



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
DIRECTOR KATY TANG

June 5, 2023

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: BOS File No. 230447 – Existing Awning Amnesty Program - SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On May 22, 2023 the Small Business Commission (the Commission) heard BOS File 230447 – Existing Awning Amnesty Program. The ordinance establishes a simplified permitting process for unpermitted commercial awnings and waives permitting fees associated with coming into compliance.

Over the past several months, the City has received almost 200 complaints regarding unpermitted commercial awnings. As a result, business and property owners have received complaints and Notices of Violation, and been instructed to get appropriate permits. This amnesty program facilitates that process without requiring businesses to get professional, costly drawings of their existing awnings. It also waives penalty fees and permit fees. The amnesty program will be available to businesses through June 1, 2024, giving businesses ample time to work with the City to address any safety concerns.

The Commission voted unanimously to support this legislation. The Commission supports policies that pursue proactive compliance as an alternative to punitive enforcement, and this proposal furthers that goal.

The Commission commends Mayor London Breed, Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, the Department of Building Inspection and the Planning Department for their work to develop a reasonable path forward to help small businesses. Thank you for considering the Commission's recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Tang".

Katy Tang
Director, Office of Small Business