17 ~~April 15 or November 15, respectively.~~

18 ~~(j) Unless the Board of Supervisors by ordinance extends the term of the Citizen's Advisory~~  
19 ~~Committee, this Section 906.3-1 shall expire by operation of law, and the Citizen's Advisory Committee~~  
20 ~~shall terminate, on January 31, 2021. In that event, after that date, the City Attorney shall cause this~~  
21 ~~Section 906.3-1 to be removed from the Business and Tax Regulations Code.~~

22  
23 **~~SEC. 907. PAYMENTS, RETURNS, INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS AND EXTENSIONS.~~**

24 ~~(a) Payments, returns, installment payments and extensions for persons subject to this Article~~  
25 ~~shall be as prescribed in the common administrative provisions set forth in Article 6.~~



1           ~~(b) For tax years commencing after December 31, 2013, a combined group as described in~~  
2 ~~Section 956.3 of Article 12-A-1 must file a single payroll expense tax return; the combined group must~~  
3 ~~choose a single person to file the return on its behalf. Each person within the combined group~~  
4 ~~engaging in business in the City must provide a power of attorney to the person filing the return,~~  
5 ~~authorizing the person filing the return to file said return and to act on behalf of each person with~~  
6 ~~respect to payments, refunds, audits, resolutions, and any other items related to the tax liability~~  
7 ~~reflected in the return. The power of attorney shall be substantially in a form prescribed or approved~~  
8 ~~by the Tax Collector. Each return filed by a combined group constitutes a combined return under this~~  
9 ~~Article and Article 6. The person filing any combined return shall pay the tax liability reflected on the~~  
10 ~~return and any liability determined on audit at the time and in the manner set forth for returns and~~  
11 ~~liabilities in Article 6. The payroll expense tax liability of each person within a combined group,~~  
12 ~~including any applicable exemptions or exclusions, shall be computed as if that person was filing its~~  
13 ~~own separate return. The total liability on the combined return shall be the sum of the liabilities of~~  
14 ~~each person within the combined group.~~

15  
16 **~~SEC. 908. SAVINGS CLAUSE.~~**

17           ~~No section, clause, part or provision of this Article shall be construed as requiring the payment~~  
18 ~~of any tax for engaging in a business or the doing of an act when such payment or act would constitute~~  
19 ~~an unlawful burden upon or an unlawful interference with interstate or foreign commerce, or which~~  
20 ~~payment or act would be in violation of the United States Constitution or a statute of the United States~~  
21 ~~or of the California Constitution or a statute of the State of California. If any section, clause, part or~~  
22 ~~provision of this Article, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid or~~  
23 ~~unconstitutional, the remainder of this Article, including the application of such part or provision to~~  
24 ~~other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.~~  
25 ~~To this end, the provisions of this Article are severable.~~

1 **~~SEC. 909. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE.~~**

2 ~~The Board of Supervisors may amend or repeal Article 12-A of the Business and Tax~~  
3 ~~Regulations Code without a vote of the people except as limited by Article XIII C of the California~~  
4 ~~Constitution.~~

5  
6 Section 5. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by deleting  
7 Sections 959 and 961 and revising Sections 952, 953, 953.1, 953.2, 953.3, 953.4, 953.5,  
8 953.6, 953.7, 953.8, 953.9, 954, 954.1, 956.2, 960, and 965 of Article 12-A-1, to read as  
9 follows:

10  
11 **SEC. 952. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Except where the context otherwise requires, the terms used in this Article 12-A-1 shall  
13 have the meanings given to them in Sections 6.2-1 et seq. of Article 6 ~~and in Article 12-A.~~ For  
14 purposes of this Article 12-A-1, "pass-through entity" includes a trust, partnership, corporation  
15 described in Subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, limited liability  
16 company, limited liability partnership, professional corporation, and any other person or entity (other  
17 than a disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes) which is not subject to the income tax  
18 imposed by Subtitle A, Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or which is  
19 allowed a deduction in computing such tax for distributions to the owners or beneficiaries of such  
20 person or entity.

21  
22 **SEC. 953. IMPOSITION OF GROSS RECEIPTS TAX.**

23 (a) Except as otherwise provided under this Article 12-A-1, the City imposes and every  
24 person engaging in business within the City shall pay an annual gross receipts tax measured  
25 by the person's gross receipts from all taxable business activities attributable to the City. A

1 person's liability for the gross receipts tax shall be calculated according to Sections 953.1  
2 through 953.7.

3 (b) The gross receipts tax is a privilege tax imposed upon persons engaging in  
4 business within the City for the privilege of engaging in a business or occupation in the City.  
5 The gross receipts tax is imposed for general governmental purposes. Proceeds from the tax  
6 shall be deposited in the City's general fund and may be expended for any purposes of the  
7 City.

8 (c) The voters intend by adopting this measure to authorize application of the gross  
9 receipts tax in the broadest manner consistent with the provisions of this Article 12-A-1 and the  
10 requirements of the California Constitution, the United States Constitution, and any other  
11 applicable provision of federal and state law.

12 ~~(d) The gross receipts tax imposed under this Article is in addition to the payroll expense tax~~  
13 ~~imposed under Article 12-A. Persons not otherwise exempt from the gross receipts tax or payroll~~  
14 ~~expense tax shall pay both taxes. Persons exempt from either the gross receipts tax or payroll expense~~  
15 ~~tax, but not both, shall pay the tax from which they are not exempt.~~

16 ~~(de) Except for subsection (d) of this Section, t~~The tax on Administrative Office Business  
17 Activities imposed by Section 953.8 is intended as a complementary tax to the gross receipts  
18 tax, and shall be considered a gross receipts tax for purposes of this Article 12-A-1.

19 ~~(f) For a five year period beginning in 2015, the Treasurer, Controller, and Chief Economist~~  
20 ~~shall jointly prepare an annual report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the implementation of~~  
21 ~~the measure. The report shall include projections of collections of the gross receipts tax, compare~~  
22 ~~these projections to those anticipated in preparation of the measure, and outline impacts of the~~  
23 ~~measure on San Francisco's economy and business community. The report may recommend policy,~~  
24 ~~administrative, or technical changes for the consideration of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors that~~  
25 ~~further the goals established in the measure.~~

1 **SEC. 953.1. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO RETAIL TRADE; WHOLESALE**  
2 **TRADE; AND CERTAIN SERVICES.**

3 (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to the  
4 business activities of retail trade, wholesale trade, and certain services. ~~Commencing on the~~  
5 ~~operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller shall compute the tax rate in~~  
6 ~~accordance with Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by this Section is~~ are:

7 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
8 December 31, 2020:

- 9 0.075% (e.g., \$0.75 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 10 0.100% (e.g., \$1 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000
- 11 0.135% (e.g., \$1.35 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and  
12 \$25,000,000
- 13 0.160% (e.g., \$1.60 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

14 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

15 (A) For the business activity of certain services:

- 16 0.053% (e.g., \$0.53 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 17 0.07% (e.g., \$0.70 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
18 \$2,500,000
- 19 0.095% (e.g., \$0.95 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
20 \$25,000,000
- 21 0.168% (e.g., \$1.68 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

22 (B) For the business activity of retail trade:

- 23 0.053% (e.g., \$0.53 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 24 0.07% (e.g., \$0.70 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
25 \$2,500,000

1           0.142% (e.g., \$1.42 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
2 \$25,000,000

3           0.224% (e.g., \$2.24 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

4                           (C) For the business activity of wholesale trade:

5           0.105% (e.g., \$1.05 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

6           0.14% (e.g., \$1.40 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
7 \$2,500,000

8           0.189% (e.g., \$1.89 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
9 \$25,000,000

10           0.224% (e.g., \$2.24 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

11           \* \* \* \*

12           (g) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
13 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
14 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
15 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
16 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
17 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
18 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
19 Section 953.1(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
20 there shall be added to each of the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross  
21 receipts over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 0.175% plus the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts  
22 between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
23 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
24 in this Section 953.1(g).

