



SHAMANN WALTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****PRESS RELEASE:**

CHOBANI OWNER BUYS ICONIC ANCHOR BREWING COMPANY ***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Last July, District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton introduced a [resolution](#) urging interested parties to negotiate, purchase, and continue the historic legacy of Anchor Brewing Company in Potrero Hill following Sapporo’s sudden announcement of its closure plans. The resolution, passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors on July 25, 2023, included directives for future owners to ensure Anchor Brewing’s legacy continues in San Francisco for generations to come. Key provisions called for the retention and rehiring of existing employees, and collaboration with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 6 to maintain employment, living wages, and benefits for workers. Additionally, the resolution mandated the preservation of Production, Distribution, and Repair (PDR) zoning at 1705 Mariposa Street and 495 De Haro Street, prohibiting large office developments, large-scale retail, and heavy industrial uses at the Anchor Brewing site.

In a remarkable effort to preserve a vital piece of San Francisco’s history and American craft beer heritage, Hamdi Ulukaya, founder and CEO of Chobani, announced the acquisition of Anchor Brewing Company today following meetings with city officials on Thursday. Ulukaya, celebrated for revolutionizing the yogurt industry since launching Chobani in 2005, is now set to bring its innovative spirit and community-focused ethos to Anchor Brewing Company. This acquisition comes at a critical time, as the brewery faced significant uncertainty since its closure last summer.

“What an exciting time for San Francisco and Anchor Brewing,” said Hamdi Ulukaya. “Both are experiencing the magic of rebirth. I have fallen in love with this city, its history, grit and charm. I believe brands born in places like this are incredibly special and must be treasured, respected and loved.”



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“San Francisco is at the heart of Anchor Brewing, and Anchor embodies so much of what makes this city great,” continued Ulukaya. “I am humbled and excited to be part of this city and its rich community of people, who have a spirit that is special and unique. I have learned so much about Anchor and its role in San Francisco’s journey, and I look forward to doing whatever I can to support this amazing story of revitalization.”

“We are super excited about the fact that this community anchor (no pun intended) has been purchased and the tradition of Anchor Steam will continue right here in District 10,” said Supervisor Shamann Walton. “I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring back jobs, a place for community, and the reviving of history that this sale represents. We are looking forward to the next steps around ensuring Anchor Steam is the fully functioning community staple it has always been.”

Anchor Brewing Company was established in 1896 in San Francisco by German brewer Ernst F. Baruth and his son-in-law, Otto Schinkel, Jr., who bought the old brewery on Pacific Street near Russian Hill and named it Anchor. To this day, no one knows why Baruth and Schinkel chose the name Anchor, except, perhaps, its indirect but powerful allusion to the booming Port of San Francisco. It has since been embedded in San Francisco’s history as well as the American craft beer culture.

Despite its storied past, Anchor Brewing has faced numerous challenges. In an uncanny year of misfortune, co-owner Ernst Baruth died suddenly in February 1906, and two months later, the devastating fire following San Francisco's great earthquake consumed Anchor Brewery. In January 1907, just as Anchor Brewery was opening at its new location south of Market Street, Otto Schinkel, Jr., was run over by a streetcar. Fortunately, German brewers Joseph Kraus and August Meyer, along with liquor store owner Henry Tietjen, were able to keep Anchor Brewery going. In 1965, Fritz Maytag bought the struggling brewery upon learning that his favorite beer, Anchor Steam Beer, was about to be shuttered forever. Eventually, Anchor Brewing Company moved its operations to 1705 Mariposa Street and 495 De Haro Street in the Potrero Hill neighborhood in 1979. Additional history of Anchor Brewing Company is documented in [Resolution No. 408-23](#).



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Ulukaya brings renewed hope for Anchor Brewing Company's future here in San Francisco and in District 10. The acquisition promises to honor the brewery's historic roots while infusing it with new energy and innovation, ensuring that Anchor Brewing Company remains a cherished institution in San Francisco and a beacon in the American craft beer landscape.

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