

Legislative Review: BOS File #230312 – Curbside Shared Spaces Permit and License Fees
Name: Safai
Date Introduced: 3/21/2023
Scheduled for BOS Committee: Budget and Finance Committee

Legislative Overview: Curbside shared spaces (parklets) permit and license fees can be expensive for small businesses. This proposal would eliminate one-time permit fees and allow more small businesses to qualify for fee waivers.

Existing law:

Small businesses who want to transition their pandemic curbside shared space into a permanent curbside shared space need to pay the following fees. Currently, license fees are waived for the first two years for existing permit holders:

Type of parklet	Permit fee (one time)		Annual License fee
Public parklet	\$1,000	\$250	\$100
Moveable commercial parklet	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Commercial parklet	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
	First parking space	Each additional parking space	Per parking space
<i>½ fee waiver for businesses with <\$2 million in gross receipts</i>			

Amendments to Current Law

Type of parklet	Permit fee (one-time)		Annual License fee
Public parklet	\$1,000	\$250	\$100
Moveable commercial parklet	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,500
Commercial parklet	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
	First parking space	Each additional parking space	Per parking space
<i>½ fee waiver for businesses with \$2 2.5million in gross receipts</i>			

Legislative Intent:

Curbside shared spaces have been critical to the survival of small businesses throughout the pandemic. Permit and license fees should not be a deterrent or barrier for small businesses wanting to keep their curbside shared spaces.

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?
 - Fee waivers assist all small businesses, but can be especially helpful to BIPOC businesses who experienced greater financial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic than white-owned businesses.¹
- 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 was developed in partnership with the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, Planning Department, and Excelsior Action Group.
 - In terms of impacts to staffing if permit fees are eliminated, Departments can request staffing costs in the budget process if needed.
- Is this proposal punitive or enforcement based? What are the other alternatives for proactive compliance?
 - N/A
- Given the diversity of San Francisco, how would this policy play out in different cultural settings? How does it accommodate cultural norms?
 - Fee waivers are beneficial across all cultural settings.

¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/black-owned-businesses-in-u-s-cities-the-challenges-solutions-and-opportunities-for-prosperity/>