1 **SEC. 953.2. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO MANUFACTURING;**  
2 **TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING; INFORMATION; BIOTECHNOLOGY; CLEAN**  
3 **TECHNOLOGY; AND FOOD SERVICES.**

4 (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to the  
5 business activities of manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, information,  
6 biotechnology, clean technology, and food services. ~~Commencing on the operative date of the~~  
7 ~~Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller shall compute the tax rate in accordance with~~  
8 ~~Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by this Section is~~ are:

9 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
10 December 31, 2020:

- 11 0.125% (e.g., \$1.25 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 12 0.205% (e.g., \$2.05 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000
- 13 0.370% (e.g., \$3.70 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and  
14 \$25,000,000
- 15 0.475% (e.g., \$4.75 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

16 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

17 (A) For the business activity of manufacturing:

- 18 0.088% (e.g., \$0.88 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 19 0.144% (e.g., \$1.44 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
20 \$2,500,000
- 21 0.259% (e.g., \$2.59 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
22 \$25,000,000
- 23 0.499% (e.g., \$4.99 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

24 (B) For the business activity of food services:

- 25 0.175% (e.g., \$1.75 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

1           0.287% (e.g., \$2.87 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
2 \$2,500,000

3           0.518% (e.g., \$5.18 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
4 \$25,000,000

5           0.665% (e.g., \$6.65 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

6                           (C) For the business activities of transportation and warehousing,  
7 biotechnology, and clean technology:

8           0.2% (e.g., \$2.00 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

9           0.328% (e.g., \$3.28 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
10 \$2,500,000

11           0.592% (e.g., \$5.92 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
12 \$25,000,000

13           0.76% (e.g., \$7.60 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

14                           (D) For the business activity of information:

15           0.68% (e.g., \$6.80 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

16           0.782% (e.g., \$7.82 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
17 \$2,500,000

18           0.867% (e.g., \$8.67 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
19 \$25,000,000

20           0.952% (e.g., \$9.52 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

21           \* \* \* \*

22           (e) For purposes of this Article 12-A-1:

23                           (1) ~~b~~Biotechnology includes the activity of conducting biotechnology research and  
24 experimental development, and operating laboratories for biotechnology research and experimental  
25 development, using DNA, cells, and/or bioprocessing techniques, as well as the application thereof to

1 the development of therapeutics, diagnostic products and/or devices to improve human health, animal  
2 health, and agriculture. For purposes of this Section 953.2(e)(1):

3 (A) “DNA” is a nucleic acid sequence, or fragment thereof, that contains the  
4 genetic information for cell growth, division, and function. Examples of DNA include recombinant  
5 DNA, RNA, mRNA, antisense, RNAi, genes and ESTs.

6 (B) “Cells” are membrane bound structures containing biomolecules, such as  
7 nucleic acids, proteins, and polysaccharides. This definition includes both prokaryotic (bacterial) and  
8 eukaryotic (animal or plant) cells. Examples include primary cells, transformed or cultured cells, stem  
9 cells, iPS, ESCs, fused cells and cell lines.

10 (C) “Bioprocessing” is the use of microbial, plant, or animal cells or portions  
11 thereof, for the production of therapeutics or diagnostics. Bioprocessing includes the extraction of  
12 compounds from biomaterials; reaction of biomaterials, such as microbial fermentation, cell culture,  
13 cell fusion or biotransformation by enzymes; and separation of product from biomaterials using  
14 filtration, purification, precipitation, centrifugation, solvents, chromatography or other means.

15 (2) ~~biotechnology business as defined in Section 906.1 of Article 12-A, and eClean~~  
16 technology includes the activity of ~~clean technology business as defined in Section 906.2 of~~  
17 ~~Article 12-Aa~~ business, as defined in Section 6.2-5 of Article 6 of the Business and Tax Regulations  
18 Code, in which at least 75% of all business activities carried on during the tax year are directly related  
19 to one or more of the following activities:

20 (A) Research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying  
21 scientific advances to the production, distribution or storage of clean energy.

22 (B) Research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying  
23 scientific advances to prototype or commercially viable materials and products powered by clean  
24 energy, including but not limited to single passenger vehicles and fueling infrastructure.



1 (C) Research and development and/or associated manufacturing applying  
2 scientific advances to prototype or commercially viable techniques, materials and products that  
3 materially improve energy efficiency, water conservation or air quality.

4 (D) Research and development, manufacture and/or installation of solar panels.

5 (3) For purposes of Section 953.2(e)(2), “clean energy” means energy utilizing energy  
6 produced by wind, solar energy, landfill gas, geothermal resources, ocean thermal energy conversion,  
7 quantifiable energy conservation measures, tidal energy, wave energy, biomass, biofuels, or hydrogen  
8 fuels derived from renewable sources, excluding:

9 (A) any fossil fuel based energy production, including but not limited to, clean  
10 coal, clean diesel, natural gas and hydrogen from natural gas;

11 (B) any nuclear based energy production;

12 (C) waste to energy via combustion or incineration; or/and

13 (D) other technologies that are detrimental to human health.

14 \* \* \* \*

15 (h) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
16 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
17 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
18 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
19 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
20 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
21 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
22 Section 953.2(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
23 there shall be added to each of the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross  
24 receipts over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 0.5% plus the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts  
25 between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax

1 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
2 in this Section 953.2(h).

3  
4 **SEC. 953.3. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO ACCOMMODATIONS; UTILITIES;**  
5 **AND ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION.**

6 (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to ~~each of the~~  
7 ~~following~~ business activities: ~~of~~ accommodations; utilities; and arts, entertainment and  
8 recreation. ~~Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller~~  
9 ~~shall compute the tax rate in accordance with Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by this~~  
10 ~~Section is~~ are:

11 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
12 December 31, 2020:

- 13 0.300% (e.g., \$3 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 14 0.325% (e.g., \$3.25 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000
- 15 0.325% (e.g., \$3.25 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and
- 16 \$25,000,000
- 17 0.400% (e.g., \$4 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

18 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

19 (A) For the business activities of accommodations and arts, entertainment and  
20 recreation:

- 21 0.42% (e.g., \$4.20 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 22 0.455% (e.g., \$4.55 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and
- 23 \$2,500,000
- 24 0.455% (e.g., \$4.55 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and
- 25 \$25,000,000

1           0.56% (e.g., \$5.60 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

2                           (B) For the business activity of utilities:

3           0.48% (e.g., \$4.80 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

4           0.52% (e.g., \$5.20 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
5 \$2,500,000

6           0.52% (e.g., \$5.20 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
7 \$25,000,000

8           0.64% (e.g., \$6.40 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

9           \* \* \* \*

10           (h) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230

11 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
12 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
13 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
14 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
15 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
16 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
17 Section 953.3(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
18 there shall be added to each of the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross  
19 receipts over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 0.425% plus the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts  
20 between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
21 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
22 in this Section 953.3(h).

1 **SEC. 953.4. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO PRIVATE EDUCATION AND**  
2 **HEALTH SERVICES; ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**  
3 **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to the  
5 business activities of private education and health services, ~~and~~ administrative and support  
6 services. ~~This rate also applies to~~ and all business activities not otherwise exempt and not  
7 elsewhere subjected to a gross receipts tax rate or an administrative office tax by this  
8 Article 12-A-1. ~~Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the~~  
9 ~~Controller shall compute the tax rate in accordance with Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by~~  
10 ~~this Section is~~ are:

11 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
12 December 31, 2020:

- 13 0.525% (e.g., \$5.25 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 14 0.550% (e.g., \$5.50 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000
- 15 0.600% (e.g., \$6 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and \$25,000,000
- 16 0.650% (e.g., \$6.50 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

17 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

- 18 0.84% (e.g., \$8.40 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000
- 19 0.88% (e.g., \$8.80 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
20 \$2,500,000
- 21 0.96% (e.g., \$9.60 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
22 \$25,000,000
- 23 1.04% (e.g., \$10.40 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

24 \* \* \* \*

1 (e) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
2 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
3 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
4 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
5 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
6 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
7 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
8 Section 953.4(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
9 there shall be added to the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross receipts  
10 over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 1.73%. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
11 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
12 in this Section 953.4(e).

13  
14 **SEC. 953.5. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO CONSTRUCTION.**

15 (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to the  
16 business activity of construction. ~~Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax~~  
17 ~~Ordinance, the Controller shall compute the tax rate in accordance with Section 959, but the base tax~~  
18 ~~rate provided by this Section is~~ are:

19 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
20 December 31, 2020:

21 0.300% (e.g., \$3 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

22 0.350% (e.g., \$3.50 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000

23 0.400% (e.g., \$4 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and \$25,000,000

24 0.450% (e.g., \$4.50 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

1                   (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:  
2                   0.42% (e.g., \$4.20 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000  
3                   0.49% (e.g., \$4.90 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
4                   \$2,500,000  
5                   0.56% (e.g., \$5.60 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
6                   \$25,000,000  
7                   0.63% (e.g., \$6.30 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000  
8                   \* \* \* \*

9                   (d) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
10                  (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
11                  Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
12                  business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
13                  related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
14                  Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
15                  following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
16                  Section 953.5(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
17                  there shall be added to the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross receipts  
18                  over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 1.105%. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
19                  years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
20                  in this Section 953.5(d).

