



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 11

City and County of San Francisco

AHSHA SAFAÍ
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July 24, 2018
For Immediate Release

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

San Francisco Supervisors and local merchants unite behind legislation prohibiting on-site, corporate employee cafeterias in an effort to boost local mom-and-pop restaurants and retailers

San Francisco, CA – Supervisors Ahsha Safaí and Aaron Peskin, alongside Gwyneth Borden, executive director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA), and other local merchants gathered at The Perennial restaurant in support of new legislation being introduced today at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that would prohibit in-house cafeterias in new office buildings and tech campuses.

“This legislation is about making our City a healthier place to live, it is about supporting restaurants, retailers, and local-small businesses that make-up the backbone of our city,” said Supervisor Ahsha Safaí. “This is about encouraging thousands of employees to leave their offices to add to the vibrancy of San Francisco. We believe all the pieces of our city are interconnected and this promotes San Francisco’s ability to move together as one city into the future.”

The legislation is prospective and would only apply to employee cafeterias that are approved after the introduction of the legislation and exempts existing lawfully or already approved employee cafeterias as of the date the ordinance is introduced. Employers can continue to subsidize employees if they patronize restaurants that are open to the public.

“Many of these companies touted the boost their employees would have on our local economy, only to provide everything from round-the-clock gourmet catering to dry-cleaning on-site,” said Supervisor Aaron Peskin. “Going forward, this legislation restores some of the promised investment in our economy, the City and our Society. San Francisco isn’t the first to use local zoning law in this way and I want to acknowledge the City of Mountain View in Silicon Valley for leading the way.”

Corporate, in-house cafeterias hurt our local restaurants, which are already struggling to keep their doors open and make a profit in our increasingly cost-prohibitive business sector, by pulling customers away from surrounding restaurants employees would otherwise be frequenting but for the on-site cafeterias.

“The Golden Gate Restaurant Association supports Supervisor Safai and Peskin’s proposed legislation to prohibit large-scale cafeterias in newly build office spaces,” said Gwyneth Borden, executive director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA). “We are proud to be a part of San Francisco’s culture of innovation. Restaurants and other neighborhood serving retail are the backbone of our city’s vitality. Their ecosystem of success relies on local businesses and residents to engage with the community around them – something that fortress-like offices with, in some cases, multiple on-site cafeterias do not encourage.”