

City and County of  
San Francisco



President, Board of  
Supervisors

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## **Beloved Legacy Business Bob's Donuts Closer to Bigger Polk Street Site** *Sup. Aaron Peskin Moves Legislation to Enable Expansion After Bakery Lease Not Renewed*

San Francisco – Supervisor Aaron Peskin's legislation enabling beloved legacy business Bob's Donuts to relocate to an expanded location in the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District was unanimously forwarded out of Land Use Committee today. Supervisor Peskin nominated Bob's Donuts to the Legacy Business Registry in April of this year, in an attempt to incentivize positive negotiations with the bakery's landlord. Unfortunately, they weren't able to reach an agreement on a lease renewal, but Bob's Donuts plans to relocate to the former Lotta's Bakery site a block away at 1720 Polk Street.

"Bob's has been a cherished part of the San Francisco tradition since the 1960's, and it's been operated by three generations of my family for the past 50 years," said **Bob's Donuts General Manager, Rebekah Ahn**, whose family took over ownership of Bob's Donuts in 1977.

"Although we would love to continue our legacy at 1621 Polk Street, the lease negotiations with the landlord have been increasingly difficult for us, with significant rent increases levied every couple of years with no room for negotiation – including the most recent threat to move us to a month-to-month lease at a rent increase of 150%. These contentious negotiations have been a huge stressor for our family and team, but thankfully a new opportunity at 1720 Polk Street is imminent. I would like to thank President Peskin for this invaluable legislation, which will enable us to have an even bigger space with an expanded dining room."

The legislation would allow the owners of the 1720 Polk Street site to merge with the vacant storefront next door, which would enable the bakery to have a larger dining room. Bob's Donuts was known for its signature line out the door onto Polk Street, at all hours of the day and night.

"Bob's Donuts is exactly the kind of legacy small business that has not only defined the neighborhood character of Polk Gulch, but also represents what many small businesses citywide still struggle with: commercial landlords that don't recognize their inherent value and who don't want to offer fair leases," said **Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin**. "This is a longtime community gathering place for everyone from drag queens and late-night revelers to neighborhood beat cops and community clean-up organizers, and even better, they're open late. At the end of the day, though, they bake donuts. They aren't going to be able to pay higher rents year after year."

"This business is not just about making money," said longtime **Bob's Donuts co-owner Aya Ahn**. "We're about taking care of each other, taking care of our customers, and contributing to the other Polk Street small businesses. We are an extended family in this neighborhood."

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