21  
22                  **SEC. 953.6. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO FINANCIAL SERVICES;**  
23                  **INSURANCE; AND PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES.**

24                  (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section~~ is applicable to the  
25                  business activities of financial services; insurance; and professional, scientific and technical

1 services. ~~Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller~~  
2 ~~shall compute the tax rate in accordance with Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by this~~  
3 ~~Section is~~are:

4 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
5 December 31, 2020:

6 0.400% (e.g., \$4 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

7 0.460% (e.g., \$4.60 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$2,500,000

8 0.510% (e.g., \$5.10 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$2,500,001 and  
9 \$25,000,000

10 0.560% (e.g., \$5.60 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

11 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

12 (A) For the business activity of insurance:

13 0.64% (e.g., \$6.40 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

14 0.736% (e.g., \$7.36 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
15 \$2,500,000

16 0.816% (e.g., \$8.16 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
17 \$25,000,000

18 0.896% (e.g., \$8.96 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

19 (B) For the business activities of financial services and professional, scientific  
20 and technical services:

21 0.68% (e.g., \$6.80 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000

22 0.782% (e.g., \$7.82 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
23 \$2,500,000

24 0.867% (e.g., \$8.67 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$2,500,000.01 and  
25 \$25,000,000

1           0.952% (e.g., \$9.52 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

2           \* \* \* \*

3           (f) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
4 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
5 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
6 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
7 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
8 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
9 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
10 Section 953.6(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
11 there shall be added to each of the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross  
12 receipts over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 0.6% plus the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts  
13 between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
14 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
15 in this Section 953.6(f).

16  
17       **SEC. 953.7. GROSS RECEIPTS TAX APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL**  
18 **AND LEASING SERVICES.**

19           (a) The ~~base~~ gross receipts tax rates ~~provided by this Section is~~ applicable to the  
20 business activities of real estate and rental and leasing services. ~~Commencing on the operative~~  
21 ~~date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller shall compute the tax rate in accordance with~~  
22 ~~Section 959, but the base tax rate provided by this Section is~~ are:

23                   (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and ending on or before  
24 December 31, 2020:

25           0.285% (e.g., \$2.85 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000



1 0.285% (e.g., \$2.85 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$1,000,001 and \$5,000,000  
2 0.300% (e.g., \$3.00 per \$1,000) for gross receipts between \$5,000,001 and  
3 \$25,000,000  
4 0.300% (e.g., \$3.00 per \$1,000) for gross receipts over \$25,000,000

5 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021:

6 0.485% (e.g., \$4.85 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$0 and \$1,000,000  
7 0.485% (e.g., \$4.85 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$1,000,000.01 and  
8 \$5,000,000  
9 0.51% (e.g., \$5.10 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts between \$5,000,000.01 and  
10 \$25,000,000  
11 0.51% (e.g., \$5.10 per \$1,000) for taxable gross receipts over \$25,000,000

12 \* \* \* \*

13 (d) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
14 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
15 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
16 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings  
17 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
18 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
19 following the date on which such court decision becomes final, the phrase “over \$25,000,000” in  
20 Section 953.7(a)(2) shall be replaced with the phrase “between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000” and  
21 there shall be added to the rate tiers in that Section an additional rate tier for taxable gross receipts  
22 over \$50,000,000 with a rate of 0.835%. This additional rate tier shall continue in effect for 10 tax  
23 years, after which the rate tiers shall return to what the rate tiers would have been absent the increase  
24 in this Section 953.7(d).

1 **SEC. 953.8. TAX ON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.**

2 (a) Except as provided in this Section 953.8, notwithstanding any other provision of this  
3 Article 12-A-1 and in lieu of the other taxes provided by this Article ~~and Article 12-A~~ for any  
4 person or combined group, ~~commencing on the Operative Date of the Gross Receipts' Tax~~  
5 ~~Ordinance~~, every person engaging in business within the City as an administrative office, as  
6 defined below, shall pay an annual administrative office tax measured by its total payroll  
7 expense that is attributable to the City. If a person is a member of a combined group, then its  
8 tax shall be measured by the total payroll expense of the combined group attributable to the  
9 City. Such combined group shall pay only the administrative office tax. Except as provided in  
10 Section 953.8(i), the administrative office tax rate for each tax year is: 1.400 percent.

11 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014 and ending on or before  
12 December 31, 2020, 1.4%.

13 (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, 1.68%.

14 \* \* \* \*

15 (f) "Payroll expense" for purposes of this Section 953.8 means the compensation paid to,  
16 on behalf of, or for the benefit of an individual, including shareholders of a professional corporation or  
17 a Limited Liability Company ("LLC"), including salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, property  
18 issued or transferred in exchange for the performance of services (including but not limited to stock  
19 options), compensation for services to owners of pass-through entities, and any other form of  
20 compensation, who during any tax year, perform work or render services, in whole or in part in the  
21 City; and if more than one individual or shareholders of a professional corporation or members of an  
22 LLC, during any tax year performs work or renders services in whole or in part in the City, the term  
23 "Payroll Expense" means the total compensation paid including salaries, wages, bonuses,  
24 commissions, property issued or transferred in exchange for the performance of services (including but  
25 not limited to stock options), in addition to any compensation for services to owners of pass-through

1 entities, and any other form of compensation for services, to all such individuals and shareholders of a  
2 professional corporation or members of an LLC. For purposes of this definition of payroll expense:

3 (1) Any person that grants a service provider a right to acquire an ownership interest in  
4 such person in exchange for the performance of services shall include in its payroll expense for the tax  
5 year in which such right is exercised an amount equal to the excess of (A) the fair market value of such  
6 ownership interest on the date such right is exercised over (B) the price paid for such interest. This  
7 Section 953.8(f)(1) shall not apply for purposes of determining whether a person is engaging in  
8 business within the City as an administrative office, but shall apply for all other purposes of this  
9 Section 953.8.

10 (2) Any individual compensated in his or her capacity as a real estate salesperson or  
11 mortgage processor shall be deemed an employee of the real estate broker or mortgage broker for or  
12 under whom such individual performs services, and any compensation received by such individual,  
13 including compensation by way of commissions, shall be included in the payroll expense of such  
14 broker. For purposes of this Section 953.8(f), “real estate broker” and “mortgage broker” refer to any  
15 individual licensed as such under the laws of the State of California who engages the services of  
16 salespersons or a salesperson, or of mortgage processors or a mortgage processor, to perform services  
17 in the business which such broker conducts under the authority of his or her license; a “salesperson” is  
18 an individual who is engaged by a real estate broker to perform services, which may be continuous in  
19 nature, as a real estate salesperson under an agreement with a real estate broker, regardless of  
20 whether the individual is licensed as a real estate broker under the laws of the State of California; a  
21 “mortgage processor” is an individual who is engaged by a real estate broker or mortgage broker to  
22 perform services which may be continuous in nature, as a mortgage processor under an agreement  
23 with such real estate broker or mortgage broker, regardless of whether the mortgage processor is also  
24 licensed as a mortgage broker under the laws of the State of California.

1           (3) All compensation, including all pass-through compensation for services paid to, on  
2 behalf of, or for the benefit of owners of a pass-through entity, shall be included in the calculation of  
3 such entity's payroll expense tax base for purposes of determining such entity's tax liability under this  
4 Section 953.8. For purposes of this Section 953.8(f), the "pass-through compensation for services" of  
5 a pass-through entity shall be the aggregate compensation paid by such entity for personal services  
6 rendered by all such owners, and shall not include any return on capital investment. The taxpayer may  
7 calculate the amount of compensation to owners of the entity subject to the administrative office tax in  
8 this Section 953.8, or the taxpayer may presume that, in addition to amounts reported on a W-2 form,  
9 the amount subject to the administrative office tax is, for each owner, an amount that is 200% of the  
10 average annual compensation paid to, on behalf of, or for the benefit of the employees of the  
11 pass-through entity whose compensation is in the top quartile (i.e., 25%) of the entity's employees who  
12 are based in the City; provided, the total number of employees of the entity based in the City is not less  
13 than four. ~~shall have the meaning given to that term by Sections 902.1 et seq. of Article 12-A, except~~  
14 ~~that Section 902.1(b) of Article 12-A shall not apply for purposes of determining whether a person is~~  
15 ~~engaging in business within the City as an administrative office. Section 902.1(b) shall apply for all~~  
16 ~~other purposes under this Section.~~

17           (4) ~~The portion of the payroll expense of a person or combined group that is~~  
18 ~~attributable to the City shall be determined as set forth in Section 904 of Article 12-A. Where payroll~~  
19 ~~expense is incurred by reason of work performed or services rendered by an individual wholly within~~  
20 ~~the City, all of the payroll expense for such individual shall be attributable to the City and subject to~~  
21 ~~tax under this Section 953.8. Where payroll expense is incurred by reason of work performed or~~  
22 ~~services rendered by an individual partly within and partly without the City, the portion of such payroll~~  
23 ~~expense attributable to the City (and subject to tax under this Section) shall be determined as follows:~~

24           (A) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this Section 953.8(f)(4), the portion of such~~  
25 ~~payroll expense attributable to the City shall be the portion of such payroll expense which the total~~

1 number of working hours employed within the City bears to the total number of working hours within  
2 and without the City.

3 (B) If the amount of such payroll expense depends on the volume of business  
4 transacted by such individual, then the portion of such payroll expense attributable to the City shall be  
5 the portion of such payroll expense which the volume of business transacted by such individual in the  
6 City bears to the volume of business transacted by such individual within and without the City.

