
Legislative Review: BOS File No. 250539 – Existing Awning, Sign, and Gate Amnesty Program; Design Standards for Gates, Railings, and Grillwork
Name: Mayor Lurie
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Land Use and Transportation Committee

Legislative Overview: The legislation adds security gates as part of the City’s existing amnesty program for awnings and signs. The legislation will also ease the City’s transparency requirements for security gates, allowing them to be 100% non-transparent. Historic Buildings would still be required to adhere to the 75% transparency requirement.

Legislative Intent:

Currently, the City requires that security gates have 75% transparency, which has been challenging for businesses. Businesses with existing security gates also want a path to get permits for their existing gates.

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?

- Many existing storefronts have unpermitted security gates that new tenants are unaware of. Creating a pathway for amnesty for existing security gates allows longtime businesses to more easily come into code compliance.

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 is the result from feedback from businesses who expressed frustration at the ambiguity of the existing design guidelines for security gates. Additionally, many businesses have received complaints for existing gates installed potentially decades ago and need a pathway toward compliance.

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

- This proposal is not punitive. It creates a path for compliance with the Building Code and Planning Code.

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

- This legislation impacts/benefits all businesses citywide.