

**From:** [John Springer](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** 10.18.21 Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Meeting- public comment  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 9:58:09 AM

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Victor Young.

Please pass on my strong support to the Rules Committee for the Item-3 - 210835 regarding revision of the LBE certification size thresholds. It is critical that these thresholds be brought up to date and have a mechanism for automatic adjustment moving forward, in order for this program to properly function over time.

Thank you.

Best regards,

+

John Springer  
**Practice Director**

**Studio VARA**  
3130 20Th St, Suite 190  
San Francisco, CA 94110

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T. 415 826-1367 ext.112  
F. 415 826-8695

**From:** [Eric Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** 14B LBE Ordinance Reform  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 5:18:08 AM

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Mr Young:

Please see copy of email below regarding today's Rules Committee Meeting. Thank you.

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

**PAULETT TAGGART ARCHITECTS**  
[www.ptarc.com](http://www.ptarc.com)

725 Greenwich, San Francisco, CA 94133

T 415.956.1116

T 415.801.2807 (direct)

**NOTE: During shelter-in-place, I am best reached by email or cell phone at 415 613 8156**

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** erobinson <[er@ptarc.com](mailto:er@ptarc.com)>  
**Subject:** 14B LBE Ordinance Reform  
**Date:** October 16, 2021 at 8:22:23 AM EDT  
**To:** [ChanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:ChanStaff@sfgov.org)

Dear Supervisor Chan:

I am writing to request your support in an effort to amend Chapter 14B LBE Ordinance and raise the revenue limits for LBE professional service firms in San Francisco. I understand this issue will be coming before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee this Monday 10/18.

This reform has long been needed for several reasons:

- While the costs of doing business in San Francisco have skyrocketed over the last 20 years, the LBE thresholds have not - meaning medium sized businesses have placed out of the program. The even smaller businesses that remain cannot reasonably compete with large, well-resourced national firms for city-sponsored work.
- The 3-year average income qualification is too short- a business can be thrown out of the program after one uniquely good year. A 5-year window is more appropriate.
- This legislation will set income qualifications to adjust relative to the CPI - thereby precluding the need for additional adjustments by the Board in the future.

Small businesses are the backbone of any local economy, and San Francisco is no exception. LBEs contribute over \$100 million in tax revenue each year. Local businesses attempting to recover from the COVID-19 economic crisis need this support now to recover and prosper once again. Time is of the essence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

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**From:** [Eric Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Amending Chapter 14B LBE Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 5:14:39 AM

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Mr Young:

Please see copy of email below regarding today's Rules Committee Meeting. Thank you.

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** erobinson <[er@ptarc.com](mailto:er@ptarc.com)>  
**Subject:** Amending Chapter 14B LBE Ordinance  
**Date:** October 16, 2021 at 8:20:17 AM EDT  
**To:** "Peskin, Aaron (BOS)" <[Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)>

Dear Supervisor Peskin:

I am writing to request your support in an effort to amend Chapter 14B LBE Ordinance and raise the revenue limits for LBE professional service firms in San Francisco. I understand this issue will be coming before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee this Monday 10/18.

This reform has long been needed for several reasons:

- While the costs of doing business in San Francisco have skyrocketed over the last 20 years, the LBE thresholds have not - meaning medium sized businesses have placed out of the program. The even smaller businesses that remain cannot reasonably compete with large, well-resourced national firms for city-sponsored work.
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Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

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**From:** [Christopher Roach](#)  
**To:** [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Darolyn Davis](#)  
**Subject:** Amendment to 14B : revised revenue limits for LBEs  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 8:50:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [LBEAC Letter Studio VARA RulesComm 2021.10.18.pdf](#)

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman, and Chan,

Please find the attached letter in support of the proposed revisions to Chapter 14B, which is the third item on your agenda today.

Best regards,

+

Christopher A. Roach AIA IIDA LEED  
**Principal**

**Studio VARA**

3130 20Th St. Suite 190  
San Francisco, CA 94110

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M. 415 609-1264

**From:** [Shannon Collins](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Business Owner In Support of LBE Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 9:50:07 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please note my outreach to Supervisor Chan. See below.

**Shannon Collins**  
**Business Development Director**

FTF ENGINEERING, INC.

San Francisco | San Luis Obispo

38 Mason Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

(m) (415) 218-5393

[shannon@ftfengineering.com](mailto:shannon@ftfengineering.com)

[www.ftfengineering.com](http://www.ftfengineering.com)

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**From:** Shannon Collins <[shannon@ftfengineering.com](mailto:shannon@ftfengineering.com)>

**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 at 9:47 AM

**To:** "chanstaff@sfgov.org" <[chanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:chanstaff@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** Business Owner In Support of LBE Legislation

Hello Supervisor Chan,

My husband, Randy Collins, and I have owned a San Francisco-based structural engineering firm for 19 years. Our firm, FTF Engineering, has had an office in San Francisco for 19 years and we have employed as many as 20 employees. We lost our LBE status in January of 2021 and our business has been drastically impacted and impaired. We are no longer able to partner with larger AEC firms on SF project proposal opportunities. Our revenue and new business prospects have significantly declined and we have lost 5 employees due to our dip in business opportunities and momentum. My husband and I have looked at moving our office to Oakland because they have higher LBE thresholds. We want to remain a San Francisco-based company and have seen how helpful the LBE program is to a small businesses. I adamantly support the LBE legislation to increase the economic thresholds and implore the SF Board of Supervisors to amend Chapter 14B to correct the obstacles facing small business in San Francisco. This legislation is long-overdue and it is time for the Board of Supervisors to support their small businesses so we can continue to remain based in San Francisco and employ San Francisco residents. Thank you for your support!