7 (C) If it is impracticable, unreasonable or improper to apportion such payroll  
8 expenses as aforesaid either because of the particular nature of the services of such individual, or on  
9 account of the unusual basis of compensation, or for any other reason, then the amount of such payroll  
10 earnings reasonably attributable to work performed or services rendered in the City shall be  
11 determined on the basis of all relevant facts and circumstances of the particular case, in accordance  
12 with any rulings or regulations issued or promulgated by the Tax Collector for the purpose.

13 (D) If the Tax Collector determines that the percentage of payroll expenses  
14 attributable to the City, for any one or more persons, is a relatively stable percentage, the Tax  
15 Collector may establish that percentage as a prima facie evidence of payroll expense attributable to the  
16 City; provided, that the Tax Collector shall condition the establishment of such fixed percentage upon  
17 the obligation of the taxpayer to report immediately to the Tax Collector any significant change in the  
18 taxpayer's mode of business which may impact the portion of the person's payroll expense which is  
19 attributable to the City; and, provided further, that the Tax Collector may rescind any such fixed  
20 percentage at any time by providing written notice to the taxpayer of such rescission.

21 \* \* \* \*

22 (i) If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-19-573230  
23 (City and County of San Francisco v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF  
24 Proposition C on the November 6, 2018 San Francisco ballot, authorizing an increase in specified  
25 business taxes to fund specified homeless services in San Francisco, and all matters and proceedings

1 related thereto) has the effect of invalidating the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax in Article 28 of the  
2 Business and Tax Regulations Code, then for tax years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year  
3 following the date on which such court decision becomes final the rate in Section 953.8(a)(2) shall  
4 be 3.18%. This increased rate shall continue in effect for 10 tax years, after which the rate shall return  
5 to what the rate would have been absent the increase in this Section 953.8(i).

6  
7 **SEC. 953.9. PERSONS OR COMBINED GROUPS ENGAGED IN MULTIPLE BUSINESS**  
8 **ACTIVITIES.**

9 If a person, or a combined group as described in Section 956.3, engages in business  
10 activities described in more than one of Sections 953.1 through 953.7, inclusive, ~~of this Article,~~  
11 Sections 953.1(a)(2)(A) through (C), inclusive, Sections 953.2(a)(2)(A) through (D), inclusive,  
12 Sections 953.3(a)(2)(A) and (B), or Sections 953.6(a)(2)(A) and (B), the rate or rates of gross  
13 receipts tax to be applied to that person or combined group, and the method for determining  
14 gross receipts in the City, shall be determined as follows:

15 (a) If more than 80% ~~percent~~ of its gross receipts, determined in accordance with  
16 Section 956, are derived from business activities described in only one of Sections 953.1  
17 through 953.7, inclusive, then the rules of that applicable Section apply to all of its gross  
18 receipts derived from all business activities. If the Section from which the person or combined  
19 group derived more than 80% of its gross receipts includes different rates for different business  
20 activities described in that Section, then the rates applicable to the gross receipts that are deemed to be  
21 from business activities described in that Section shall be the rates that apply to the business activities  
22 within that Section from which the person or combined group derived the most taxable gross receipts,  
23 or if there is not a single business activity within that Section from which the person or combined group  
24 derived the most taxable gross receipts because the person or combined group derived the same  
25 amount of taxable gross receipts from one or more business activities within the Section, then the rates

1 applicable to the gross receipts that are deemed to be from business activities described in that Section  
2 shall be the highest rates within that Section that apply to business activities from which the person or  
3 combined group derived the same amount of taxable gross receipts.

4 (b) If its business activities in the City are described in more than one of  
5 Sections 953.1 through 953.7, inclusive, Sections 953.1(a)(2)(A) through (C), inclusive,  
6 Sections 953.2(a)(2)(A) through (D), inclusive, Sections 953.3(a)(2)(A) and (B), or  
7 Sections 953.6(a)(2)(A) and (B), and subsection (a) of this Section 953.9 does not result in the  
8 person or combined group's gross receipts being subject to the rates in only one Section and  
9 Subsection apply, then such person or combined group shall separately compute the gross  
10 receipts tax for each set of business activities as provided in the Section or Subsection  
11 applicable to that particular set of business activities, modified as follows:

12 (1) if the set of business activities described in any of Sections 953.1  
13 through 953.7, inclusive, generates less than ~~20% percent~~ of the total gross receipts of the  
14 person or combined group, then the receipts and payroll of any such set of activities may be  
15 combined for all purposes related to computing the gross receipts tax with whichever set of  
16 that person's or combined group's activities are taxed at the highest rate;

17 (2) the small business exemption provided in Section 954.1 shall apply only if  
18 the sum of receipts within the City from all sets of business activities does not exceed  
19 ~~\$1,000,000~~ the applicable threshold in Section 954.1 in total;

20 (3) the progressive rates described in Sections 953.1 through 953.7, and the  
21 Subsections within those Sections, apply on an aggregate basis for businesses with multiple sets  
22 of activities;

23 (4) the applicable rate for each set of business activities shall be determined in  
24 numbered order of the Sections and Subsections describing each set of business activities;  
25 i.e., the gross receipts and tax for business activities described in Section 953.1 (a)(2)(A)

1 should be determined first, Section 953.1(a)(2)(B) second, Section 953.1(a)(2)(C) third,  
2 Section 953.2(a)(2)(A) fourth-second, and so on;

3 (5) the rate(s) applicable to any set of activities after the first shall be  
4 determined by adding together the gross receipts determined for all previous sets of activities  
5 and applying the rate scale commencing with the total gross receipts so determined; and

6 (6) the gross receipts tax liability for the person or combined group shall be the  
7 sum of the liabilities for each set of business activities.

8  
9 **SEC. 954. EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS.**

10 (a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section, An~~ organization that is exempt  
11 from income taxation by Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 23701) of Part 11 of Division 2  
12 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or Subchapter F (commencing with Section 501)  
13 of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as qualified by  
14 Sections 502, 503, 504, and 508 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be  
15 exempt from taxation under this Article 12-A-1, only so long as those exemptions continue to  
16 exist under state or federal law.

17 ~~(b) An organization otherwise exempt from income taxation under subsection (a) that is~~  
18 ~~directly engaged within the City in an unrelated trade or business within the meaning of Section 513(a)~~  
19 ~~of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and has, from its own operations, unrelated~~  
20 ~~business taxable income within the meaning of Section 512(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,~~  
21 ~~as amended, shall pay the gross receipts tax on its gross receipts from its unrelated trade or business~~  
22 ~~activities that are attributable to the City. If it is impracticable, unreasonable or improper to allocate~~  
23 ~~such organization's gross receipts as aforesaid either because of the particular nature of the~~  
24 ~~organization's unrelated trade or business or for any other reason, then the amount of gross receipts~~  
25 ~~reasonably attributable to the organization's unrelated trade or business in the City shall be~~



1 ~~determined on the basis of all of the relevant facts and circumstances of the particular case, in~~  
2 ~~accordance with any rulings or regulations issued or promulgated by the Tax Collector for this~~  
3 ~~purpose.~~

4 (be) Gross receipts as defined in Section 952.3 shall not include receipts from  
5 business activities if, and only so long as and to the extent that, the City is prohibited from  
6 taxing such receipts under the Constitution or laws of the United States or under the  
7 Constitution or laws of the State of California.

8 (cd) Rent Controlled Buildings Exclusion. A person subject to the tax may exclude  
9 from gross receipts in any tax year ~~50% percent~~ of the total amount received from the rental of  
10 real property to tenants in occupancy at any location in the City, which is subject to limits on  
11 rent increases pursuant to the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance,  
12 San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 37, Section 37.1 et seq.

13 (de) Exclusion of Certain Sales of Real Property. Gross receipts as defined in  
14 Section 952.3 shall not include receipts from any sales of real property with respect to which  
15 the Real Property Transfer Tax imposed by Article 12-C has been paid to the City.

16 (ef) For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited from imposing the  
17 tax under this Article 12-A-1, the following persons shall be exempt from the gross receipts  
18 tax:

19 (1) Banks and financial corporations exempt from local taxation under  
20 Article XIII, Section 27 of the California Constitution and Revenue and Taxation Code  
21 Section 23182;

22 (2) Insurance companies exempt from local taxation under Article XIII,  
23 Section 28 of the California Constitution;

24 (3) Persons engaging in business as a for-hire motor carrier of property under  
25 Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7233;

1 (4) Persons engaging in intercity transportation as a household goods carrier  
2 under Public Utilities Code Section 5327;

3 (5) Charter-party carriers operating limousines that are neither domiciled nor  
4 maintain a business office within the City under Public Utilities Code Section 5371.4; and

5 (6) Any person upon whom the City is prohibited under the Constitution or laws  
6 of the State of California from imposing the gross receipts tax.

