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WILLIAM ORTIZ-CARTAGENA, COMMISSIONER

February 8, 2020

Resolution No. 001-2021-SBC

Supporting Women in Small Business Through Access to Childcare Resources

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Small Business Commission’s mandate was established by the voters in 2003 and specifically authorizes the Small Business Commission to set policies for the City regarding small businesses, consistent with any overall objectives established by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors through the adoption of legislation, in order to promote the economic health of the small business community in San Francisco, its employees, and its customers; and,

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has officially recognized that women’s rights are human rights by being the first city in the United States to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a local ordinance in 1998; and,

WHEREAS, the global pandemic, ignited by COVID-19, has led to an economic crisis of an unprecedented magnitude; and,

WHEREAS, the City of San Francisco and the State of California are under a State of Emergency requiring a “Shelter-in-Place” Directive that has severely impaired small businesses; and,

WHEREAS, women are more likely to be the primary care givers for children and thusly depend on affordable childcare options in order to participate in the economy as workers and job creators; and,

WHEREAS, according to a U.S. Chamber Foundation survey, more than 1 in 5 working parents aren't sure they'll fully return to their pre-pandemic work situation because of the challenges of juggling childcare and their careers amid the increase in virtual schooling and decreased availability of childcare providers¹; and

WHEREAS, a U.S. Chamber Foundation survey found that 40% percent of employers are not confident their workforce will return to work citing health and safety, and childcare as almost equivalent concerns of their workforce²; and,

WHEREAS, the same U.S. Chamber Foundation survey found that 50% of parents who have not yet returned to work have cited childcare as a reason they have not returned; and;

WHEREAS, moms who are starting and building businesses necessitate childcare - particularly single moms who are predominantly Black and Latina³; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the public health emergency in 2019, the net majority of new women owned businesses in the U.S. were started by Black and Latina women⁴; and,

WHEREAS, with reliable childcare available to them, Black women and Latinas who start the majority of new businesses can significantly contribute to the City's economic recovery and ensure their families' economic security; and,

WHEREAS, small business support from the federal government missed many diverse business owners who did not qualify or could not apply in time; and,

WHEREAS, women often own businesses in industries that are among the last to reopen (e.g. food service, retail, and personal care) and are less likely to have reserves to rely on; and,

WHEREAS, supporting women entrepreneurs and business owners, about half of whom are women of color nationally, to survive the health and economic crisis will help to increase Black and brown women's economic security; and,

WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Task Force identified that a robust childcare system will be essential for recovery; and,

¹ <https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/the-state-of-working-women-marking-milestone-even-the-pandemic-takes-new-toll>

² *Ibid.*

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/geristengel/2020/08/26/the-childcare-crisis-limits-women-entrepreneurs-potential/?sh=2f573c47e8ec>

⁴ *Ibid.*

WHEREAS, the Economic Recovery Task Force recommended increased investment in Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Immigrant communities through expanded access to childcare and small business, commercial corridor, co-op, and entrepreneurial support; therefore, so be it

RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to subsidize access to childcare, including short-term and part-time options. Without the ability to reopen, mothers who own businesses cannot pay for childcare, and without childcare, mothers cannot reopen their businesses; and be it,

RESOLVED, that access to Community Learning Hubs should be expanded to small business owners; and be it,

RESOLVED, that funds for childcare should be set aside to supplement slots for children of small business owners, especially single parents.

I hereby certify that the Small Business Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Resolution on February 8, 2021.



Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

Ayes – Adams, Dickerson, Dooley, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis
Nays – None