FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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***PRESS RELEASE***

Supervisor Yee’s Statement on the Recent Fire on West Portal Corridor

SAN FRANCISCO – Late on the evening of January 23rd, a fire began at West Portal and Ulloa St on the business corridor. The fire directly affected three businesses, namely Papenhausen Hardware, West Portal Daily and Sloane Square Salon. Fortunately no one was injured or killed as a result of the fire and no residential displacements occurred. First, I want to commend our first responders and the firefighters who responded in under five minutes to the scene and who were able to quickly contain the fire. I also want to acknowledge the business owners and over 18 employees who were directly affected.

The next morning I met and spoke with each of the three business owners on-site. As a son of a grocery store owner, I understand how hard it is to keep a business running, especially when something as unexpected and traumatic as a fire happens. Papenhausen remains one of my favorite hardware stores that I frequented often.

West Portal corridor is the gateway to the Westside and our business owners help create the quaint and thriving village character of West Portal Ave. This year the neighborhood will be celebrating the Centennial of the Twin Peaks Tunnel opening for rail service. I will continue to work to ensure that the Office of Economic Workforce Development (OEWD) and our joint City Departments know how important West Portal corridor is to the District 7 community. I am grateful for the OEWD’s prompt response to provide financial assistance to the affected business owners, through the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund. This fund will allow the three businesses to access up to $10,000 in funds for inventory replacement, equipment purchases, security deposits for a new lease, employee salaries, or other expenses to stabilize cash flow.

I want to appreciate the Department of Emergency Management, Fire Investigations Team, Department of Building Inspection and all the other agencies that are coordinating the necessary investigations to prevent further fires on the corridor and ensure the businesses can reopen safely.

I also want to appreciate Mayor Farrell’s attention to West Portal corridor by assessing the site and directing the OEWD to activate the Relief Fund. I look forward to working with the Mayor to continue strengthening the support and assistance to our City’s small businesses, and especially the three West Portal businesses that were affected by the Tuesday fire, so that all businesses can return quickly and safely to doing what they do best—running their businesses and serving their community.

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