7 ~~(g) To the extent that any taxpayer has paid a substantially similar tax to any other taxing~~  
8 ~~jurisdiction on any gross receipts attributed to the City and taxed under this Article, the tax paid to~~  
9 ~~such taxing jurisdiction shall be credited against the tax due under this Article; in no event shall this~~  
10 ~~credit reduce the taxpayer's liability to less than zero.~~

11  
12 **SEC. 954.1. SMALL BUSINESS EXEMPTION.**

13 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article 12-A-1, a "small business  
14 enterprise," as hereinafter defined for purposes of this Article, shall be exempt from payment  
15 of the gross receipts tax, nevertheless, a small business enterprise shall pay the annual  
16 registration fee pursuant to Section 855 of Article 12.

17 (b) For purposes of this Article 12-A-1, the term "small business enterprise" shall  
18 mean: ~~and include~~

19 (1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014 and ending on or before  
20 December 31, 2020, any person or combined group, except for a lessor of residential real  
21 estate, whose gross receipts within the City ~~for the preceding tax year~~ did not exceed  
22 \$1,000,000, adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index:  
23 All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported  
24 by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of  
25 December 31 of the preceding year, beginning with December 31, 2014.

1                   (2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, any person or combined  
2 group, except for a lessor of residential real estate, whose gross receipts within the City did not exceed  
3 \$1,500,000, adjusted annually in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index: All Urban  
4 Consumers for the San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Area for All Items as reported by the United States  
5 Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor to that index, as of December 31 of the preceding year,  
6 beginning with December 31, 2021.

7                   (c) For purposes of this Article 12-A-1, and notwithstanding any other provision of this  
8 Section 954.1, a lessor of residential real estate is a “small business enterprise” if and only if  
9 the lessor leases fewer than 4 units in any individual building. “Residential real estate” means  
10 real property where the primary use of or right to use the property is for the purpose of  
11 dwelling, sleeping or lodging other than as part of the business activity of accommodations.  
12 For purposes of this Article 12-A-1, ~~Article 12-A,~~ and Article 12, a lessor of residential real  
13 estate is treated as a separate person with respect to each individual building in which it  
14 leases residential real estate units, notwithstanding Section 6.2-15 of Article 6, or  
15 Section 956.3 of this Article 12-A-1. The provisions of this subsection (c) apply only to leasing  
16 residential real estate units within a building, and not to any business activity related to other  
17 space, either within the same building or other buildings, which is not residential real estate.  
18 The Tax Collector is authorized to determine what constitutes a separate building and the  
19 number of units in a building.

20  
21 **SEC. 956.2. APPORTIONMENT OF RECEIPTS BASED ON PAYROLL.**

22                   \* \* \* \*

23                   (e) Compensation paid in the City shall be determined as set forth in  
24 Section 953.8(f)(4)~~904 of Article 12-A.~~

25                   \* \* \* \*

(g) The apportionment provided by this Section 956.2 shall not include in either the numerator or the denominator any payroll of persons exempt from tax under subsections (a), (b), or (e) of Section 954.

**~~SEC. 959. RATE OF GROSS RECEIPTS TAX: CONTROLLER COMPUTATION.~~**

~~(a) Commencing on the operative date of the Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, the Controller shall compute the rate of gross receipts tax for Sections 953.1 through 953.7 in accordance with subsection (b) of this Section. The Controller shall certify and publish such rates on or before September 1 of each year.~~

~~(b) Gross Receipts Tax Computation. The Controller shall compute the gross receipts tax rates for each tax year by multiplying each base rate in Sections 953.1 through 953.7 by the “Gross Receipts Tax Rate Adjustment Factor,” which shall be determined according to the following table and formulas, but no gross receipts tax rate shall exceed the base rates provided by Sections 953.1 through 953.7.~~

*Gross Receipts Tax Rate Adjustment Factor Computation Table*

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Gross Receipts Tax Rate Adjustment Factor (GADJ<sub>year</sub>)</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>GADJ<sub>14</sub> = 10%</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>GADJ<sub>15</sub> = 25% + EXP<sub>15</sub></i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>GADJ<sub>16</sub> = 50% + EXP<sub>16</sub></i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>GADJ<sub>17</sub> = 75% + EXP<sub>17</sub></i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>GADJ<sub>18</sub> = 100% + EXP<sub>18</sub></i>

~~Where: “EXP<sub>year</sub>” is the “Excess Payroll Expense Tax Revenue Factor,” a percentage that reduces the gross receipts tax rate adjustment factor for a year in which the payroll expense tax rate determined under Section 903.1 of Article 12-A becomes zero, and which adjusts for excess payroll expense tax~~

revenue collected for that tax year. The Controller shall compute EXP<sub>year</sub> according to the following table and formulas:

(1) In any year in which PAYRATE<sub>year</sub> is greater than zero, where PAYRATE<sub>year</sub> is determined under Section 903.1 of Article 12-A, EXP<sub>year</sub> is zero.

(2) In the first year in which PAYRATE<sub>year</sub> is zero, where PAYRATE<sub>year</sub> is determined under Section 903.1 of Article 12-A, EXP<sub>year</sub> shall be computed according to the following table and formulas. In subsequent years, GADJ<sub>year</sub> shall be the same value it was in the prior year:

*Excess Payroll Expense Tax Revenue Factor Computation Table*

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Excess Payroll Expense Tax Revenue Factor (EXP<sub>year</sub>)</i>
<i>2015</i>	$EXP_{15} = [(1.125\% + PADJ_{15}) \times (PAYTAX_{14}/PAYRATE_{14})]/(GRTAX_{14}/10\%)$
<i>2016</i>	$EXP_{16} = [(0.750\% + PADJ_{16}) \times (PAYTAX_{15}/PAYRATE_{15})]/GRTAX_{15}/25\%$
<i>2017</i>	$EXP_{17} = [(0.375\% + PADJ_{17}) \times (PAYTAX_{16}/PAYRATE_{16})]/GRTAX_{16}/50\%$
<i>2018</i>	$EXP_{18} = [PADJ_{18} \times (PAYTAX_{17}/PAYRATE_{17})]/(GRTAX_{17}/75\%)$

Where: PADJ<sub>year</sub>, PAYTAX<sub>year</sub>, and GRTAX<sub>year</sub> are determined under Section 903.1 of Article 12-A.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, in any year in which the payroll expense tax rate determined under Section 903.1 of Article 12-A is zero, the gross receipts tax rates for that year and all future years shall be as the Controller computed for that year, except that for tax year 2021 and all future years, the rate under Section 953.7(a), for gross receipts over \$25,000,000 only, shall be the sum of the rate established under this Section 959(c) and 0.025%. In no event shall the rate established under Section 953.7(a) by the preceding sentence, for gross receipts over \$25,000,000, exceed 0.325%. The Controller shall certify and publish such rates by September 1 of that year.

1           ~~(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the gross receipts tax rates for 2019~~  
2 ~~and all future years shall be the rates in effect in tax year 2018, except that for tax year 2021 and all~~  
3 ~~future years, the rate under Section 953.7(a), for gross receipts over \$25,000,000 only, shall be the sum~~  
4 ~~of the rate established under this Section 959(e) and 0.025%. In no event shall the rate established~~  
5 ~~under Section 953.7(a) by the preceding sentence, for gross receipts over \$25,000,000, exceed 0.325%.~~  
6 ~~The Controller shall certify and publish such rates on or before September 1, 2019, at which time the~~  
7 ~~Controller's duty to compute, certify and publish the payroll expense tax rate shall cease.~~

8  
9           **SEC. 960. THE "PAYROLL EXPENSE TAX EXCLUSION" CREDIT.**

10           (a) "Payroll Expense Tax Exclusion Credit" means the dollar amount by which a  
11 person would have been able to reduce its payroll expense tax liability pursuant to the  
12 Enterprise Zone Tax Credit under former Section 906A of Article 12-A, the Biotechnology  
13 Exclusion under former Section 906.1 of Article 12-A, and/or the Clean Technology Business  
14 Exclusion under former Section 906.2 of Article 12-A, as if the payroll expense tax were in full  
15 force and effect and calculated at a rate of 1.5%½ percent.

16           (b) "Combined Business Tax Liability" means the sum of the gross receipts tax and the  
17 former payroll expense tax a person owes for a tax year.

18           (c) For so long as a particular payroll expense tax exclusion listed under subsection (a)  
19 ~~is would have been~~ in effect had the payroll expense tax not been repealed, ~~without regard to whether~~  
20 ~~the payroll expense tax is otherwise in effect~~, a person may credit against its combined business  
21 tax liability for a tax year the amount of a particular payroll expense tax exclusion credit to  
22 which it would have been entitled under the former payroll expense tax; however, in no event  
23 shall such credit reduce a person's combined business tax liability to less than zero. Any  
24 person who claims the credit under this Section 960 must meet all of the eligibility  
25 requirements of the former payroll expense tax exclusion(s) it claims. The credit may be

1 claimed against the tax liability only of the person who would have qualified for the former  
2 payroll expense tax exclusion and not against any liability of related entities or other members  
3 of that person's combined group.

