

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 8, 2025 4:30 P.M.

City Hall, Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm

Present: Benitez, Cornet, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz- Cartagena, Zouzounis (late)

Absent: Dickerson

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. Catharine Clark Gallery (Application No.: [LBR-2024-25-059](#))
- b. Deitch's Woodwind Workshop (Application No.: [LBR-2024-25-056](#))
- c. Glama-Rama Salon (Application No.: [LBR-2025-26-007](#))
- d. The Hair Place & More Barber Shop (Application No.: [LBR-2023-24-040](#))
- e. The Sword and Rose (Application No.: [LBR-2025-26-013](#))

Public comment:

Debbie Santiago, The Hair Place and More Barber Shop

Mary Travis Allen, Chair of American Indian Cultural District

Sean Anomie, Sword and Rose

Daniel Deitch, Deitch's Woodwind Workshop

Angelina, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Chan in support of Deitch's Woodwind Workshop

Jaguar Rude, Glamarama

Commissioners congratulated applicants and thanked them for their dedication.

Motion to approve Legacy Business Registry applications: Ortiz-Cartagena

2nd: Cornet

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

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed 6-0-1

3. BOS File 251103 – Alcohol Sales in Movie Theaters (Discussion and Action Item)

Lorenzo Rosas, Legislative Director, Supervisor Sherrill explained an ordinance amending the Planning Code to permit on-site wine, beer, and/or liquor sales in Movie Theaters that also operate as Bona Fide Eating Places, and make conforming changes in the Planning Code definitions of Bar and Bona Fide Eating Place uses; permitting certain Movie Theaters in the Upper Fillmore Neighborhood Commercial District to sell wine and/or beer and offer entertainment, cultural, artistic, dramatic, musical, or leisure activities, performances, or exhibitions without being subject to non-residential use size limits otherwise applicable in the District; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: this is a common sense proposal

Zouzounis: we appreciate this

Huie: Are there any lessons learned for other movie theaters? Lorenzo noted that wayfinding is always a challenge. Clay Theater is also exploring general entertainment uses to supplement their business.

Benitez: Hopes retailers near the theater take advantage of evening foot traffic- could be beneficial to them.

Motion to support BOS File 251103: Benitez

2nd: Zouzounis

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

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed 6-0-1

4. Status of the San Francisco Economy: September 2025 Update (Discussion Item)

Ted Egan, Chief Economist, San Francisco Office of the Controller The Commission presented recent data tracking the San Francisco economy and what those trends mean for small businesses. He noted seeing a plateau in the cold office market which is a good thing. Hotels are close to pre-Covid levels. Muni is showing increased signs of recovery but BART is not.

Commissioner comments:

Otiz-Cartagena: how are commercial corridors outside of downtown looking? Generally better than downtown. The US economy is slowing so that's reflected in data.

Huie: There's a hopefulness among merchants – is that warranted? Yes. Some people had excessive pessimism and that's letting go.

Huie: National news shows prices going up everywhere? Yes, housing is the main difference in cost of living and in SF it's come down a bit whereas everywhere else it's rising.

Ortiz-Cartagena: can we expect an economic boost from World Cup and Superbowl? Yes. Ancillary spending will help.

Huie: is there a way to measure grant impacts? We could look at quarterly sales tax data.

5. San Francisco Public Library Small Business Center Overview (Discussion Item)

Julianne Randolph, Small Business Librarian presented the resources available to small businesses through the San Francisco Public Library's Small Business Center.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: SFPL is great to work with – lot's of energy.

Cornet: Can entrepreneurs access events online? It depends – some are available.

Huie: Are there books for young entrepreneurs? Not particular resources for youth, but general ones.

Benitez: Our business started with library resources/help.

Zouzounis: Are there archive docs? Yes, meeting agendas, etc. available in the govt. info center.

Public comment:

Calli, from Clecha. SFPL has great programs and support for small businesses.

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

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Cornet

2nd: Benitez

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

Absent: Dickerson

Motion passed 6-0-1

7. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)

No members of the public requested to speak.

8. Director's Report (Discussion Item)

Director Tang announced PermitSF day 300 updates including special events website. There is legislation for new Entertainment Zones, and a proposal for interim zoning controls for Lab Uses in PDR 1-G.

Huie: Can we measure impact of Entertainment Zones? Maybe through sales tax data.

9. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Huie: Have any of you seen overhead costs increasing?

Commissioners noted insurance rates are soaring, utility costs as well such as Recology and PG&E. Supplies like hair color and shampoo, proteins, retail items. Cost of shipping is also going up.

Huie: what would it take to make SF a late night city? Safety. Better BART and MUNI activations, markets for emerging businesses and holiday markets, extending alcohol to 4am, retail events.

Zouzounis requested presentations from CBDs.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned in honor of Ricardo Pena.