

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026 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 4:31pm.

Present: Benitez, Cornet, Fisher, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

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. Billiard Palacade (Application: [LBR-2024-25-037](#))
- b. Carlos Ausejo Taxes & Bookkeeping Ltd. (Application: [LBR-2025-26-036](#))
- c. Frameline (Application: [LBR-2025-26-037](#))
- d. Horseshoe Tavern (Application: [LBR-2025-26-035](#))
- e. Los Planes de Renderos (Application: [LBR-2024-25-038](#))
- f. Only in San Francisco (Application: [LBR-2025-26-038](#))
- g. Philosophers Club (Application: [LBR-2015-16-076](#))
- h. Silver Cloud (Application: [LBR-2018-19-011](#))
- i. Would You Believe (Application: [LBR-2024-25-064](#))

Public comment:

Billiard Palacade supporter

Megan Weaver, Horseshoe Tavern

Carlos Ausejo, Carlos Ausejo Taxes and Bookkeeping Ltd

David Furby, Only in SF

Angelina Yu, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Chan in support of Would You Believe

Alfred De Leon, Billiard Palacade

Justin Fritz, Philosophers Club

Leonardo Flores. in support of Billiard Palacade (translation provided by Clecha)

Commissioners congratulated the applicants.

Motion to approve Legacy Business Registry applications: Ortiz-Cartagena

2nd: Benitez

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

Motion passes 6-0

3. BOS File 260361 – Smoke Free Places (Discussion and Action Item)

Jen Low, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Melgar presented an Ordinance amending the Health Code to prohibit smoking in outdoor patios of bars and taverns; and eliminating exceptions allowing indoor smoking in bars with no employees, bars with historically compliant semi-enclosed smoking rooms, and hotel rooms, to conform to provisions of California law.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: We should let the free market regulate this. What feedback have you heard on this proposal?
Jen clarified that the coalition of advocates supporting this have done most of the outreach. Approximately 500 bars and taverns will be impacted.

Huie: What data do we have on the complaints associated with these patios in SF? Jen would look into it.

Cornet: Clarified that several of the provisions such as owner operated bars are now not allowed per state code. Noted that businesses should be able to choose whether they allow outdoor smoking. This would be a strain on businesses who may have to monitor front entryways.

Benitez: In places that have already implemented this, how did the businesses fare? Jen clarified there is no data yet.

Zouzounis: What's enforcement like? Jen noted it's complaint based.

Ortiz-Cartagena: Understands the intent, but this feels like another regulation for small businesses. Really would be helpful to see data on complaints.

Public comment:

Bob Gordon, in support

John Maa, in support

Liz Williams, Americans for Non Smokers Rights, in support

Liz Hendrick, American Cancer Society, in support

Stephen Torres, in opposition

John, Azucar Lounge, in opposition

Motion to not support this legislation: Cornet

2nd: Zouzounis

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

Motion passes (6-0)

4. BOS File 260281 – Cannabis Cafes (Discussion and Action Item)

Sophie Marie, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mandelman and Ben Van Houten, Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Ray Law, Office of Cannabis, presented an Ordinance amending the Health, Planning, Police, and Business and Tax Regulations Codes to establish a new permit type for cannabis cafés to be administered by the Office of Cannabis that will authorize the permittee to sell cannabis and cannabis products only for consumption on the premises of the café; exempt cannabis cafés from the prohibition on smoking in business establishments; eliminate the prohibition on establishments with a cannabis consumption permit requiring employees to enter a designated smoking room as a condition of employment; exempt cannabis cafés in certain circumstances from the 600-foot buffer rule that applies to cannabis retail establishments; restrict eligibility for cannabis café permits for one year to businesses that currently hold a cannabis storefront retailer permit or that have the same owners as such a business; require Equity Applicants that apply for a cannabis café permit to pay the \$2,000 application fee, any permit amendment processing costs, and the \$3,000 license fee for the first year of operation, associated with the cannabis café permit; 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 public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.

Public comment:

Liz Williams, Americans for Non Smokers Rights, in opposition

Liz Hendrick, American Cancer Society, in opposition

Commissioner comment:

Fisher: What's ventilation like? Will this impact surrounding neighborhoods? This would allow consumption indoors only. DPH has ventilation requirements already in place that would need to be followed.

Cornet: Great step in the right direction.

Ortiz-Cartagena: What are the different types of consumption? Consuming prepackaged cannabis, opening prepared cannabis products, and smoking.

Zouzounis: Does Office of Cannabis still have a queue of applications? No. They've cleared the backlog of applications.

Benitez: Current retailers want 5 year runway? Yes. But this proposal includes a 1 year allowance for them to pull permits before new operators.

Motion to support this legislation: Cornet

2nd: Zouzounis

Aye: Benitez, Cornet, Fisher, Ortiz-Cartagena, Zouzounis

Nay: Huie

Motion passes (5-1)

5. BOS File 260359 – Lithium-Ion Battery Ban (Discussion and Action Item)

Samantha Logan, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mahmood presented an Ordinance amending the San Francisco Fire Code to prohibit the sale, offer, and delivery of lithium-ion batteries and replacement lithium-ion batteries that do not meet specified certification requirements, to any address within San Francisco; establish enforcement processes, and penalties for violations; authorize the City Attorney to seek injunctive and monetary relief and attorneys' fees; and authorize the Fire Department to implement the restriction through rules, forms, and guidance.

Commissioner comments:

Fisher: Huge proponent of this

Ortiz-Cartagena: How do you regulate online sales? This is a new area of regulation.

Zouzounis: This seems most applicable to individuals, not small businesses. It's anti-poor since so many low-income communities rely on ebikes and scooters. Samantha clarified this is aimed to target people who sell these batteries.

Motion to support this legislation with a recommendation to explore programs to mitigate inequities for communities who cannot afford certified batteries: Fisher

2nd: Cornet

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

Motion passes (6-0)

6. BOS File 260294 – Temporary Street Use Permits and Closures (Discussion and Action Item)

Ben Van Houten, Office of Economic and Workforce Development presented an Ordinance amending Division I of the Transportation Code to authorize the Director of Transportation to approve temporary street use permits under certain circumstances; amending the Administrative Code to authorize the Director of Transportation to approve certain street closures proposed by Community Benefits Districts under the Downtown Entertainment Event Activation Program; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Commissioner comment:

Huie: Is there a rubric for event approvals? All approvals would still be required by the various departments.

Cornett: Would this expedite wait time? Hard to say specific amount of time this would save.

Benitez: We see an overflow effect from street events into our small businesses, which is great.

Ortiz-Cartagena: This is great

Motion to support this legislation: Ortiz-Cartagena

2nd: Benitez

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

Motion passes (6-0)

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

Motion to approve 3.23.26 meeting minutes: Cornet

2nd: Fisher

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

Motion passes (6-0)

8. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)

No members of the public requested to speak.

9. Director's Report (Discussion Item)

Director Tang reviewed Small Business Week activities and encouraged Commissioners to attend.

10. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Huie: May 8th is Chinatown Night Market. On Waverly will be having Mahjong Tables going.

Ortiz-Cartagena Sunday Streets in the Excelsior is coming up

Zouzounis: I've seen increased enforcement from USDA enforcing CalFresh retailers.

Benitez: Divisadero is still trying to coordinate a merchant group.

Cornet: Roosters in the Mission is hoping to move/expand.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.