4  
5 **~~SEC. 961. CENTRAL MARKET STREET LIMIT.~~**

6 ~~(a) The "Central Market Street Limit" means a person's payroll expense tax liability for a tax~~  
7 ~~year as determined under the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area Payroll Expense Tax~~  
8 ~~Exclusion under Section 906.3 of Article 12-A, calculated at a rate of 1½ percent.~~

9 ~~(b) "Combined Business Tax Liability" means the sum of the gross receipts tax and the payroll~~  
10 ~~expense tax a person owes that is attributable to location(s) in the Central Market Street and~~  
11 ~~Tenderloin Area as defined in Section 906.3(b) of Article 12-A for a tax year under the rates~~  
12 ~~established for that year.~~

13 ~~(c) For so long as the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area Payroll Expense Tax~~  
14 ~~Exclusion is in effect, without regard to whether the payroll expense tax is otherwise in effect, a person~~  
15 ~~shall owe the lesser of its combined business tax liability or the amount of its Central Market Street~~  
16 ~~limit. Any person who claims the Central Market Street and Tenderloin Area Payroll Expense Tax~~  
17 ~~Exclusion must meet all of the eligibility requirements of that exclusion.~~

18  
19 **SEC. 965. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

20 (a) No section, clause, part or provision of this Article 12-A-1 shall be construed as  
21 requiring the payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the  
22 United States or of the Constitution or laws of the State of California. Except as provided in  
23 subsection (b) of this Section 965, if any section, clause, part or provision of this Article, or the  
24 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the  
25 remainder of this Article, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or

1 circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect. To this  
2 end, the provisions of this Article are severable.

3 (b) If the imposition of the gross receipts tax in Section 953, ~~or any portion of the rate~~  
4 ~~computation under Section 959, of this Article~~ is held in its entirety to be facially invalid or  
5 unconstitutional in a final court determination, the remainder of this Article 12-A-1 shall be ~~null~~  
6 ~~and~~ void and of no force and effect, and the City Attorney shall cause it to be removed from the  
7 Business and Tax Regulations Code. ~~For any tax year for which this Article is invalidated pursuant to~~  
8 ~~this Section, the payroll expense tax provided by Article 12-A may be assessed against any person~~  
9 ~~engaging in business in the City during that tax year as if this Ordinance had not been passed, except~~  
10 ~~that such assessment may be made and collected notwithstanding any statute of limitations provided by~~  
11 ~~Article 6.~~

12  
13 Section 6. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by adding  
14 Article 36, consisting of Sections 3601 through 3616, to read as follows:

15  
16 **ARTICLE 36: COMMERCIAL RENTS TAX**

17  
18 **SEC. 3601. SHORT TITLE.**

19 This Article 36 shall be known as the “Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance,” and the tax it  
20 imposes shall be known as the “Commercial Rents Tax.”

21  
22 **SEC. 3602. DEFINITIONS.**

23 (a) Unless otherwise defined in this Article 36, the terms used in this Article shall have the  
24 meanings given to them in Articles 6 and 12-A-1 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code, as



1 amended from time to time. All references to Sections of the Planning Code are to the text of those  
2 Sections as of June 5, 2018.

3 (b) For purposes of this Article 36, the following definitions shall apply:

4 “Commercial Space” means any building or structure, or portion of a building or structure,  
5 that is not “residential real estate,” as that term is defined in Section 954.1(c) of Article 12-A-1 of the  
6 Business and Tax Regulations Code, as amended from time to time. Notwithstanding the preceding  
7 sentence, Commercial Space shall not include any building or structure, or portion of a building or  
8 structure, that is used for:

9 (1) Industrial Use as defined in Section 102 of the Planning Code;

10 (2) Arts Activities as defined in Section 102 of the Planning Code; or

11 (3) Retail Sales or Service Activities or Retail Sales or Service Establishments, as  
12 defined in Section 303.1(c) of the Planning Code, that are not Formula Retail uses as defined in  
13 Section 303.1(b) of the Planning Code.

14 “Warehouse Space” means Commercial Space that is used for Commercial Storage, for  
15 Volatile Materials Storage, for Wholesale Storage, or as a Storage Yard, as each of these capitalized  
16 terms is defined in Section 102 of the Planning Code.

17  
18 **SEC. 3603. IMPOSITION OF TAX.**

19 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article 36, for the privilege of engaging in the business  
20 of leasing Commercial Space in properties in the City, the City imposes an annual Commercial Rents  
21 Tax on each person engaged in business within the City that receives gross receipts from the lease of  
22 Commercial Space in properties in the City. For purposes of this Article 36, the term “lease” includes  
23 any “sublease.”

1           (b) The Commercial Rents Tax shall be calculated by applying the following percentages to the  
2 person or combined group's gross receipts from the lease of Commercial Space in properties in the  
3 City:

4                   (1) 1% to the person or combined group's gross receipts from the lease of Warehouse  
5 Space in properties in the City; and

6                   (2) 3.5% to the person or combined group's gross receipts from the lease of all other  
7 Commercial Space in properties in the City.

8  
9           **SEC. 3604. OPERATIVE DATES OF TAX.**

10           If the final judicial decision in San Francisco Superior Court Case No. CGC-18-568657  
11 (Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association et al. v. City and County of San Francisco et al.) has the effect of  
12 invalidating the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax in Article 21 of the Business and Tax  
13 Regulations Code, then the Commercial Rents Tax in this Article 36 shall become operative for tax  
14 years beginning on or after January 1 of the tax year following the date on which such court decision  
15 becomes final, and shall continue in effect for 10 tax years, after which it shall cease to apply and the  
16 City Attorney shall cause this Article 36 to be removed from the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

17  
18           **SEC. 3605. EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS.**

19           (a) An organization that is exempt from income taxation by Chapter 4 (commencing with  
20 Section 23701) of Part 11 of Division 2 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or Subchapter F  
21 (commencing with Section 501) of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as  
22 amended, as qualified by Sections 502, 503, 504, and 508 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as  
23 amended, shall be exempt from taxation under this Article 36, only so long as those exemptions  
24 continue to exist under state or federal law.

1           (b) For purposes of this Article 36, gross receipts from the lease of Commercial Space shall not  
2 include receipts from the leasing of Commercial Space to: (1) organizations described in subsection (a)  
3 of this Section 3605; or (2) federal, state, or local governments.

4           (c) For purposes of this Article 36, gross receipts from the lease of Commercial Space shall not  
5 include receipts from business activities if, and only so long as and to the extent that, the City is  
6 prohibited from taxing such receipts under the Constitution or laws of the United States or under the  
7 Constitution or laws of the State of California.

8           (d) For only so long as and to the extent that the City is prohibited from imposing the  
9 Commercial Rents Tax, any person upon whom the City is prohibited under the Constitution or laws of  
10 the State of California or the Constitution or laws of the United States from imposing the Commercial  
11 Rents Tax shall be exempt from the Commercial Rents Tax.

12           (e) For purposes of this Article 36, gross receipts from the lease of Commercial Space shall not  
13 include rent that is subject to the tax imposed under Articles 7 or 9 of the Business and Tax Regulations  
14 Code, and shall not include rent that would be subject to the tax imposed under Article 7 or Article 9  
15 but for the exemptions from that tax under Section 506 of Article 7 or Section 606 of Article 9.

16  
17 **SEC. 3606. SMALL BUSINESS EXEMPTION.**

18           Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article 36, a person or combined group exempt  
19 from payment of the gross receipts tax under Section 954.1 of Article 12-A-1, as amended from time to  
20 time, shall also be exempt from payment of the Commercial Rents Tax.

21  
22 **SEC. 3607. CREDIT FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES.**

23           (a) Any person subject to the Commercial Rents Tax imposed under this Article 36 that leases  
24 or provides Commercial Space in a property in the City for a Qualifying Child Care Facility that  
25 operates for more than six months in a tax year shall be allowed a credit against the Commercial Rents

1 Tax for that tax year. If a person entitled to the credit under this Section 3607 is required to file a  
 2 Commercial Rents Tax return on a combined basis under Section 3608, the credit may be claimed  
 3 against the Commercial Rents Tax liability required to be reflected on the combined return for that tax  
 4 year. In no event shall the credit allowed under this Section 3607 reduce a person or combined  
 5 group’s Commercial Rents Tax liability for any tax year to less than zero, and no credit shall be  
 6 allowed as a carryforward to a subsequent tax year.

7 (b) For purposes of this Section 3607, the credit for a tax year shall be based on the total  
 8 number of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children for which the Qualifying Child Care Facility  
 9 is licensed by the California Department of Social Services to provide care and shall be in the amount  
 10 prescribed in the table below.

