



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES



Monday, March 14, 2016
 5:30 P.M.
 CITY HALL, ROOM 400
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Mark Dwight, President
 Stephen Adams, Vice President
 Kathleen Dooley, William Ortiz-Cartagena
 Irene Yee Riley, Paul Tour-Sarkissian, Miriam Zouzounis

1. Call to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM. Commissioners Adams, Dooley, Dwight, Yee Riley, Tour-Sarkissian, and Zouzounis were present. Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena was absent.

Staff in Attendance: Regina Dick-Endrizzi (Executive Director).

2. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)

None.

Public Comment: No members of the public requested to speak.

3. Presentation and Discussion on Paid Parental Leave for Bonding with New Child (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

*Presenter: Supervisor Scott Wiener, Legislative Sponsor
 Andres Power, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Scott Wiener*

Supervisor Wiener discussed new legislation that would make San Francisco the first city in the country to guarantee six weeks of fully paid parental bonding leave for workers. This would include some of the lowest paid workers, and any business with 20 or more employees. The current state program is paid for by employees through the state disability fund, which in turn funds the paid family leave program. It provides workers with 55% of their salary for up to 6 weeks. The new legislative proposal would require businesses to replace the remaining 45% of wages, bringing wage replacement up to 100%.

Commissioners Adams, Dwight, Dooley and Yee Riley agreed that the 20 employee threshold is too low (50-100 is more tenable) and that the 90-day minimum employment requirement should be increased to 6 or 12 months. Commissioners Adams, Dwight, and Dooley strongly recommended at least six months of employment, 20 hours/week minimum within city boundaries, a 50 employee threshold, compliance by all city vendors to keep an even playing field, clarification of language regarding utilization of vacation time, record

retention for three years, operative date of January 1, 2017, and adding an enforceable call back clause.

Executive Director Dick-Endrizzi will inform the Supervisor's office of these proposed amendments and a special meeting will be scheduled for the Commissioners to take final action before next week's budget and finance meeting.

Public Comment:

Stephen Cornell voiced opposition, as this added expense to San Francisco businesses and would put them at a competitive disadvantage. Jim Lazarus brought up the issue of penalization of small businesses. Scott Hauge noted that 20 employees is too low a limit, and an 8-hour minimum for part-time workers does not make sense. Samantha Higgins noted that the threshold should increase to 50 or 100, part-time hours should be 20 per week, days of work should go up from 90 to 6 months or 1 year, and the method by which employers calculate the percentage of income should be clarified.

Motion: Commissioner Dwight motioned to make the ultimate decision conditional on adoption of the recommended amendments, and that the Commission will weigh in once the legislation is final.

2nd: Commissioner Yee Riley.

Aye: All in favor.

Nay: None.

Absent: Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena.

Motion passed 6-0, 1 absent.

4. Discussion and possible action to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on BOS File No. 160121 [Changing Special Tax District - San Francisco Sustainable Financing - Accessibility Access Financing]. (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

Presenter: Dyanna Quizon, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Katy Tang

Dyanna Quizon was unable to attend.

Director Dick-Endrizzi, Commissioner Dwight, and Commissioner Tour-Sarkissian discussed the potential impact on small business owners. Commissioner Tour-Sarkissian commented that this is an option which gives business owners flexibility. Commissioners Adams and Dooley thanked Supervisor Tang for her work on this topic.

Director Dick-Endrizzi clarified that this resolution proposes making changes to the San Francisco City and County special tax district to include entryway accessibility access financing for property owners.

Public Comment:

Patricia Vaughney discussed concerns of accessibility that includes all disability, not just canes and wheelchairs.

Motion: Commissioner Adams motioned to recommend approval and work with the ADA.
2nd: Commissioner Tour-Sarkissian.

Aye: All in favor.

Nay: None.

Absent: Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena.

Motion passed 6-0, 1 absent.

5. **Presentation from the Lombard Corridor Coalition regarding the Lombard Street Corridor Transit Project and Chestnut Street projects. (Discussion and Possible Action Item)**

Presenter: Terry Norton, Resident

Terry Norton discussed SFMTA's Lombard Street Corridor Transit Project. He noted 47 parking places are to be removed (40% loss of parking), and there is to be construction of new bulb-outs. Mr. Norton also noted that 10 bus stops that are currently in front of buildings without private entries or residences, are to be moved in front of small business storefronts and private driveways. Business owners, their employees and customers, and property owners have been trying to work with the SFMTA with no success. They would like to liaise with the Small Business Commission now and in the future.

