



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
KATY TANG, DIRECTOR

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, June 26, 2023  
4:30 P.M.

City Hall, Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS**

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

**1. Call to order and roll call**

Meeting called to order at 4:32pm.

Present: Dickerson, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz Cartagena (late), Zouounis

Absent: Carter

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

The Commission reviewed the following Legacy Business Registry applications:

- a. Simple Pleasures Café
- b. South Beach Yacht Club
- c. Swensen's of San Francisco, Inc.

**Public comment:**

Kelly Groth, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Chan, in support for Simple Pleasures Café

Dalia Riggo, daughter of Simple Pleasures Café owners

Diana Riggo, Owner of Simple Pleasures Café

Steve Caperelli, customer in support of Simple Pleasures Café

Dave Shryer, in support of Simple Pleasures Café

Robin, neighbor in support of Simple Pleasures Café

Jim Laughlin, owner of Swensons

**Commissioner comments:**

Ortiz-Cartagena – this is SF. The national media should feature this.

Herbert – Congratulations

Dickerson – remembers going to Swensons as a kid. Loved hearing from kids about their parents being their heroes.

Zouzounis – loves seeing fellow family-owned businesses

Gregory – congratulations

Huie – thanks for sharing these stories

Motion to approve Legacy Business Registry Applications: Dickerson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Herbert

Ayes: Dickerson, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz Cartagena (late), Zouounis

Absent: Carter

Motion passes 6-0-1

### 3. **Office of Small Business Budget Update (Discussion Item)**

Sarah Dennis Phillips, Executive Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Katy Tang, Director, Office of Small Business presented OEWD and OSB budgets and program priorities.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena – welcome. OSB provides a huge return on investment.

Zouzounis – asked for clarification on joint development (public private development agreements) and community economic development (corridors on the ground, like SF Shines), and community recovery resource hubs (created through COVID to support public health outreach and support for economic hardships).

Gregory – Flagged that local contractors get ignored in federally funded projects – they are not required to source locally so it would be good to strengthen language around requirements. Treasure Island, for example, asks that LBRs be considered first. Mission Rock did a great job at local hiring.

Ortiz-Cartagena – resource hubs saved our community. Clecha/Small business incubation came out of the hubs.

Zouzounis – asked about the two mayoral proposals going to BOS during budget process: Director Dennis Phillips clarified that one addresses the challenge of subleasing because subleases get taxed twice, and the other is a gross receipts tax holiday for certain industries.

Huie – we want to be involved in the future of the City – how can we work better with more departments?

Director Dennis Phillips: agreed. OEWD needs to support the convening of various departments.

### 4. **BOS File 230664 Waiver of Permit, License, and Business Registration Fees for Certain Small Businesses (Discussion and Action Item)**

The Commission reviewed an ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to waive, retroactively to July 1, 2023, certain first-year permit, license, and business registration fees for specified small businesses that newly form or that open a new location; and refunding any waived fees that have been paid to the City.

Katy Tang, Director, Office of Small Business, presented the legislation. It's helped 4,000 businesses and waived \$1.4 million. Under budget discussions, but will likely be renewed at least one year.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena – huge return on investment!

Motion to recommend support for BOS file 230664: Ortiz-Cartagena

2<sup>nd</sup>: Dickerson

Ayes: Dickerson, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz Cartagena (late), Zouounis

Absent: Carter

Motion passes 6-0-1

### 5. **BOS File 230701 Citywide Expansion of Allowable Commercial, Restaurant, and Retail Uses (Discussion and Action Item)**

The Commission will hear and possible take action on an ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) permit additional commercial, retail, and restaurant uses on the ground floor in certain neighborhood commercial districts (NCDs) and residential districts; 2) principally permit Flexible Retail on the ground floor in NCDs and Chinatown mixed use districts; 3) create Professional Services as a use category that may provide services to the public and businesses and delete Non-Retail Professional Service and Retail Professional Service use subcategories; 4) create regulations for music entertainment venues and non-profit theaters distinct from regulations for Bars; 5) allow Limited Corner Commercial Uses in certain residential districts; 6) conditionally permit Formula Retail and Restaurant uses in certain commercial districts; 7) amend Section 311 to remove neighborhood notice requirements for changes of use in the Eastern Neighborhoods mixed use districts; 8) expand business types that qualify for the Planning Department priority review program; 9) clarify that multiple

allowable uses may co-locate on one site; 10) clarify and modify various other use regulations and processes; 11) establish a process to legalize certain unpermitted outdoor activity areas including restaurant patios; 12) permit additional retail and non-retail uses in specified NCDs. Katy Tang, Director, Office of Small Business presented the legislation.

Commissioner Herbert - amazing work. All of the restaurants she opened took a year. Also wants to revisit liquor license moratorium.

Ortiz-Cartagena – there are so many unnecessary codes.

Zouzounis – will this change any regulations or onsite liquor or offsite liquor? No, this changes planning code, not any liquor license rules.

Huie – amazing work. Not sure how you do it.

Motion to recommend support for BOS file 230701: Dickerson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Herbert

Ayes: Dickerson, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz Cartagena (late), Zouounis

Absent: Carter

Motion passes 6-0-1

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

Motion to approve draft meeting minutes: Ortiz-Cartagena

2<sup>nd</sup>: Dickerson

Ayes: Dickerson, Gregory, Herbert, Huie, Ortiz Cartagena (late), Zouounis

Absent: Carter

Motion passes 6-0-1

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

No members of the public requested to speak

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

Major updates were already discussed during previous agenda items.

#### 9. **Commissioner Discussion and New Business (Discussion Item)**

Gregory – what happened with Awning Waiver Program in May – did many people use it? Director Tang will follow up with stats. Awning amnesty? That proposal is still making it's way through the legislative process, and will be implemented in a month.

Herbert – there is so much good work being done.

Zouzounis - recent SFMTA conversations have brought a lot of small businesses out in unison. Recently attended the 50 year anniversary of the Coors labor strike which brought together labor, arab-american grocers, small business, etc.

Ortiz-Cartagena – media never highlights the successes we have.

Dickerson – U3Fit recently held annual retreat; 50 people came. Everyone grieved loss of a loved one and through those conversations they were able to heal and address trauma.

Huie – RAMS community roadtrip is underway.

#### 10. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm