

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 8, 2023, 4:30 P.M.
City Hall, Room 408, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

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

1. Call to order and roll call

Meeting called to order at 4:37pm

Present: Dickerson, Herbert, Huie, Zouzounis

Absent: Carter, Ortiz-Cartagena

Welcome to Commissioner Tricia Gregory. Commissioner Gregory joined the meeting but did not participate in voting on action items.

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

The Commission approved Legacy Business Registry applications for Maitri Compassionate Care (Application No.: [LBR-2017-18-014](#)), Ng Hing Kee Inc. (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-039](#)) Pirro's Pizzeria (Application No.: [LBR-2022-23-030](#)).

Public comment:

2 commenters in support of Ng Hing Kee

Yan Wah Ng, owner of Ng Hing Kee

Jackie Thornill, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mandelman, in support of Maitri Compassionate Care

Corrine Pusawong, owner of Pirro's Pizzeria

Commissioner comments:

Dickerson/Huie: congratulations

Motion to approve resolutions: Dickerson

2nd: Herbert

Ayes: Dickerson, Herbert, Huie, Zouzounis

Absent: Carter, Ortiz-Cartagena

3. Downtown Economic Recovery Update (Discussion Item)

Katherine Daniel, Director, Economic Recovery Initiatives, Office of Economic and Workforce Development talked about initiatives to revitalize downtown San Francisco and the roadmap to economic recovery.

- 3 main factors impacting activity downtown – low office attendance, drop in tourism, general outmigration during COVID.
- 43% of SF small businesses were based in downtown pre-COVID.
- Mayor has paused tax increases for industries greatly impacted by pandemic. Mayor has also offered 3 year tax discount for businesses choosing to locate in SF

Commissioner comments:

Herbert: What type of federal funding is available? Some federal dollars are for things like transit assistance, but no general recovery focused dollars. SF used most ARPA funds for homelessness services. NYC used ARPA funds for branding campaigns and incentives to boost tourism.

What type of businesses are we hoping will come to SF? Non-tech office like healthcare, green energy,

Gregory: Establishing requirements for local construction contracts as we rebuild is a great way to support the local economy.

Zouzounis: There are lots of small businesses in downtown who are not part of merchant groups – how do we engage them?

Dickerson: We have everything we need to rebuild SF already right here. We've tried getting outsiders and doing tech, now we need to expand what's here.

Huie: Community events like Holi are great – drawing in the local neighborhood residents to give downtown it's own identity. Also need to reconsider transit improvements – instead of focusing on bus route speeds, could we do less costly interventions like music or art on bus platforms?

Herbert: How do we activate BART? Underground commerce?

Zouzounis: Market street focus should be on empowering existing merchants.

Huie: We could explore what education orgs are in downtown – could we enhance with childcare? There are lots of existing colleges.

Public comment:

Janet Tarlov, Glen Park Merchants Assoc and CDMA: we need HCSO reform because it really hurts small businesses.

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

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Dickerson

2nd: Herbert

Ayes: Dickerson, Herbert, Huie, Zouzounis

Absent: Carter, Ortiz-Cartagena

5. General Public Comment (Discussion Item)

No members of the public requested to speak

6. Director's Report (Discussion Item)

Director Tang reviewed Small Business Week events, the launch of Civic Joy Fund.

7. Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)

Zouzounis: Small Property Owners Assoc sent a newsletter about challenge in getting insurance for brick and mortar spaces. Also wanted to know if there was a small business connection to the City's Sister City program

Huie: Welcomed Commissioner Gregory

Gregory: Wants to discuss construction and how to assist black and brown communities. Also interested in HCSO as it pertains to union work.

Public Comment: 1 commenter spoke about LBE program.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.