

City and County of
San Francisco



President, Board of
Supervisors

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Board of Supervisors Passes Peskin's Emergency Legacy Business Protections

San Francisco – Today, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an emergency measure, authored by Board President Peskin, to protect hundreds of legacy businesses at risk of displacement under the Mayor's ill-advised redevelopment proposal. The new interim zoning controls require landlords to receive approval through a public hearing to replace or demolish a legacy business in neighborhood commercial districts across the city, modeled on policy in North Beach and the Mission.

The [Legacy Business program](#), supported by President Peskin, provides financial assistance to long-standing local small businesses who have demonstrated a record of fostering civic engagement and contributing to San Francisco's cultural identity. The rezoning plan created by Mayor Breed's planning department proposes to concentrate redevelopment on commercial corridors without any protections for storefronts, which puts hundreds of legacy businesses at risk of displacement.

President Peskin initiated this effort after two legacy businesses were targeted for closure by a billionaire landlord in an ongoing dispute on upper Fillmore Street. Since then, hundreds of legacy businesses, merchant groups and neighbors have reached out to request that all neighborhood commercial districts receive the same protections.

“It is irresponsible for the city to be pushing an upzoning plan on neighborhood commercial corridors without first putting forward a comprehensive plan to protect small businesses and tenants.” said **Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin**. “These new protections are meant to send a signal to real estate speculators that they must deal honestly and constructively with small businesses and neighbors instead of imposing their own vision on neighborhoods for profit.”

“Our city's identity and ethos is based on the uniqueness of the small businesses that drive our economy.” said **Vanick Der Bedrossian, owner of Cafe La Mediterranee**. “Billionaire landlords have purchased so many blocks of our street where we have run our family business for forty-five years and are refusing to engage in any discussion with us and other long-time tenants. The city must do everything it can to level the playing field for small businesses who want to stay in our city.”

“While recently celebrating our 65th anniversary, a local reporter asked me about our plans for the next ten years. Unfortunately, we cannot plan ahead because our building was sold to real estate developers who are intent on displacing us, and are looking to take advantage of the

upzoning. Small businesses and neighbors deserve a voice in the future of our city.” said **Sean Kim, fourth generation owner of Joe’s Ice Cream on Geary St.**

“After a billionaire forced my family business to close after forty-six years last month, I asked President Peskin to name this legislation in our honor, so people can remember what happened to us and not let it ever happen again.” said **Steve Amano, San Francisco native and co-owner of legacy business Sushi Ten-Ichi** which had its last day of business on Fillmore St. on September 30th.

“We want to continue to grow our city and know we need housing that affordable to people who live and work in the city, but small businesses need to be part of planning for that growth instead of being collateral damage.” **Yolanda Porrata, of Small Business Forward.**

The legislation was advanced to the Mayor’s desk where it can be signed, returned unsigned, or vetoed, in which case it would go back to the Board for a veto override vote.

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