
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 14, 2022, 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**

Present: Laguana, Zouzounis, Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena

Staff present: Director Katy Tang, Commission Secretary Kerry Birnbach

President Laguana read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

The Small Business Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land, and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

President Laguana gave a special acknowledgement of the passing of former Commissioner Kathleen Dooley.

2. **Presentation on Urban Crime, Community Investment, and Policing (Discussion Item)**

Patrick Sharkey, Professor of Sociology/Public Affairs, The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs presented research to the Commission regarding the role police and community groups play in crime reduction. He noted histories of disinvestment leading to rising violence which lead to a reliance on police. He found that community groups have a definitive role in decreasing crime through providing services, jobs, addiction treatment, etc.

Commissioner questions:

Laguana: How sensitive are factors like summer jobs to crime? Small businesses are the largest employer. Huge opportunity. Prof Sharkey: Quick results depend on the impact of the community orgs.

Laguana: Is there a good police to population ratio? Prof Sharkey: No clear threshold. But we know that dismantling the police will lead to increases in violence. It's about effectiveness of the police, not the number.

Carter: What's the research on impact of blight/business improvement districts? Prof Sharkey: BIDs have shown to decrease violence. Blight represents a retreat from public space so crime increases.

Laguana: Are there measurable impacts of the movement to bring outdoor dining into public space?

Prof Sharkey: not yet.

Huie: Is there a timeframe for seeing results in communities? Prof Sharkey: depends.

Huie: Wanted to know if there are case studies we could reference to see various impacts?

Ortiz-Cartagena: This info helps build the case for funding nonprofits.

Zouzounis: This goes back to question of how we regulate public space in terms of who we want where.

Prof. Sharkey: There is a case study called 5 days with no cops, and it was an experiment to see how the community could activate public space.

Public Comment:

Anne Cervantes – noted the importance of ‘invisible space’ as a concept of public safety.

3. **Welcome Tiffany Carter to the Small Business Commission (Discussion Item)**

Commissioners took turns welcoming Tiffany Carter to the Commission.

Public Comment: Janet Tarlov, Legislative Committee Chair of Council of District Merchants Association, introduced the Association.

4. **Resolution Making Findings To Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953(E) (Discussion and Action Item)**

Public Comment: Stephen Cornell, noted trouble following/hearing commission meeting remotely.

Motion to approve by President Laguana

2nd: Dickerson

Aye: Laguana, Zouzounis, Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena

Motion passes unanimously

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

Motion to approve by President Laguana

2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Aye: Laguana, Zouzounis, Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Ortiz-Cartagena

Motion passes unanimously

6. **General Public Comment (Discussion Item)**

Anne Cervantes: urged Commission to allow all architects, not just CASP inspectors, to assist businesses with Accessible Business Program improvements.

7. **Director’s Report (Discussion Item)**

Street vendor legislation passed BoS and we’re tracking implementation. Family Friendly Workplace Ordinance passed the BoS with only one of our amendments requesting technical assistance. Graffiti abatement ordinance is going to BoS without our suggested amendments but we’re still working on this issue. Shared Spaces update to come. New legislation to require SFPD to do community policing plans.

8. **Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)**

Commissioners gave remarks in memory about former Commissioner Kathleen Dooley and Ortiz-Cartagena honored the passing of Mitch Salazar.

Huie went on a neighborhood tour with Supervisors in the Haight and Inner Sunset. Small business survey is coming along. Upcoming meeting on COVID rent relief. Kultivate Labs just gave out 2 grants and developed a great process for the grant program.

Carter mentioned her Black Millionaire Development Program graduate ceremony coming up.

Zouzounis asked about SF Shines grants and Shared Spaces issues.

9. **Adjournment (Action Item)**

President Laguana adjourned the meeting at 6:28pm