

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduces legislation to help restaurants closed for mandatory earthquake retrofits continue to operate using food trucks**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — After hearing from concerned restaurant owners, District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced legislation earlier this week that will allow restaurants to operate food trucks if they are forced to close during mandatory seismic retrofits of their buildings.

“Closing these businesses during city-mandated retrofits not only harms the restaurants, but can also lead to layoffs of employees who depend on these jobs to be able to afford to live in San Francisco,” said Mandelman. “If we require these safety upgrades, allowing these restaurants to get a temporary food truck permit will help them stay open and keep supporting our local economy and neighborhood business corridors.”

Under normal circumstances, a number of restrictions are placed on mobile food permit applicants including a ban on operating within a certain distance from public schools or within 75 feet of any restaurant entrance and only being able to serve in one location for three days week. The legislation introduced by Supervisor Mandelman, will let businesses who can’t operate during a mandatory seismic retrofit receive a new Temporary Mobile Caterer permit from the Department of Public Works that will waive these restrictions for up to 6 months, allowing the food truck to operate in front of near their existing restaurant.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, the Executive Director of the San Francisco Office of Small Business, noted that a number of small businesses have sought help from her office as a result of the city’s 2013 Mandatory Soft Story Retrofit Program. “I thank Supervisor Mandelman for this creative solution,” noted Dick-Endrizzi. “It will help numerous restaurants and business like Bi-Rite Creamery retain their employees and continue to serve the food their customers love.”

Sam Mogannam, owner of the Bi-Rite Family of Businesses, was faced with a troubling situation when he found out that the building housing Bi-Rite Creamery on 18th Street would need to undergo a seismic retrofit in early 2019. “When we learned that we would need to close for construction, I thought opening a food truck outside of our existing location would help make sure we kept our clientele and, most importantly, retain our staff while the seismic work happened,” said Mogannam. “Unfortunately, our Creamery was located too close to other restaurants to be eligible for a typical mobile food permit. With this new temporary permit, we’ll be able to keep our employees and keep on serving our ice cream until we can move back into the building.”

“I want to thank city agencies, in particular the Department of Public Works, for working with my office to create this legislation, and for recognizing how important it is that we go the extra mile to support our small business communities in San Francisco,” Mandelman added.

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