
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Monday, April 13, 2020

11:00 A.M.

City Hall, Room 400

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Sharky Laguana, President

Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President

Stephen Adams Kathleen Dooley; Cynthia Huie;

William Ortiz-Cartagena; Manny Yekutiel

1. **Call to order and roll call.**

The meeting was called to order at 11:02am.

Commissioners: Adams*, Dooley, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena**, Yekutiel, and Zouzounis were present.
Staff in attendance: Regina Dick-Endrizzi (Executive Director) and Dominica Donovan (Senior Policy Analyst).

*Commission Adams arrived during Item #3

**Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena arrived during Item #2

2. **Overview of the Local, State and Federal Response to Economic Disruptions Related to the COVID-19 Emergency. (Discussion Possible Action Item).**

Joaquin Torres, Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, provided the Commission with an overview of the local, state, and federal response to economic disruptions related to the Covid-19 emergency. He also shared that Mayor Breed and Board Norman Yee had jointly called for the convening of an economic recovery task force.

Commissioner Yekutiel asked Director Torres how the city would ensure that a strong small business voice would be represented on the economic recovery task force. Director Torres assured the Commission that the intent is to have a small business owner on the task force and would get back to the Commission with confirmation. Commissioner Yekutiel also asked how the Commission would be informed of the Mayor's response to the Commission's recommendations around the next and future federal stimulus packages. Director Torres assured the Commission that the lines of communication would be open.

Commissioner Laguana asked Director Torres how the Commission can best serve small businesses at this time. Director Torres affirmed that continuing to be a voice and advocate for the small business community is best.

Commissioner Dooley asked Director Torres for guidance related to those who are self-employed. Director

Torres affirmed that there are gaps in providing assistance to those who are self-employed and that more needs to be done at every level to support that group

Commissioner Laguana read recommendations compiled by staff into the record.

Public Comment:

Henry Karnilowitz, spoke regarding Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and the challenges small businesses have had in accessing them and understanding the conditions associated with them.

Candace Combs, spoke with regard to the challenges small businesses are having in understanding what relief is available to them and in accessing relief.

Amelia Linde with the S.F. Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of staff recommendations.

Jennifer [last name inaudible], asked where to find the staff memo.

Stephen Cornell spoke to the challenges that small businesses are facing in light of the local emergency.

Commissioner Huie spoke to how comprehensive the staff memo was and the challenges that she has heard and experienced regarding accessing federal relief.

Commissioner Yekutiel expressed concerns with receiving assurances that recommendations from the Commission are heard and acted upon.

Commissioner Zouzouis affirmed that the Board would be copied on anything sent to the Mayor's Office, and that the Board is also able to submit recommendations to state and federal officials. Commissioner Dooley also confirmed this.

Motion: Commissioner Yekutiel motioned to submit staff recommendations to the Mayor's Office and to request that the Office of Small Business Executive Director and Commission President meet with the Mayor to discuss the recommendations, with a copy to the Board of Supervisors.

2nd: Commissioner Dooley.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Motion passed: 6-0.

3. **Commissioners' Reports. (Discussion Item)**

Commissioner Dooley reported that she has been working with the Lower Polk Community Benefit District and highlighted the resources that District is developing. She advocated to work with more Community Benefit Districts.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena thanked the Office of Small Business staff for all of their efforts during this time. He also thanked Supervisors Peskin and Ronen for their advocacy. He also highlighted the work he is doing with MEDA in providing resources for individuals without social security numbers and encouraged more coordination with CDFIs. He also stressed that the city needs to work more closely with Community Benefit Organizations.

Commissioner Huie also brought attention to the increased number of acts of racism and attacks on Chinese owned businesses since the local emergency has begun. She noted that this needs to be addressed in the small business community. She also highlighted her own experiences that have made her feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

Commissioner Dooley also acknowledged Supervisor Peskin's advocacy for the flower market.

Commissioner Adams acknowledged the good work that the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors have done during the local emergency.

Commissioner Yekutieli acknowledged that the Paycheck Protection Program would be a lifeline for small businesses if the shelter in place is extended, and of course depends on their ability to access the program. He shared that this depends on meaningful coordination between federal entities and the banks. He also acknowledged the need for access by business owners who are monolingual. He also shared that there is much public discourse regarding what economic recovery might look like, particularly if re-opening is slow.

Commissioner Laguana highlighted the challenges that the self-employed and independent contractors are also having, and especially those in the arts. He emphasized that these challenges are nuanced and will need to be effectively communicated to the Mayor and the Board. He also discussed the challenges that commercial property owners and renters are having.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena noted that a concern emerging from the small business community is that larger corporations may buy out a number of vulnerable small businesses.

Commissioner Laguana thanked each of the Commissioners individually for their work in the community.

Commissioner Zouzounis highlighted the challenges that small grocers and corner stores are having with complying with new rules for operating as they are being introduced.

Adjournment. (Action Item)

Motion: Commissioner Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting.

2nd: Commissioner Laguana.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Motion passed: 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:16pm.

Public Comment is called for during each agenda item. Members of the public may provide on-topic comment on specific agenda items. Speakers are requested, but not required, to state their names, which will help ensure proper attribution of comments and speakers' names in the written record of the meeting.

Explanatory Documents: Copies of proposed legislation listed in this agenda, and other related materials received by the SBC after the posting of the agenda, are available for public inspection at www.sfosb.org

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1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4683
415-554-7724 (Office); 415-554-5163 (Fax)
E-mail: SOTF@sfgov.org

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