
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 11, 2022
4:30 P.M.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Sharky Laguana, President;
Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;
Tiffany Carter, Lawanda Dickerson; Rachel Herbert; Cynthia Huie; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm

Present: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena (late)

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

2. Approval of Legacy Business Registry Applications and Resolutions (Discussion and Action Item)

Richard Kurylo presented six Legacy business applications. The Commission discussed the following applications.

- a. Blazing Saddles Bike Rentals & Tours (Application No.: [LBR-2021-22-022](#))
- b. Café La Bohème (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-008](#))
- c. Club Deluxe (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-012](#))
- d. Hotel Bohème (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-007](#))
- e. Larkins Brothers Tire Company (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-009](#))
- f. Mariposa Hunters Point Yacht Club (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-011](#))

Public Comment:

Steven Adams – speaking in support of Larkin Brothers

Jeff Spiers – Blazing Saddles owner, thanked the Commission for reviewing his application

Marguerita Torez – Yacht Club owner, mentioned the additional community outreach that the business supports including Junior Giants, Mudville.

Saliba Faddohl – La Boheme owner, discussed the importance of the café as an activist meeting spot, a poetry venue, and one of the oldest Mission coffee houses.

Carolyn Monte – CEO of SF Heritage – Supporting Club Deluxe application

Luna – Supporting La Boheme application

Lacey Faddohl – supporting La Boheme application

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena – La Boheme is a beautiful space. Larkin Tires is a great small business.

Commissioner Huie – Family businesses are so important – congratulations to all the businesses.

Commissioner Carter – congratulations

Commissioner Dickerson – congratulations

President Laguana – Special congratulations to Blazing Saddles and La Boheme as small businesses that are key in attracting visitors. Jason and Randy at Larkin Brothers have fixed up cars from his business for years and are great. Club Deluxe is an example of why this program is so important – being part of the Legacy Business Registry was a key part of renegotiating the lease with their landlord.

Motion: Huie 2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Ayes: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

3. BOS File Num. 220970 - Waiver of Permit, License, and Business Registration Fees for Certain Small Businesses (Discussion and Action Item)

Ana Herrera, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Ronen, reviewed Supervisor Ronen’s proposal to extend and expand First Year Free with the following amendments:

- Extend qualifying timeline through June 30, 2023
- Extend gross receipts cap from \$2 million to \$5 million
- Remove the ground floor commercial requirement.

All of these changes will help additional businesses on top of the 1700 that have already benefited from the program.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Huie – Gave example of a woman who wants to start a nut butter company. FYF is a great way to get her more interested in registering in SF.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena – Thanked Supervisor Ronen. It means a lot to small businesses, even the small fees being waived. Thanks to Amanda Fried at TTX.

Commissioner Carter: SF Black Wall Street is grateful for this – it does mean a lot to their cohort.

President Laguana: Some fees are not waivable under this program, so he would like to consider cases where a business that started pre-covid, were on hold, and now want to pay for permits to open can participate in FYF. He spoke with Controller Rosenfield about needing to better understand the total fees universe.

Director Tang: Thanks to Ana and Amanda for continuing this program.

Ana: We’re working with City Attorney on additional amendments.

Public Comments:

Joey Mucha- trying to open an arcade and is in this very predicament that President Laguana described.

Motion to support this legislation: Laguana 2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Ayes: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

4. Draft Rules And Regulations Of The Legacy Business Historic Preservation Fund (Discussion and Action Item)

Richard Kurylo presented amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Legacy Business Historic Preservation Fund – Grants to Landlords, Administrative Code Section 2A.243(c).

Motion to approve: Laguana 2nd: Carter

Ayes: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

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

Motion to approve: Laguana 2nd: Dickerson

Ayes: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

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

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis noted that the original August 22nd meeting minutes omitted the names and opposition to APE regarding the Castro Theatre. The buck needs to stop with President Laguana. It's not fair minutes were prepared without comments of speakers. Those minutes didn't reflect the trauma that the attendees experienced. Glad you corrected the contact. I gave a 150 word written statement at the last meeting but I did not read it into the record.

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Laguana 2nd: Carter

Ayes: Carter, Dickerson, Huie, Laguana, Ortiz-Cartagena

Absent: Herbert, Zouzounis

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

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis: displayed a Bay Area Reporter Article from Oct. 6, 2022 and read the headline "[Castro merchants group declines to endorse Another Planet's theater plans](#)". He believes President Laguana may have lied when he said businesses supported APE. He noted that the Commission needs to address what happened on Aug. 22nd and that had the Commission supported APE, they would have been at odds with the Castro merchants. Said President Laguana should resign because he submitted an undated resignation letter to the Mayor. President Laguana also misspoke that APE is having town hall meetings – they had one. APE received a six month continuation from the Historic Preservation Commission. He has waited since January to have APE's proposal considered. In those six months we won't have folks coming there and spending money. If you would like to make amends, put this item back on the agenda and ask small businesses of Castro to explain why they rejected APE's proposal. Submitted a [written statement](#) for the record.

Commissioner Comment: President Laguana clarified the pronunciation of his name.

8. **Director's Report (Discussion Item)**

Director Tang gave the following updates:

- The removal of the Legacy Business Registry fee was approved by Board of Supervisors
- Batches of Shared Spaces Compliance Advisories will be going out throughout the week.
- OSB published two new starter guides to assist people in hosting a street event or temporary event/pop-up. Nov 1 is the date to submit an application; March 2023 is when operators need to be fully in compliance.
- The Governor signed legislation to ensure that local jurisdictions continue to get funding for disability access funds.
- Noted that there is a proposal from Supervisor Safai's office to exempt rolling gate transparency requirements for existing businesses. The Commission will have a chance to hear that legislation.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena - Pop up guides and street vendor flyers are super helpful and people can actually understand them.

Commissioner Carter: Tallios coffee/tea opened on Third St.

Commissioner Huie: Thanks for the guides – very helpful. She just finished up an event on Clement Street and we need more guides that explain in very simple terms how to navigate the city. People are so hungry for these events.

9. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena: Our Commission has an equity subcommittee. Do we get updates from other Departments on what they are doing? Would like to hear from TTX, SFMTA, etc. Planning is doing a great job. Our Dept is doing a great job. Let's hold other depts. Accountable.

- Director Tang noted that Office of Racial Equity may be best at addressing this so we could invite them to present.

Commissioner Huie – simple language on forms and websites is so key. Asked how the Commission could support the vacancy mitigation work.

- Director Tang: we are in the process of hiring a data specialist.

President Laguana: Survey is out and we're doing a final push to get to 1000 respondents.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena – wanted to know who else we could hear from regarding economic indicators and less focus on where we are now, but predictions about what's to come. Need to get additional points of view from outside City economists.

- Commissioner Huie noted that there have been some organizations and groups – like Asset Funders-trying to track impacts on BIPOC businesses and we should revisit.

Commissioner Ortiz-Cartagena – requested to adjourn the meeting in honor of Raul Tio Hernandez, mission District native.

Commissioner Huie – survey outreach thus far has been successful. Over 700 so far.

President Laguana – ALLOut SF – day 2 is organized flash mobs to go to small businesses. Sign up and join a flash mob. Commissioner Huie is a Captain.

10. Meeting adjourned in honor of Raul Tio Hernandez.