<u>Number of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool-Age Children</u>	<u>Amount of Credit</u>
<u>1 to 49</u>	<u>\$7,200</u>
<u>50 to 99</u>	<u>\$16,000</u>
<u>100 or more</u>	<u>\$36,000</u>

15 (c) The following definitions shall apply for purposes of this Section 3607.

16 (1) “Qualifying Child Care Facility” means a facility that is licensed by the California  
 17 Department of Social Services, or any successor agency, to provide non-medical care to Infants,  
 18 Toddlers, Preschool-Age Children, or any combination thereof in need of personal services,  
 19 supervision, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living or for the protection of  
 20 the individual on less than a 24-hour basis in a group setting.

21 (2) “Infants” means children under two years of age.

22 (3) “Toddlers” means children between the ages of 18 months and 30 months.

23 (4) “Preschool-Age Children” means children who are enrolled in a child day care  
 24 center licensed by the California Department of Social Services, or any successor agency, and who are

1 not enrolled in a child care center or part of a child care center where less than 24-hour per day  
2 non-medical care and supervision are provided to Infants or School-Age Children.

3 (5) "School-Age Child" means a child who has entered the first grade or above or who  
4 is in a child care program providing care and supervision exclusively to children enrolled in  
5 kindergarten and above.

6 (d) To be eligible for the credit authorized under this Section 3607, persons wishing to claim  
7 the credit must:

8 (1) Maintain a reasonable method of documentation that can be reviewed or verified  
9 objectively that demonstrates that the person is eligible for the credit provided for in this Section 3607,  
10 and provide such documentation to the Tax Collector upon request; and

11 (2) File a timely annual Commercial Rents Tax return regardless of the amount of  
12 liability, if any, shown on the return after claiming the credit provided for in this Section 3607.

13 (e) The Tax Collector shall verify that any credit claimed pursuant to this Section 3607 is  
14 correct. The Office of Early Care and Education, or any successor agency, shall provide to the Tax  
15 Collector upon request such information that the Tax Collector may require to verify that a Qualifying  
16 Child Care Facility for which the credit is claimed meets the eligibility requirements of this  
17 Section 3607, and the Tax Collector may share taxpayer information with the Office of Early Care and  
18 Education, or any successor agency, for this purpose. To the extent permitted by law, the Office of  
19 Early Care and Education, or any successor agency, shall maintain the confidentiality of any such  
20 information that the Tax Collector provides, and shall be subject to Section 6.22-1 of Article 6 of the  
21 Business and Tax Regulations Code with respect to such information.

22 (f) The Tax Collector shall submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors for each year  
23 for which the credit authorized under this Section 3607 is available, that sets forth aggregate  
24 information on the dollar value of the credits taken each year and the number of persons taking the  
25 credit.

1 **SEC. 3608. FILING; COMBINED RETURNS.**

2 (a) Persons subject to the Commercial Rents Tax shall file returns at the same time and in the  
3 same manner as returns filed for the gross receipts tax (Article 12-A-1), including the rules for  
4 combined returns under Section 956.3, as amended from time to time.

5 (b) If a person is subject to the Commercial Rents Tax but is not required to file a gross  
6 receipts tax return, such person or combined group's Commercial Rents Tax return shall be filed at the  
7 same time and in the same manner as if such person or combined group were required to file a gross  
8 receipts tax return.

9 (c) For purposes of this Article 36, a lessor of residential real estate is treated as a separate  
10 person with respect to each individual building in which it leases residential real estate units,  
11 notwithstanding Section 6.2-15 of Article 6, as amended from time to time, or subsection (a) of this  
12 Section 3608. This subsection (c) applies only to leasing residential real estate units within a building,  
13 and not to any business activity related to other space, either within the same building or other  
14 buildings, which is not residential real estate. The Tax Collector is authorized to determine what  
15 constitutes a separate building and the number of units in a building.

16  
17 **SEC. 3609. TAX COLLECTOR AUTHORIZED TO DETERMINE GROSS RECEIPTS.**

18 The Tax Collector may, in his or her reasonable discretion, independently establish a person or  
19 combined group's gross receipts from the lease of Commercial Space in properties in the City and  
20 establish or reallocate gross receipts among related entities so as to fairly reflect the gross receipts  
21 from the lease of Commercial Space in properties in the City of all persons and combined groups.

1 **SEC. 3610. CONSTRUCTION AND SCOPE OF THE COMMERCIAL RENTS TAX**

2 **ORDINANCE.**

3 *(a) This Article 36 is intended to authorize application of the Commercial Rents Tax in the*  
4 *broadest manner consistent with its provisions and with the California Constitution, the United States*  
5 *Constitution, and any other applicable provision of federal or state law.*

6 *(b) The Commercial Rents Tax imposed by this Article 36 is in addition to all other City taxes,*  
7 *including the gross receipts tax imposed by Article 12-A-1 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code,*  
8 *as amended from time to time. Accordingly, by way of example and not limitation, persons subject to*  
9 *both the Commercial Rents Tax and the gross receipts tax shall pay both taxes. Persons exempt from*  
10 *either the gross receipts tax or the Commercial Rents Tax, but not both, shall pay the tax from which*  
11 *they are not exempt.*

12  
13 **SEC. 3611. ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMERCIAL RENTS TAX ORDINANCE.**

14 *Except as otherwise provided under this Article 36, the Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance shall*  
15 *be administered pursuant to Article 6 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code, as amended from time*  
16 *to time.*

17  
18 **SEC. 3612. DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.**

19 *The Commercial Rents Tax is a general tax. Proceeds of the Commercial Rents Tax are to be*  
20 *deposited in the City's general fund and can be spent for any City purposes.*

21  
22 **SEC. 3613. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE.**

23 *The Board of Supervisors may amend or repeal this Article 36 by ordinance without a vote of*  
24 *the people except as limited by Article XIII C of the California Constitution.*

1 **SEC. 3614. EFFECT OF STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.**

2 To the extent that the City's authorization to impose or to collect any tax imposed under this  
3 Article 36 is expanded or limited as a result of changes in state or federal statutes, regulations, or other  
4 laws, or judicial interpretations of those laws, no amendment or modification of this Article shall be  
5 required to conform the taxes to those changes, and the taxes are hereby imposed in conformity with  
6 those changes, and the Tax Collector shall collect them to the full extent of the City's authorization up  
7 to the full amount and rate of the taxes imposed under this Article.

8  
9 **SEC. 3615. SEVERABILITY.**

10 (a) Except as provided in Section 3615(b), below, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause,  
11 phrase, or word of this Article 36, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is for any  
12 reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such  
13 decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Article, including the application  
14 of such portions to other persons or circumstances. The People of the City and County of  
15 San Francisco hereby declare that, except as provided in Section 3615(b), they would have adopted  
16 each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word of this Article not declared invalid or  
17 unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this Article would be subsequently  
18 declared invalid or unconstitutional.

19 (b) If the imposition of the Commercial Rents Tax in Section 3603 of this Article 36 is held in  
20 its entirety to be facially invalid or unconstitutional in a final judicial decision, the remainder of this  
21 Article 36 shall be void and of no force and effect, and the City Attorney shall cause it to be removed  
22 from the Business and Tax Regulations Code.



1     **SEC. 3616. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

2             No section, clause, part, or provision of this Article 36 shall be construed as requiring the  
3 payment of any tax that would be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of the  
4 Constitution or laws of the State of California.

5  
6             Section 7. Notwithstanding Articles 21 and 28 of the Business and Tax Regulations  
7 Code, nothing in this ordinance shall increase the amount of any tax imposed under Article 21  
8 or Article 28.

9  
10            Section 8. Appropriations Limit Increase. Pursuant to California Constitution  
11 Article XIII B and applicable laws, for four years from November 3, 2020, the appropriations  
12 limit for the City shall be increased by the revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of  
13 the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

14  
15            Section 9. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the People of the City and  
16 County of San Francisco intend to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs,  
17 subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other  
18 constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions  
19 or deletions, in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the  
20 ordinance.

21  
22            Section 10. The unchanged code text in Section 2 of this ordinance assumes that the  
23 Board of Supervisors ordinance in Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_, amending Section 6.9-3 of  
24 the Business and Tax Regulations Code, is enacted before November 3, 2020. If such  
25

1 ordinance has not been enacted by that time, the City Attorney’s Office is directed to make the  
2 necessary conforming language changes to Section 6.9-3.

3  
4 Section 11. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word  
5 of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be  
6 invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision  
7 shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of the ordinance. The  
8 People of the City and County of San Francisco hereby declare that they would have adopted  
9 this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word  
10 not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this  
11 ordinance or application thereof would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

12  
13 Section 12. Effective and Operative Dates.

14 (a) The effective date of this ordinance shall be ten days after the date the official vote  
15 count is declared by the Board of Supervisors.

16 (b) The operative date of this ordinance shall be January 1, 2021, except for the repeal  
17 of Business and Tax Regulations Code Section 906.3-1 in Section 4 of this ordinance, which  
18 shall be operative on February 1, 2021.

