
**SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 10, 2022
4:30 P.M.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

Commissioners Laguana, Zouzounis, Dickerson, Huie, and Ortiz-Cartagena were present.

Staff in attendance: Director Katy Tang, Kerry Birnbach (Senior Policy Analyst)

Commissioner Huie presented the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula, pursuant to Resolution No. 003-2021-SBC.

2. **Welcome to Katy Tang, Executive Director, Office of Small Business (Discussion Item)**

Commissioners welcomed the new Director.

3. **BOS File No. 211151 Public Works Code - Graffiti Abatement - Lifting Suspension of Issuance of Certain Violations; Reinstating Collection of Certain Fees and Fines (Discussion and Action Item)**

Lee Hepner, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Peskin and Jimmer Cassiel, DPW, presented the legislation. Because of the suspension on NOVs, DPW has not been able to conduct enforcement.

Commissioner Ortiz Cartgena pointed out that NOVs have a scary tone and need to be rewritten in an empathetic way. Commissioner Huie noted that enforcement of graffiti abatement should be supportive, not punitive. DPW should rethink the initial contact that occurs and offer help. President Laguana noted that although the NOV goes to property owner, most small businesses have 'triple net leases' which means they are responsible. Jimmer Cassiel explained the noticing process, fines, etc. He reviewed the volunteer graffiti watch program. Commissioner Zouzounis noted that a NOV she had said you'll be court ordered and a lien will be placed if graffiti is not addressed. PW code currently allows DPW to provide paint or cover graffiti at no charge but they don't utilize that option and it's not mentioned in NOV. She also noted other codes require graffiti abatement (such as Deemed Approved Use) and businesses could get double fined. President Laguana noted small businesses are being fined for City's inability to protect them from vandalism. Could we do a small business carveout? Could City cover fee? Lee Hepner explained he was not prepared to answer alternative approaches and he would take those ideas back to Supervisor.

Public comment: Stephen Cornell. Asked if there could be two NOVs – one to property owners and one to small business tenants.

Motion by President Laguana to support legislation pending/contingent upon other recommendations that the Commission discussed.

2nd: Huie

Ayes – Laguana, Zouzounis, Huie, Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena. Motion passes.

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

Motion by President Laguana to approve.

2nd: Dickerson

Ayes – Laguana, Zouzounis, Huie, Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena. Motion passes.

5. **Resolution Affirming the Commission’s Commitment to Racial Equity in the Office of Small Business’ Programs, Policies and Services (Discussion and Action Item)**

Vice President Zouzounis, Chair, Racial Equity Special Committee, introduced Resolution as a way to call out racial equity as a priority. Kerry Birnbach explained it incorporates racial equity into OSB and SBC work. Commissioner Huie noted it’s a good rubric. Also suggested ways to incorporate racial equity evaluations into work moving forward: is this propping up status quo? Are there unintended consequences? Need to ask who was consulted on this idea. Commissioner Dickerson liked the language and was looking forward to specific actions. Vice President Zouzounis noted that EMWG has a good template for actionable items. President Laguana wanted to know what’s next step of Committee, Commission.

No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion by Commissioner Dickerson to approve Resolution.

2nd: President Laguana.

Ayes – Laguana, Zouzounis, Huie, Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena. Motion passes.

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

No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion by President Laguana to approve minutes.

2nd: Ortiz-Cartagena

Ayes – Laguana, Zouzounis, Huie, Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena. Motion passes.

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

No members of the public requested to speak.

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

Legislative updates on upcoming agenda items – ADA resolution, street vendor regulations, shared spaces proposal, office space vacancy hearing. Currently OSB is in process of hiring additional staff at permitting center. 70 eligible recipients for first and second rounds of venue fund grants. OSB is hiring one staff to support marketing.

No members of the public requested to speak.

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

Commissioner Huie organized a panel presentation on small businesses complying with ADA lawsuits, etc. Arts Commission has put out grants worth looking at. President Laguana said we should revisit ghost kitchen policy. Vice President Zouzounis wants to get update on taxi medallions for drivers. Independent contractors, gig drivers, etc. should be revisited in terms of how SBC can provide support. President Laguana encouraged SBC to think about support for restaurants, personal services, gyms through this surge. No members of the public requested to speak.

10. **Adjournment (Action Item)**

No members of the public requested to speak.

Motion by Ortiz-Cartagena

2nd: Laguana

Ayes – Laguana, Zouzounis, Huie, Dickerson, Ortiz-Cartagena. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.