



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 25, 2024, 4:30 P.M.

City Hall, Room 400, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

Cynthia Huie, President; Miriam Zouzounis, Vice-President;
Ron Benitez; Dimitri Cornet; Lawanda Dickerson; Rachel Herbert; William Ortiz-Cartagena;

1. Call to order and roll call

Present: Huie, Zouzounis, Benitez; Cornet; Dickerson; Herbert; Ortiz-Cartagena;

2. Approval of Legacy Business Registry Applications and Resolutions (Discussion and Action Item)

Richard Kurylo, Legacy Business Program Manager, Office of Small Business presented Legacy Business Registry applications.

- a. A&W Contractors (Application No.: [LBR-2023-24-030](#))
- b. Bay Area Bird & Exotics Hospital (Application No.: [LBR-2023-24-033](#))
- c. GFDS Engineers (Application No.: [LBR-2023-24-032](#))
- d. Ristorante Ideale (Application No.: [LBR-2023-24-011](#))

Commissioners commended the applicants.

Motion to approve Legacy Business Registry applications: Dickerson

2nd: Herbert

Aye: Huie, Zouzounis, Benitez; Cornet; Dickerson; Herbert; Ortiz-Cartagena;

Motion passes 7-0

3. BOS File No. 240126 – Extending Waiver of Permit, License, and Business Registration Fees for Certain Small Businesses (Discussion and Action Item)

The Commission discussed an ordinance Extending Waiver of Permit, License, and Business Registration Fees for Certain Small Businesses.

Commissioner comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: the money saved makes a huge difference for a small business who can save it for another month of rent, etc. Love this program. It gives businesses a sense that SF is open and supportive.

Herbert: Does this count for expanding businesses too? Yes

Huie: I'm a FYF beneficiary. Sometimes it's tricky because contractors pull permits on behalf of small businesses but they don't get the fees waived. But you can get refunded. Where is this in the legislative process? Going to the Board of Supervisors tomorrow.

Motion to support BOS File 240126 – Ortiz-Cartagena

2nd: Dickerson

Aye: Huie, Zouzounis, Benitez; Cornet; Dickerson; Herbert; Ortiz-Cartagena;

Motion passes 7-0

4. Discussion of Strategic Goals (Discussion Item)

Director Tang presented the Commission FY23-24 strategic goals and discussed potential updates.

Commissioner comments:

Huie: My goals are to grow and strengthen merchant groups. Help them be vocal. I also want to support new leadership within the small business commission.

Ortiz-Cartagena: We should focus on intradepartmental coordination. We need to hold CBOs accountable.

Benitez: Merchant groups vary in terms of how organized they are, what their capacity is, etc.

Herbert: What's our plan for downtown? What about engaging merchant groups - we could have merchant groups come and present to us about what they are experiencing, seeing, etc.

Cornet: We should be using social media to look at corridors and get them activated.

Dickerson: Third Street has Earl Shaddix, who advocates on behalf of the merchants. It's important not to put more burdens on small business owners themselves – we need to get advocates in place to support them.

Zouzounis: OSB has good customer service but we need to expand that to other departments. It might be helpful to review how an idea gets shaped into policy.

5. **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes (Discussion and Action Item)**

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Benitez

2nd: Cornet

Aye: Huie, Zouzounis, Benitez; Cornet; Dickerson; Herbert; Ortiz-Cartagena;

Motion passes 7-0

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

No members of the public requested to speak.

7. **Director's Report (Discussion Item)**

Congratulations and welcome Commissioner Dimitri Cornet - First SBC meeting today

Legislative Updates:

- First Year Free extension – first vote at Board of Supervisors tomorrow; SBC vote today
- Legacy Business Program change – adopted by Board of Supervisors last Tuesday
- Accessible Business Entrance Program – deadline extension proposed by Supervisor Mandelman; heard at Land Use Committee today

Awning Amnesty Program Outreach:

- OSB staff did second round of individualized outreach
- Planning Dept sent courtesy notices
- DBI is supposed to be sending out courtesy notices as well

Heritage Happy Hours:

April 11, 2024: The Plough and the Stars, 116 Clement St. in District 1.

May 9, 2024: Zeitgeist, 199 Valencia St. in District 9 (Legacy Business Mixer)

Commissioner Comments:

Ortiz-Cartagena: if businesses were contacted about their awnings, most likely they do have a complaint on file?

Yes. They should get in touch with OSB for amnesty application.

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

Ortiz-Cartagena: Community is feeling the urgency to get food permitting going – city needs to get the program going.

Huie: Kerry and I spoke with the Office of Financial Empowerment about what services they offer that may be applicable to our employees. We'll share some info when they get it to us in case you want to share with your employees or merchant organizations.

Zouzounis: I would love to know if there have been any conversations about HCSO/childcare funding.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.