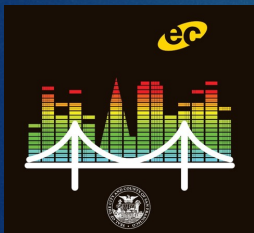


Entertainment Permitting Reform Legislation

Maggie Weiland
Executive Director
Entertainment Commission

Ben Van Houten
Business Development Manager
Office of Economic & Workforce
Development



September 19, 2023

Background

- File No. 230861 is legislation introduced by the Mayor to reform Police Code to support nightlife & entertainment
- Emerged from City Administrator and Entertainment Commission goals to improve the customer experience, simplify business processes, and improve regulatory coordination
- Legislation would implement variety of streamlining measures and technical fixes to improve entertainment permitting
- This Police Code-focused legislation complements pending small business reform legislation being led by the Office of Small Business to improve Planning Code
- Developed in close collaboration between Entertainment Commission staff and OEWD

Fee Waivers, Supporting Outdoor Activities

- Waive entertainment permit application fees for any business moving from a Just Add Music (JAM) Permit during the pandemic to continue offering outdoor entertainment or amplified sound
 - Businesses getting a permit for the first time will also have initial license fees waived.
- Waive entertainment permit application and initial license fees for existing businesses that are newly able to apply for entertainment permits due to zoning changes
- Expand where businesses may acquire Limited Live Performance permits to include outdoor patios that are not surrounded by enclosed buildings, such as rooftops and open-air lots

Streamlining Referrals and Requirements

- Remove referral of Place of Entertainment permit applications to the Department of Building Inspection where a premises has held a Place of Entertainment (POE) permit within the past year
 - Would save time and money for operators seeking to acquire an existing POE, reducing the barriers to the retention of existing venues
- Remove referral of Fixed Place Amplified Sound permit applications to the Department of Public Health, saving business owners time and money
- Remove the mandatory hearing requirement for a billiard parlor permit to save time for businesses seeking to install pool tables
- Remove outdated and unnecessary operating standards that mandated staffing and infrastructure to receive a permit to operate an arcade

Improvements to Entertainment Permitting

- Remove requirement that permit applicants provide detailed criminal history information
- Remove outdated language around “Masked Ball” permits no longer issued by the Commission
- Confirm that Entertainment Commission may require applicant for a Limited Live Performance Permit to submit a Security Plan where necessary to address safety concerns
- Establish that permit applications refiled after over a year of inactivity by applicant must be accompanied by a new application fee

THANK YOU

