



April 23, 2021

Mr. Sharky Laguana, President  
SF Small Business Commission  
City Hall, Room 140  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: [sbc@sfgov.org](mailto:sbc@sfgov.org)

**Re: Neighborhood Anchor Business Registry**

Dear President Laguana:

The Japantown Merchants Association (JMA) welcomes and strongly supports the creation of a **Neighborhood Anchor Business Registry**.

We represent over 75 businesses in Japantown, with the majority of them being businesses with less than 10 employees. Our businesses provide more than a tangible commodity to purchase. They serve as our cultural liaisons to residents, neighbors and visitors in providing information and culturally authentic goods and services from Japan. Without them, our Japantown community would be void of being able to appropriately promote and preserve our cultural heritage with the larger community.

The **Neighborhood Anchor Business Registry** would be a welcome addition to the Japantown community. There are a number of businesses who are not yet eligible for the Legacy Business Registry but are still vital and critical members of our business community. The protections and incentives provided by this program would allow them a better chance in succeeding and carrying on the traditions Japantown has continued to pass down over its 115+ years of existence in this City.

Thank you for seriously considering this Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Richard Hashimoto  
President

cc: SF Board of Supervisors