

Stephen Torres
Mission District
San Francisco, California 94110

July 28, 2025

The San Francisco Small Business Commission
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California. 94102

Good afternoon President Huie and Small Business Commissioners,

I am writing to you today on Item No. 3, 4, and 5 of today's agenda.

Pertaining to Item No. 3, I am concerned with removing the controls and limitations on the Third District Commercial Corridors identified as they have helped to preserve and sustain the unique character of its neighborhoods and small businesses.

In a recent zoning change allowing for formula retail and corporate commercial presence on Van Ness, it was cited that this zoning change made sense because of the large footprints of newly constructed and renovated retail space on that corridor because large corporations are the only entities that can sustain these spaces. And, yet, even as the City makes multiple assertions to how much it wishes to support small businesses, it has found another way to instead support the encroachment of large formula retail. Furthermore, this zoning consolidation strips additional protections small businesses will need in the coming years, like historic preservation.

Similarly, in regards to Items 4 & 5. Please do not confer approval or legitimacy upon the Housing Choice Plan until it contains the protections for residents and small business owners alike that would make it sustainable for both. As a former commissioner, all of us speak to the delicate ecosystem of residential and commercial and how key it is to preserve that balance to maintain San Francisco's inimitable character and draw for people from all over the world. This plan contains none of the nuance or legal protections required to maintaining that same balance that is crucial to the future of residents, small business owners and blue collar workers nightlife like myself.

Please do not vote to endorse any of these and open the majority of our city up to the decimation of real estate speculation that we have seen decimate legacy neighborhoods in the southeast.

Sincerely,

Stephen Torres
D9 Worker and Resident