

From: [Richard Hashimoto](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:35:15 AM
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Dear Supervisors,

Please find attached my letter urging your support for **Item 210762** on today's agenda for the referenced meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Rich Hashimoto
President
Japantown Merchants Association



July 19, 2021

SF Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Transportation Committee
Supervisors Myrna Melgar, Chair
Dean Preston
Aaron Peskin

Via Email: Erica.Major@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisors

On behalf of the Japantown Merchants Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking an important leadership role to introduce legislation in proposing amendments to the SF Administrative Code to support our small businesses.

I can personally tell you that our small businesses in Japantown suffered enormous economic losses during the last 18 months of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, some of our most long-standing and treasured businesses were forced to permanently shut their doors especially those inside the Japan Center malls that could not open even after attempting for curbside service.

Your positive vote today will allow the remaining businesses who have suffered the longest closures to be able to start up again without the tremendous financial burden of past rent debt they are required to pay because of the forced shutdown and provide the hope they need to remain in business.

Thank you for realizing that it is important to step up to help our struggling businesses. With your utmost support, Japantown will be able to survive this unprecedented challenge and remain a vital Cultural District.

Sincerely,

Richard Hashimoto
President
Japantown Merchants Association

cc: Erica Major