

**GOLDEN GATE
RESTAURANT
ASSOCIATION**
— est: 1936 —

February 25, 2019

Land Use and Transportation Committee
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File # 181213 Vacant or Abandoned Commercial Storefronts Ordinance,

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Safai, and Haney,

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association urges the Committee to approve the Ordinance amending the Building Code by updating the requirements for vacant or abandoned commercial storefront owners. We believe the best way to get an accurate number of vacant storefronts is requiring building owners to register even if they are being offered for rent.

The current regulation doesn't provide a complete picture of what many of the City's residents and business owners see in our neighborhoods. While rising rents can be attributed to many reasons, one is clearly the ability to enter in rental agreements with building owners not 'actively' seeking tenants. We know a simple sign in the window currently allows building owners to bypass the \$700 fine imposed by the City. This does not create enough of an incentive to fill their vacant spaces.

Restaurants play a vital role in community building and placemaking. Often a pioneering restaurant moves into a neighborhood and attracts other businesses to follow. Much of the economic development in the last 10 years has been related to restaurants and other related food businesses. By having accurate data and hopefully opening up more vacant storefronts, restaurants can continue to be anchors in our neighborhoods. On behalf of the thousands of businesses operating in San Francisco, we thank you for working to find solutions to the challenges we face.

Sincerely,



Gwyneth Borden
Executive Director

Cc: Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to all Supervisors