



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

July 9, 2019

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. 190417 – Environmental Code – Checkout Bag Charge; Recyclable or Compostable Pre-Checkout Bags

Small Business Commission Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (BOS): **Approval with recommendation**

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On June 24, 2019 the Small Business Commission (SBC or the Commission) heard BOS File No. 190417 Environmental Code – Checkout Bag Charge; Recyclable or Compostable Pre-Checkout Bags. Juan-Carlos Cancino, aide to Supervisor Brown Alexa Kielty with the Department of Environment's Zero Waste Team, and Peter Gallotta, Public Relations and Policy Coordinator with the Department of Environment provided the SBC with an overview of the legislation. The Commission voted unanimously (6-0, with 1 absent) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the legislation. The Commission also made several comments and a suggested recommendation.

The SBC is highly supportive of the legislation's proposed new requirements regarding pre-checkout bags. The Commission is also generally supportive of the overall intent of the ordinance, which is waste and plastic reduction. However, they expressed sincere concern over raising the checkout bag charge from \$0.10 to \$0.25 per bag. Specifically, their concerns were with how the legislation would be enforced and how compliance has been and would be measured, that existing baseline data related to plastic checkout bag use is outdated, that the responsibility for educating customers on new requirements of the ordinance would fall too heavily on retail businesses and that it would be a significant business time-cost, and that online retail entities are not being held to account regarding waste generation.

Responsive to their concerns, the Commission passed a motion in support of the legislation provided that a study be conducted before the Ordinance becomes operative in order to best understand how many consumers presently bring their own bags, and if possible, that a demographic breakdown be provided. This study would, ideally, serve as a new baseline against which the City would be able to measure compliance. While data from neighboring localities and other areas with similar policies is helpful to inform local initiatives, it does not replace baseline data relative to San Francisco specifically.

Thank you for considering the Commission's comments and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Regina Dick-Endrizzi".

Regina Dick-Endrizzi  
Director, Office of Small Business

cc: Vallie Brown, Member, Board of Supervisors,  
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors  
Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Erica Major, Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee