

Dear Supervisor Preston and staff,

We are very sorry we are unable to honor your request to defer the Affordable Housing Authorization measure. Our committee is often left in this dilemma because of our mission that everything must be completed 85 days prior to the election. Many times, as is the case this session, we are faced with many difficult measures to consider and have ready for the Voter Information Pamphlet. Some are still in the stage that yours is in.

In deference to your concerns, I will defer the reconsideration hearing until a week from Friday. That should allow the BofS to complete the passage of the measure and, if any changes occur or you have problems with our digest wording, we can take them up on reconsideration as we complete the final draft for the VIP.

I hope you understand the stress and complexities involved with our committee and how difficult it is to have to work around the dates mandated. In the past we have often spent an entire day plus reconsideration time only to have the measure pulled at the very last minute. While that might seem a waste of time, it is necessary that we do spend this amount of time on a measure in order to have it fully discussed and allow the voter to make an informed decision. If we had to leave it until the end and not be able to have a thorough discussion or a reconsideration, both the measure and the voter would suffer. Unfortunately, while last minute considerations are often necessary, they just can't get the consideration and discussion that they deserve. We do not want to see that happen to your important measure.

In addition to our normal time problems, this session has proven totally different with each of us on the committee (four) having to work from home as well as our clerk and deputy city attorney also virtual.

Thank you very much for your concern. We look forward to having you and/or your staff as part of the discussion both today and a week from Friday. It is our committee's earnest hope that we give every measure on the ballot the necessary time involved in order to allow the voter the ability to make an informed decision. And that is the reason your measure is slated for discussion on Wednesday, July 22.

Sincerely,

Betty Packard, Chair
Ballot Simplification Committee