19  
20 Section 13. Conflicting Measures.

21 (a) The voters intend to adopt at the November 3, 2020 consolidated general election  
22 only one measure that amends Article 12-A-1 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

23 (b) If the voters adopt this measure and any other measure that amends Article 12-A-1  
24 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code at the November 3, 2020 consolidated general  
25

1 election and this measure received more affirmative votes than any other such measure, then  
2 the other measure or measures shall not become operative in any respect.

3 (c) This measure shall not become operative in any respect if another measure that  
4 amends Article 12-A-1 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code receives more affirmative  
5 votes than this measure at the November 3, 2020 consolidated general election.

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

8 By: /s/ Scott M. Reiber  
9 SCOTT M. REIBER  
10 Chief Tax Attorney

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Initiative Ordinance - Business and Tax Regulations Code - Business Tax Changes]

**Motion ordering submitted to the voters an Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to: 1) reduce the annual Business Registration Fee for businesses with \$1,000,000 or less in San Francisco gross receipts, 2) increase the small business exemption ceiling for the Gross Receipts Tax to \$1,500,000 and increase the annual Business Registration Fee on businesses benefiting from this increased exemption ceiling, 3) modify the Gross Receipts Tax rates, 4) repeal the Payroll Expense Tax, 5) increase the Gross Receipts Tax on certain taxpayers for ten years if a court strikes down the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance, 6) impose a new general tax on the gross receipts from the lease of certain commercial space for 10 years if a court strikes down the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax Ordinance, and 7) make other changes to the City's business taxes; and to increase the City's appropriations limit by the total revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code for four years from November 3, 2020, at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.**

### Existing Law

The City imposes a number of taxes under the Business and Tax Regulations Code on persons engaged in business within the City. Among these taxes, the registration fee (Article 12), the payroll expense tax (Article 12-A), and the gross receipts tax (Article 12-A-1) are general taxes, the revenues from which go to the General Fund:

- The registration fee ranges between \$75 and \$35,000 (adjusted for inflation), depending on the type of business and the amount of gross receipts attributable to the City. For persons engaged in business as an administrative office, the registration fee ranges between \$15,000 and \$35,000 (adjusted for inflation), depending on the person's payroll expense attributable to the City.
- The payroll expense tax rate is 0.38% of payroll expense attributable to the City, except for persons that pay the administrative office tax. Small businesses with payroll expense attributable to the City not exceeding \$320,000 are exempt from this tax.
- The gross receipts tax rate ranges from 0.075% to 0.65% of gross receipts attributable to the City, depending on the person's type of business activities and amount of taxable gross receipts, except for persons that pay the administrative office tax. Small businesses with gross receipts attributable to the City not exceeding \$1,170,000 are exempt from this tax in tax year 2019, and this amount is adjusted for inflation annually.
- In lieu of payroll expense and gross receipts taxes, persons engaged in business as an administrative office pay the administrative office tax equal to 1.4% of payroll expense attributable to the City.

Certain persons engaged in business within the City also pay special taxes, the revenues from which are dedicated to specific purposes:

- Persons that receive gross receipts from the lease of commercial space in properties in the City pay the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax (Article 21) at a rate of 1% or 3.5% of those receipts, depending on the type of property. This tax is dedicated 15% to the General Fund and 85% to fund early care and education for young children.
- The Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax (Article 28) is imposed on (1) persons that pay the administrative office tax, at a rate of 1.5% of payroll expense attributable to the City and (2) persons with gross receipts attributable to the City exceeding \$50,000,000, at a rate that ranges from 0.175% to 0.69% of gross receipts attributable to the City in excess of \$50,000,000, depending on the person’s type of business activities and amount of taxable gross receipts. This tax is dedicated to fund services for homeless people and to prevent homelessness.

Commencing in 2021, Article 30 will impose an additional tax on persons engaged in cannabis business activities in the City equal to 1% to 5% of the gross receipts from those cannabis business activities in excess of \$500,000, depending on the type of cannabis business activities and the amount of gross receipts from those activities attributable to the City. This tax will be deposited into the General Fund.

Amendments to Current Law

Effective beginning in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the proposed ordinance would reduce the registration fee of most persons with \$1,000,000 or less in gross receipts attributable to the City by approximately 50%, and increase the registration fee of most persons with \$1,000,000.01 to \$1,500,000 in gross receipts attributable to the City who would benefit from the proposed increase in the small business exemption ceiling for the gross receipts tax (described below) by either \$230 or \$245, depending on the person’s business activities.

Beginning with the 2021 tax year, this ordinance would repeal the payroll expense tax and modify the gross receipts tax rates, as indicated in the following table:

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Current Gross Receipts Tax Rates*</b>	<b>Proposed Gross Receipts Tax Rates*</b>
Certain Services	0.075% to 0.160%	0.053% to 0.168%
Retail Trade	0.075% to 0.160%	0.053% to 0.224%
Wholesale Trade	0.075% to 0.160%	0.105% to 0.224%

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Current Gross Receipts Tax Rates*</b>	<b>Proposed Gross Receipts Tax Rates*</b>
Manufacturing	0.125% to 0.475%	0.088% to 0.499%
Food Services	0.125% to 0.475%	0.175% to 0.665%
Biotechnology; Clean Technology; Transportation and Warehousing	0.125% to 0.475%	0.200% to 0.760%
Information	0.125% to 0.475%	0.680% to 0.952%
Accommodations; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	0.300% to 0.400%	0.420% to 0.560%
Utilities	0.300% to 0.400%	0.480% to 0.640%
Private Education and Health Services; Administrative and Support Services; Miscellaneous Business Activities	0.525% to 0.650%	0.840% to 1.040%
Construction	0.300% to 0.450%	0.420% to 0.630%
Insurance	0.400% to 0.560%	0.640% to 0.896%
Financial Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	0.400% to 0.560%	0.680% to 0.952%
Real Estate; Rental and Leasing Services	0.285% to 0.300%**	0.485% to 0.510%

\* The gross receipts tax is generally progressive, with rates that increase by tiers, depending on the amount of gross receipts attributable to the City. The gross receipts tax is expressed as a range of rates from the lowest tier to the highest tier within each business activity.

\*\* The gross receipts tax rate applicable to taxable gross receipts in excess of \$25,000,000 for the business activities of real estate and rental and leasing services will increase to 0.325% beginning in tax year 2021 if this ordinance does not pass.

This ordinance would increase the ceiling for the small business exemption from the gross receipts tax to \$1,500,000 of gross receipts attributable to the City. This ordinance would eliminate the credit for taxpayers that have paid a substantially similar tax to any other taxing jurisdiction on any gross receipts attributed to the City and taxed under Article 12-A-1. The required quarterly payments of gross receipts taxes for the 2021 tax year would be adjusted upward to take into account the repeal of the payroll expense tax.

Beginning with the 2021 tax year, this ordinance would increase the administrative office tax rate from 1.4% to 1.68% of payroll expense attributable to the City, in addition to the 1.5% rate currently imposed under the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax.

If a court strikes down the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax, this ordinance would increase the gross receipts tax on certain taxpayers for 10 years, beginning with the tax year following the date on which the court’s decision becomes final. For persons that pay the administrative office tax, the administrative office tax rate would be increased from 1.68% to 3.18% of payroll expense attributable to the City. For other persons, there would be added to the gross receipts tax rate tiers an additional rate tier for taxable gross receipts over \$50,000,000 at the rate indicated in the following table for each business activity, plus the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000:

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Tax Rate*</b>
Certain Services; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade	0.175%
Manufacturing; Food Services; Biotechnology; Clean Technology; Transportation and Warehousing; Information	0.500%
Accommodations; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Utilities	0.425%
Private Education and Health Services; Administrative and Support Services; Miscellaneous Business Activities	0.690%
Construction	0.475%
Insurance; Financial Services; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	0.600%
Real Estate; Rental and Leasing Services	0.325%

\* This rate would be added to the applicable rate for taxable gross receipts between \$25,000,000.01 and \$50,000,000.

If a court strikes down the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax, this ordinance would add Article 36 to impose a new general tax for 10 years on the gross receipts from the lease of certain commercial space in the City, substantially similar to the existing Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax, except that all revenues from the new tax would go to the General Fund.

This ordinance would increase the City’s appropriations limit under Article XIII B of the California Constitution by the total revenues collected under Articles 12-A-1 and 36 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code, for four years from November 3, 2020.

This ordinance also would remove provisions that are no longer in effect, update the existing code language to current formatting standards, and make other changes to the City’s business taxes.

Background Information

In June 2018, San Francisco voters by simple majority vote approved Proposition C, which imposes the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax. In November 2018, San Francisco voters, also by simple majority vote, approved Proposition C, which imposes the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax. Separate lawsuits regarding the validity of the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax and the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax are pending at the Court of Appeal. Pending resolution of those suits, the Controller has impounded the revenues from both the Early Care and Education Commercial Rents Tax and the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax.

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