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**Legislative Review:** BOS File #230212 – Small Business Month Fee Waivers for Awning Installation

**Name:** Engardio

**Date Introduced:** 2/28/2023

**Date Referred:** 3/3/2023

**Scheduled for BOS Committee:** Land Use and transportation Committee

**Legislative Overview:** Every year, in conjunction with Small Business Month, the City waives awning replacement fees for small businesses. This legislation clarifies that fees for new awnings and awning signs will also be waived. It also clarifies that awning fees will be waived for any permit application submitted in May, regardless of when the permit is issued.

**Existing law:**

Currently, small businesses can have replacement awning fees waived for permits that are issued in May.

**Amendments to Current Law**

This will allow businesses who want to put up a new awning, not just replace an existing one, to benefit from fee waivers.

**Legislative Intent:**

Small businesses that have unpermitted awnings will have the opportunity to come into compliance (by replacing their awning or installing a new awning) and have their permit fees waived as part of Small Business Month.

**Background, Issues, and Considerations**

- Who benefits from or will be burdened by your proposal (geographically, ethnically, linguistically)? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?
  - Many small businesses have unpermitted awnings. If they are reported to the City, the City will issue a Notice of Violation for noncompliance. By waiving permitting fees, this legislation helps businesses overcome the financial burden of permitting fees. Some neighborhoods, many of which are predominantly communities of color like Chinatown, are architecturally/geographically complex, making compliance difficult.
- What was the development process of this proposal? Whose input have you sought out? What feedback did you hear and did you incorporate it into this proposal? If not, why not?

- This legislation expands a program that was developed in conjunction with Small Business Month. Small businesses have expressed frustration with the costs of awnings and permitting, and this addresses those concerns.
- Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance?
  - This legislation strengthens the ability to proactively comply with city regulations.
- Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?