Best regards,  
Shannon Collins

**Shannon Collins**  
**Business Development Director**

**FTF ENGINEERING, INC.**

**San Francisco | San Luis Obispo**

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[shannon@ftfengineering.com](mailto:shannon@ftfengineering.com)

[www.ftfengineering.com](http://www.ftfengineering.com)

**From:** [Eric Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: 14B LBE Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 5:18:35 AM

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Mr Young:

Please see copy of email below regarding today's Rules Committee Meeting. Thank you.

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** erobinson <[er@ptarc.com](mailto:er@ptarc.com)>  
**Subject:** 14B LBE Ordinance  
**Date:** October 16, 2021 at 8:23:33 AM EDT  
**To:** [MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org)

Dear Supervisor Mandelman:

I am writing to request your support in an effort to amend Chapter 14B LBE Ordinance and raise the revenue limits for LBE professional service firms in San Francisco. I understand this issue will be coming before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee this Monday 10/18.

This reform has long been needed for several reasons:

- While the costs of doing business in San Francisco have skyrocketed over the last 20 years, the LBE thresholds have not - meaning medium sized businesses have placed out of the program. The even smaller businesses that remain cannot reasonably compete with large, well-resourced national firms for city-sponsored work.
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Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Eric S. Robinson, Principal / AIA, LEED AP

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**From:** [Maria Santana](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** LBE 10/18 - Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 10:10:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[rls101821\\_agenda.pdf](#)

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Victor,

My name is Maria Santana and I am a member of the small business construction community. I am an employee of Priority Graphics, an LBE that benefits from this very important program. I support this amended legislation and the changes to the current program. The proposals helps small business, in particular micro small businesses.

Please support!

Thank you in advance.

**Maria Santana • VP Operations**

1260 Egbert Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94124  
t 415.643.1144  
c 415.774.6002  
[prioritygraphics.com](http://prioritygraphics.com)



**From:** [Ingrid Merriwether](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Program Proposed Legislative Changes and Updates  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 9:56:19 AM  
**Importance:** High

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good Morning:

I am writing on behalf of the proposed LBE Program legislative changes and updates, and adding our full support to what's being proposed.

As one of the major service providers to the LBE community as well as being an LBE firm ourselves for close to 25 years, the proposed legislative changes and updates are long overdue and critical to sustain and grow the City's LBE firms. Raising the thresholds are necessary to keep proportionate alignment between LBEs and their larger peers as it recognizes the cost of doing business in the City which disproportionately is greater for LBEs than for larger firms who benefit from their economies of scale. It also reflects the reality that LBE firms need space to grow to stay in position to compete with and act in a subcontractor/subconsultant capacity given the distance LBE firms remain from our larger peers, and our general placement in the marketplace which demands growth just to stay sustainable.

The proposed changes as respects the set-aside and Neighborhood LBE program are also critical to create the necessary sheltered bidding and contracting opportunities that support the nurturing and further development of LBEs, which ultimately benefits the City by enlarging the pool of firms able to compete and help reduce contracting cost to the City and its taxpayers. Proof of this impact is well documented including the evidence in the City's bonding assistance program (now referred to as the Contractor Development Program) which demonstrates that when barriers to small and diverse local firms are removed and a conducive bidding environment exist, these firms are able to compete and the City captures cost-savings from their low-bids – as well as benefiting from the multiplicative economic impact of the City's contracting dollars within the City's local and diverse communities.

It is also important to reduce one of the remaining limitations of the City's bond program (now called the Contractor Development Program) which was previously limited to Chapter 6 funded projects leaving a number of City convened or Public/Private Partnership construction projects absent this critical support. Absent this limitation, the City's program can expand the reach of the program and assist more LBEs in securing needed support to compete and participate on other projects with City dollars – again benefiting both the LBE community but also the City as a whole.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Merriwether  
President & CEO

*Ingrid Merriwether*

President & CEO

License No.: 0C01378

Cell / WFH: (510)919-7455



*... Of Like Minds*

**From:** [noelle@maffei-structure.com](mailto:noelle@maffei-structure.com)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment in support of increasing thresholds for SF LBE  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 9:58:38 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi, I am writing in support of increasing the threshold for SF LBEs. We are an LBE firm and rely on the LBE program to gain exposure and business for our firm. Without the LBE program, we would not be able to participate in City contracts because we do not yet have the experience portfolio to compete in RFPs against large firms. The LBE program is helping us to gain that experience, but we need the threshold to be increased so that we can do several City projects over several years without being pushed out of the program. I urge you to support small businesses and raise the threshold to account for inflation and high costs of doing business today.

Thank you.

Noelle Yuen, S.E.

Principal

**Maffei Structural Engineering**

Office: 415.329.6100

Mobile: 415.244.9629

[noelle@maffei-structure.com](mailto:noelle@maffei-structure.com)

[www.maffei-structure.com](http://www.maffei-structure.com)

Pronouns: she/her

**From:** [Susan Aitken](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rules Committee: Amendment to Chapter 14B  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 10:03:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [Susan%202021.png](#)

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Rules Committee;

This email is in **support** of the Amendments to the Chapter 14B amendments to correct obstacles faced by small business in the LBE program.

I am writing you to express support and encourage prompt urgent action to raise the revenue limits for San Francisco LBE companies in the Professional Services category. Revenue limits for Professional Services firms has not been raised in over 20 years due to narrow political interests, while legitimate firms providing important services to the City have been required to shrink their staff as inflation, wages, health care, rent, and cost of construction have skyrocketed.

The pandemic has resulted in a loss of projects and income, but no reduction in our expenses. Please recognize that these reforms are needed for small business to survive in San Francisco,

Respectfully,

--



**Susan Aitken** AIA LEED AP  
Principal

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