



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DANIEL L. LURIE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
KATY TANG, DIRECTOR

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 23, 2025 4:30 P.M.

City Hall, Room 416, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Cynthia Huie, President; Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;
Ron Benitez; Dimitri Cornet; Lawanda Dickerson; Rachel Herbert; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm

Present: Benitez, Cornet, Dickerson, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

President Huie requested to take Item 12, Director's Report, first.

Item 12: Director's Report

Sarah Dennis-Phillips, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, spoke to the Commission to note that she is taking over the role of Planning Director and that Anne Taupier is the new Director of OEWD. Item was continued.

2. Approval of Legacy Business Registry Applications and Resolutions (Discussion and Action Item)

Richard Kurylo, Legacy Business Program Manager, Office of Small Business presented the following Legacy Business Registry applications:

- a. Haystack Pizza
- b. Kilowatt
- c. Mo's Grill
- d. O'Keeffe's Bar
- e. Phil's Electric Company
- f. San Francisco Children's Arts Center
- g. Shaws San Francisco
- h. Steppin' Out Dance Studio
- i. Studio on Chestnut
- j. Tokaido Arts
- k. Unity Mutual Benefit Association

Public comment:

- Robert Wei Hsu, Tokaido Arts
- Amy Balsbaugh, SF Children's Art Center
- Tina Kouloulis, Haystack Pizza
- Angela Rose Dorantes, Stepping Out Dance Studio
- Karen Horn, Studio on Chestnut
- Jerome Walker, Unity Mutual Benefit Association
- Austin Wozilicwski, speaking on behalf of Kilowatt
- Angelina Yu, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Chan's office speaking in support of O'Keefe's

Commissioner comment:

Commissioners congratulated all applicants and thanked them for their commitment to SF.

Motion to approve Legacy Business registry applications: Dickerson

2nd: Herbert

Ayes: Benitez, Cornet, Dickerson, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Motion passes 7-0

3. 'State of Small Businesses' Discussion (Discussion Item)

President Huie invited merchant groups to share their presentations about the challenges, priorities, and opportunities in their corridors.

Presenters:

- Jennifer Li, Portola
- Albert Chow, Parkside Merchants Association
- David Heller and Sean Kim, Greater Geary Merchants
- Dontaye Ball, Bayview Merchants
- Chris Squire, Clement Merchants
- Sunny Powers, Haight Ashbury Merchants
- Christin Evans, Small Business Forward
- Laurie Kanes, Bernal Business and Arts Alliance
- MaryMar Keenan, Hayes Valley Merchant Council
- Christopher Faust, Upper Noe Merchants
- Teddy Kramer, Union Street
- Manny Yekutieli, Civic Joy Fund
- Manny Yekutieli, Valencia Merchants
- Laurie Thomas, Golden Gate Restaurant Association
- Susannah Wise, Inner Sunset
- Lakeside Village, Sharone Franzen
- Economic Development on Third
- Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Leland Avenue

Summary of 'State of Small Business' Discussion

June 23, 2025 Small Business Commission

What has been successful

- Events/activations (10)
- Ambassadors (5)
- String lighting (4)
- Grants
 - City funded (4)
 - Avenue Greenlight (4)
 - Civic Joy Fund (2)
- Translation services/translated materials (2)
- Marketing initiatives (2)
- First Year Free (2)

What has been challenging

- Parking – not enough (8)
- Vandalism/Safety (6)
- Lack of foot traffic (4)
- Building/construction/ permitting costs (4)
- Street cleaning (4)
- Business hours – closing too early (3)
- Unhoused community members (2)
- Lack of public restrooms (2)
- Construction projects/new bus lanes – SFMTA (2)
- Activating vacant storefronts (2)
- Street vending (1)
- Insurance
- Tariffs

Opportunities

- Leveraging social media/search engines (4)
- Murals (2)
- Benefits of dedicated paid staff to support merchant groups (2)
- Collaborations with SF Travel (1)
- Wayfinding (from Golden Gate Park into neighborhoods)
- HCSO Reform

(x) indicates how many times the issue was raised by different merchant groups

Herbert: This was a really great format, and very inspiring.

Ortiz-Cartagena: SFMTA needs to come present. So many of the challenges – foot traffic, quality of life, big events, are often out of small business' hands.

Benitez: We need to use chains/formula retail resources into the community – they need to contribute.

Cornet: So many similarities in what we're all experiencing.

Zouzounis: This gives us so many concrete things to follow up on – capacity building and business to business assistance.

Huie: This is great feedback for our Commission to revisit, highlight, and amplify. We can also use the OSB newsletter to help engage merchants. There's content for a merchant toolkit to share what's worked, etc. It's worth highlighting how the Mayor's Permit SF legislation which we'll hear next may support some of the challenges we talked about. I know it's so hard to run a merchant group as well as your own business so it's important to support each other.

President Huie requested to take Item 4-9 together under one presentation, one comment period, and one motion.

Note: Commissioner Dickerson left early.

4. **BOS File 250537 Entertainment Permits (Discussion and Action Item)**
5. **BOS File 250538 Priority Processing for Certain Commercial Uses (Discussion and Action Item)**
6. **BOS File 250539 Existing Awning, Sign, and Gate Amnesty Program; Design Standards for Gates, Railings, and Grillwork (Discussion and Action Item)**
7. **BOS File 250540 Temporary Use Authorizations (Discussion and Action Item)**
8. **BOS File 250541 Cafe Tables and Chairs, Display Merchandise, Appurtenant Building Features, and Sidewalk Shared Spaces (Discussion and Action Item)**
9. **BOS File 250542 Fenestration, Transparency, and Sign Requirements Generally; Sales and Service Uses in the C-3 and RC Districts (Discussion and Action Item)**

Director Tang provided an overview of the Mayor's Permit SF package which will address some ongoing challenges OSB and caseworkers have identified through helping clients. This includes removing excessive permitting requirements, reducing unnecessary Department referrals, and allowing security gates into the Amnesty Program to help additional businesses address complaints.

Commissioner comments:

Zouzounis: for conditional use authorizations, do you have to request the CB3P process, or can you get it automatically? It should be flagged at the Planning counter.

Ortiz-Cartagena: If Calle 24 opts out of CB3P, those businesses can't get expedited processing? Correct. They will not have a guaranteed timely hearing at the planning commission.

Motion in support of Items 4-9, BOS File 250537, 250538, 250539, 250540, 250541 and 250542: Ortiz-Cartagena
2nd: Cornet

Ayes: Benitez, Cornet, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Motion passes 7-0-1 (Dickerson absent)

10. **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Action Item)**

Motion to approve the May 12, 2025 draft meeting minutes: Herbert

2nd: Benitez

Ayes: Benitez, Cornet, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Motion passes 7-0-1 (Dickerson absent)

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

No members requested to speak.

12. **Director's Report (Discussion Item) (Continued from earlier in the meeting)**

Budget season is underway- we have challenging years ahead. There was one proposed personnel reduction in our office. We will have a chance to formally meet OEWD's new Director, Anne Taupier.

13. **Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)**

New openings in the mission: really a team effort of City staff and community to help get 5 vacancies filled. Also want to note that the national environment is really affecting our Latino community. GGRA has some great resources available.

14. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.