



Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Task Force on Commission Reform,

San Francisco's small, independently owned "mom and pop" shops are the heart and soul of our commercial corridors — they define the character, vibrancy, and diversity that make our neighborhoods so special. Behind every small business is an owner whose success depends on dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to their community.

The proposals currently under consideration that would weaken, destabilize, or remove the Small Business Commission (SBC) from the City Charter are, in our view, unacceptable. The SBC is one of the few remaining independent voices that truly represents the grit and determination of small business owners in San Francisco.

Removing the SBC from the Charter risks isolating this vital advocate for the health and vibrancy of our commercial corridors. Equally concerning is the suggestion to eliminate commission seat qualifications and its oversight authority over the Office of Small Business. These provisions exist to ensure that real small business experience informs city policy — and that leadership remains accountable to the community it serves.

While we are fortunate to have capable and dedicated leadership in the office of Small Business, there is no guarantee that will always be the case. The institutional safeguards that preserve the independence and authority of the Small Business Commission are essential to protecting the long-term interests of small businesses citywide.

If the intent of this reform is to strengthen transparency and accountability, these proposals do the opposite — they risk silencing the small business voice at a time when it is needed most.

The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations (SFCDMA) strongly urges city leaders to:

- Keep the Small Business Commission in the City Charter
- Maintain its authority and oversight role in key decisions
- Preserve seat qualifications to ensure that commissioners have real small business experience

Sincerely,

Timothy Omi

President of The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Association