
Legislative Review: BOS File No. 250537 – Entertainment Permits
Name: Mayor Lurie
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

Legislative Overview: This ordinance would amend the Police Code to reduce permit processing times for nighttime and entertainment uses.

Legislative Intent:

The legislation will reduce permit processing timelines for nighttime and entertainment uses by eliminating the routing of permits to certain departments where the review is not relevant to entertainment permits and is otherwise redundant.

1. Extended Hours and Place of Entertainment Permits would no longer need to be reviewed by the Department of Building Inspection.
2. Limited Live Performance and Fixed Place Amplified Sound permits would no longer need to be reviewed by the Planning Department.

The legislation will reduce costs for events and venues by:

3. Restructuring the permit filing fee for One Time Outdoor Amplified Sound permits (events with more than four hours of amplified sound), going from a tiered fee to a flat fee.
4. Eliminating the permit requirement for ball or ring throwing games, dance halls, and masked balls.
5. Clarifying that nonprofit and neighborhood organizations are eligible for permit fee waivers for One Time Event and One Time Outdoor Amplified Sound permits if the event is free and open to the public and the filing fee is more than 25% of the total projected budget for the event.
6. The legislation will align the Police Code with modern sound measurement standards and best practices.

Background, Issues, and Considerations

Who benefits from or will be burdened by your proposal (geographically, ethnically, linguistically)?
What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

- This legislation improves permit processing times for nightlife and entertainment uses which saves businesses time and reduces costs.

What was the development process of this proposal? Whose input have you sought out? What feedback did you hear and did you incorporate it into this proposal? If not, why not?

- This legislation was developed in partnership with the Entertainment Commission and nighttime/entertainment business owners.

Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance?

- This proposal is not punitive.

Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?

- These permitting reforms will benefit all businesses who operate nighttime and entertainment uses.