Commissioners Dwight, Tour-Sarkissian, Dooley and Adams identified this as a city-wide issue, and agreed to liaise with the Lombard and Chestnut Street Project leaders to communicate with the SFMTA. Since the SFMTA is voting on this issue tomorrow at 1:00 PM, Commissioner Dwight suggested writing a letter to the MTA tonight, to respectfully request they delay their vote pending further discourse. Commissioner Tour-Sarkissian suggested that whatever documentation was submitted to SFMTA by the Coalition be submitted here as well, and the SFMTA could be invited to a Small Business Commission meeting to explain their position and engage in public discourse. Commissioner Dwight summarized that community outreach is essential as it draws on a wide range of knowledge and experience, and that listening to community's input is vital to success.

Public comment:

Roger Kuhn discussed the detrimental impact removing parking spaces would have on his business. Don Emmons mentioned how the MTA had sent engineers to speak with businesses; however they were only able to speak with a few. Jonathan Meyer discussed the many challenges brick and mortar businesses face today and the added strain of parking removal. An unnamed individual discussed the City's lack of progress on several transportation initiatives, such as the Transit First Policy. Mr. Patel discussed the negative impacts of losing the white zone in front of his Lombard Street hotel. Mari Eliza discussed workers' commute workers into the city and retail businesses' recently declining revenue.

Motion: Commissioner Dooley made a motion to write the letter requesting delay of the SFMTA's final decision pending a formal presentation at the Small Business Commission.

2nd: Commissioner Yee Riley.

Aye: All in favor.

Nay: None.

Absent: Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena.

Motion passed 6-0, 1 absent.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding Survey to Small Business regarding SB50 outcomes (Discussion and Possible Action Item)

Director Dick-Endrizzi reviewed a survey-in-progress regarding the positive and negative effects, and the economic impact of Super Bowl 50 and the Super Bowl City.

The Commissioners discussed who the survey would be sent to, how it would be formatted, the possibility of hosting the response via the portal, and how best to get the word out to neighborhood organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, and a possible press release.

Public comment: No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion: Commissioner Dooley made a motion for the Executive Director to finalize and publish the survey, working with President Dwight and Vice President Adams.

2nd: Commissioner Tour-Sarkissian.

Aye: All in favor.

Nay: None.

Absent: Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena.

Motion passed 6-0, 1 absent.

7. Director's Report (Discussion Item)

Director Dick-Endrizzi provided updates on hiring, staffing, and office space related to the Commission, Small Business Acceleration Team (SBAT), Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and Legacy Business Program. Next week the Budget and Finance Committee will hear Supervisor Wiener's item and Supervisor Tang's ADA legislation. The Director mentioned revisiting discussion of a logo for the office from a couple years ago, thanked Commissioner Dwight for working on this, and noted that the staff await his approval on new ideas. The Director congratulated Commissioners Dwight, Yee Riley and Ortiz-Cartagena for their reappointments.

Public comment: No members of the public requested to speak.

8. President's Report (Discussion Item)

None.

Public comment: No members of the public requested to speak.

9. Vice President's Report (Discussion Item)

The Vice President will be attending a Working Solutions breakfast tomorrow with President Dwight and Director Dick-Endrizzi. He reported that the Castro Street Farmers' Market opens on Wednesday at 4 PM, at the same location, on Noe between Beaver and Market Streets, and it runs from daylight savings week to the week before Christmas every year.

10. **Commissioner Reports (Discussion Item)**

Commissioner Dooley has been working with someone in North Beach who is trying to open a bakery. The amount of confusion between what is required, and what isn't, is astounding. Commissioner Dooley suggested that a contact list be created and included with the checklist for opening a new business, in the Portal. Commissioner Dwight agreed that there is a lot of collective wisdom for new business owners to access, and that the Commission could make this easier.

Commissioner Zouzounis is meeting with constituents in regard to health code around tobacco sales, and reminded the Commission that implementation of a sector- or industry-based information section in the Portal was something the Commission wanted to do. She noted that limousine and taxi drivers are considered small business owners, and that would be a good information session to plan with MTA.

Commissioner Riley attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayor and small business groups. It was a planning session; a facilitator identified all the issues and prioritized them. They are looking for people to participate in areas we need to work on. One of the big ones is SFMTA.

11. **General Public Comment (Discussion Item)**

An unnamed individual discussed the artificial divide created between merchants and neighbors that result mainly from accounting purposes even though the two groups agree most of the time.

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

Commissioner Dwight reiterated that the Commission was ready to start industry and/or sector-specific forums, possibly with the two groups that Commissioner Zouzounis pointed out, those affected by tobacco laws and those affected by transportation issues, namely individual proprietors of limousines and taxis.

The Commission will also work on generating a contact list by reaching out to local neighborhood and merchant associations, to assist new business owners, and to be added to the Portal, as suggested by Commissioner Dooley.

13. **Adjournment (Action Item)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.