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**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 30, 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 Yekutiel

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:05am.

Commissioners: Adams, Dooley\*, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena\*, Yekutiel, and Zouzounis\* were present. Commissioners Dooley and Ortiz-Cartagena left the meeting during Item 4. Commissioner Zouzounis left during Item 3.

Staff in attendance: Dominica Donovan (Senior Policy Analyst)

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

Motion: Commissioner Adams motioned to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes.

2nd: Commissioner Dooley.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Motion passed: 7-0

3. **Small Business Forum - Impacts Related to the COVID-19 Emergency. (Discussion Possible Action Item).**

Carlos Solorzano, Northern Region Chair, Hispanic Chambers of Commerce San Francisco presented on the impacts to Latino/Hispanic owned small businesses. He shared that Latino owned small businesses are not able to access funds as compared to their other small business peers. They need more outreach. The most important need is getting information out to the Latino owned small businesses as soon as possible.

Mark Quinn, Advisor to Cameo and former San Francisco Small Business Administration District Director presented on impacts to small businesses and suggestions for support. With respect to the Commission's specific questions, there is not a precedent for municipalities backing debt, i.e. for small businesses. One idea is to convert rent owed to a debt which may be paid over time. This becomes more challenging when working with property owners who also have their own debts to pay.

Laurie Thomas, Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association spoke to the challenges facing the restaurant industry. She elaborated on the temporary cap on delivery fees, and explained that there have been

unintended consequences that have been observed. Modifications may be made soon. She also shared that it would be beneficial for the State to condier legislation which would prohibit landlors from enforcing personal liability against small businesses if they have to break their leases.

Jennifer DaSilva, Executive Committee Chair of San Francisco Economic Development Alliance and Founder and Executive Director of Start Small! Think Big presented on the challenges facing the small business community. With respect to culturally competent technical assistance, Ms. DaSilva offered that there is a need for more comprehensive service delivery and in language.

Rodney Fong, President & CEO, San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the challenges facing the business community in San Francsico and the Economic Recovery Task Force. With the Economic Recovery Task Force, he affirmed that recommendations will be made on an on-going basis. With respect to reopening, he shared that the Mayor has been effectively listening to the health guidance and that the best way to prepare for a sudden reopening is to look toward other localties and countries who are reopeing and adopt what works well and be mindful of what doesn't. He shared that at the moment, the Economic Recovery Task Force has not been a part of drafting Health Orders.

Public Comment:

Adam Gordon, a massage establishment owner, spoke to the challegnes small businesses are facing.

Candance Combs also spoke to challenges small businesses are facing and the personal sevices industry.

A neighborhood bar owner from the Mission District spoke to the challenges facing small business.

A small business owner spoke to the challenges facing small businesses, the undocumented workforce, small property owners.

Stephen Cornell, small business owner and advocate, spoke to the challenges small businesses are facing.

Ben Bleiman, small business owner, spoke to the challenges facing small businesses.

A small business owner spoked to the challenges facing small businesses.

A dog groomer called in to speak to the challenges facing their industry.

A café owner called in to speak to challenges facing small businesses.

Commissioner Zouzounis shared that data collection is important as well as continued support for immigrant and non-English speaking communities. She also emphasized that the City needs to implement more flexible policies for small businesses. Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena emphasized this and that support needs to be culturally competent. Commissioner Huie echoed those comments and shared that businesses who work with multiple agencies need extra support now in being able to adapt. Commission Yekutiel commended Commission Huie for her recent participation on a small business webinar. He shared that the Commission needs to brainstorm proposals for the Economic Recovery Task Force. Including fee mitigation; flex-use; formula retain reform; financial support – recovery fund, PPE fund, corridor beautification funds and, PPE procurement support; retain app delivery fees; HCSO reform; consolidation of permits and processing times; technical assistance to small businesses in language. Commissioner Laguange stressed the need for commercial rent support.

The Commission directed Office of Small Business staff to analyze these recommendations and develop an action plan before the next meeting.

#### 4. **Commissioner Reports. (Discussion Item)**

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena reported that the Latino Recovery Taskforce has been engaging with small businesss and supporting through shelter-in-place. MEDA is also going to be administering a self-funded grant program. The Latino Community is underserved and underrepresented through this pandemic. The virus has been hitting the Mission the hardest- especially where there are many Latinos who are essential workers and who are undocumented.

Commissioner Yekutiel shared that the Valencia Corridor merchant have been engaging in a corridor focused survey in order to get a snapshot of their needs. Valencia corridor is one of the longest commercial stretches in the country and also has some of the highest retail rents in the City. The results should be ready by next meeting.

Commissioner Adams acknowledged the challenges facing the small business community and his optimism for reopening.

Commissioner Laguana shared his concerns relative to reopening guidance and that a one size fits all approach will not be in the best interest for small business.

5. **Adjournment. (Action Item)**

Motion: Commissioner Admas motioned to adjourn.

2nd: Commissioner Yekutiel.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Motion passed: 6-0

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.