
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, July 27, 2020
11:00 A.M.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Sharky Laguana, President
Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President
Stephen Adams Kathleen Dooley; Cynthia Huie;
William Ortiz-Cartagena; Manny Yekutieli

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am.

Commissioners: Adams, Dooley, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena*, Yekutieli, and Zouzounis were present.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena left during Item

Staff in attendance: Dominica Donovan (Senior Policy Analyst)

2. **Board of Supervisors File No. 200785. Existing Building Code - Mandatory Earthquake Retrofit - Compliance Deadline. (Discussion and Action Item)**

Tom Temprano, Legislative Aide, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman presented the legislation. He was also joined by John Murray, Manager of Legislative Affairs, with the Department of Building Inspection.

The Commission applauded this legislation and extended their appreciation to the sponsor's office. Specifically, they observed that this proposal is responsive to specific recommendations for small business support that the Commission made to the Economic Recovery Task Force to extend the Soft Story deadline. The Commission also discussed whether property owners would be required to notify tenants of planned retrofit work in a specific timeframe. The sponsor's office noted that this particular legislation does not. The Commission suggested that it be contemplated in trailing legislation.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Commissioner Yekutieli motioned to support the legislation.

2nd: Commissioner Adams.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Motion passed: 7-0

3. **Board of Supervisors File No. 200760. Emergency Ordinance - Temporary Waiver of Business Registration and License Fees for Certain Small Businesses Due to COVID-19 Pandemic. (Discussion and Action Item)**

Daisy Quan, Legislative Aide, Supervisor Gordon Mar provided an overview of the legislation for the Commission.

The Commission applauded this legislation and acknowledged that should it pass, it would establish the City's commitment to supporting small businesses during the local emergency. The Commission discussed the possibility of expanding the definition of 'Qualifying Small Business' to include those who had \$2.5 million in gross receipts. In doing so, the City may support ~3,000 more small businesses and those who they employ. The Commission also highlighted that businesses generating \$1 million-\$2.5 million in gross receipts likely employ more workers than those who generate less than \$1 million. As such, expanding the definition could by extension also stand benefit more workers. When asked, Ms. Quan shared that if the definition were expanded, it would likely cost the City an addition \$2.8 million.

Public Comment:

Amerlia Linde, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the legislation.

Motion: Commissioner Laguana motioned to support the legislation with proposed amendment to expand the definition of "Qualifying Small Business" to include entities with \$2.5 million or less in gross receipts.

2nd: Commissioner Dooley.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Motion passed: 7-0

4. **Presentation: Update and report on the Shared Spaces Program and related resources. (Discussion Item)**

Robin Abad Ocubillo, Senior Planner, Planning Department provided an update on the Shared Spaces program and related resources to the Commission.

Commissioner Laguana requested more information regarding participation in SharedSpaces by District. Mr. Abad shared that they aren't seeing increases in equity neighborhoods and that more resources need to be dedicated to those areas.

Commissioner Yekutieli requested more information regarding street closure approvals and denials. Mr. Abad shared that he would need to provide that information at a later time.

Mr. Abad shared that some applications have been denied due to traffic and public transit concerns. Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena emphasized that special observation and evaluation should be made in the Mission.

Mr. Abad also shared that the Shared Spaces application does suggest outlining special neighborhood considerations, like for North Beach.

Commissioner Huie expressed concerns regarding customers continuing to wear face coverings while visiting Shared Spaces. Mr. Abad concurred that more signage about requirements is needed. She also noted that Shared Spaces areas have been experiencing more nuisance activities and that businesses need support in this capacity.

The Commission also emphasized the need for ensuring that this program is as efficient as possible and that all reasonable obstacles be removed. The Commission also emphasized a continued focus on equity. And, also wanted to ensure that the Shared Spaces program is adequately staffed.

The Commissioner commended the impact of Shared Spaces.

Public Comment: None.

5. **Continued Discussion on Small Business Recovery and Rebuilding. (Discussion and Possible Action Item).**

Commissioners Huie, Laguana, and Ortiz-Cartagena provided reports on activities for the Economic Recovery Task Force

Commissioner Huie shared that at this point, meetings have been focused on detailing recommendations and necessary next steps.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena shared that sub-groups have been focused on brainstorming solutions for the commercial rent crisis, and they have been addressing challenges around HCSO.

Commissioner Laguana shared that the Task Force is working towards consolidating and honing in on recommendations. A few topics to note are use of public space and Shared Spaces, and commercial rents- especially for personal services. He also shared updates regarding support for commercial renters at the State level. He also stressed the need for working with banks and lenders on the issue of commercial evictions.

Commissioner Adams added that banks will need to assist with addressing commercial evictions.

Commissioner Dooley elaborated on challenges facing the personal services industry and hair salons in particular.

Director Dick-Endrizzi elaborated on challenges facing personal services and outdoor options for personal services.

Commissioner Yekutieli emphasized the continued need for efforts around advocacy for businesses that haven't yet opened in any capacity.

Commissioner Laguana concurred and shared the importance of following the data. He also emphasized the importance of improving communications with the Department of Public Health and also identified that small business has very little representation in leadership within the City. The Commission then discussed other entities to continue inviting to Commission hearings. They acknowledged that small businesses employ nearly half of San Francisco workers and they need to be supported.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena also emphasized that the Commission needs to be stronger in advocating for small business needs.

Public Comment: None.

The Commission did not take action on this item.

6. **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes. (Action Item)**

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Commissioner Laguana motioned to approve the March 9, 2020 minutes.

2nd: Commissioner Dooley.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion passed: 6-0

**The Secretary failed to call one Commissioner.*

7. **Director's Report. (Discussion Item)**

Director Dick-Endrizzi provided a client services update. She also share information regarding Racial Equity work for the Office and for the Commission. Dr. Aragon and Maggie Weiland are confirmed to present to

the Commission in August. She also provided legislative updates.

Public Comment: None.

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

Commissioner Adams shared that he and his peers applied for a \$20k grant to support restaurants in Guernville in feeding need populations in that area.

Commissioner Zouzounis share that merchant groups that she works with have been engaging in PPE distribution for the community.

Commissioner Huie shared that she is working with the SF Chamber of Commerce to expand on their mentoring and tutoring programs to help provide more specialized assistance for small businesses.

Commissioner Laguana shared that he had spoken with the Bayview Merchants on developing a mentorship program. He also has reached out to merchant groups in the Bayview and Excelsior on Shared Spaces and expanding the program into those communities. Additionally, he is requesting that OSB staff send a memo to the Board of Supervisors to support Commissioner Yekutieli in opening the closed street on the Valencia Corridor.

Commissioner Yekutieli shared a compelling anecdote regarding a small business owner's commitment to staying in San Francisco and supporting their family.

Public Comment: None.

9. **New Business. (Discussion Item)**

Commissioner Laguana requested presentations from Departments and to work with the Department of Public Health on improved communications.

Public Comment: None.

10. **Adjournment. (Action Item)**

Motion: Commissioner Laguana motioned to adjourn in honor of Shared Spaces.

2nd: Commissioner Adams.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Motion passed: 6-0

Meeting was adjourned at 2:09pm.