[Urging City Departments to Prioritize Providing Aid to Independent Venues]

Resolution urging the Controller, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Office of Small Business to work together and prioritize providing aid to independent venues in San Francisco to help them survive their forced temporary-closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help prevent them from closing permanently.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health orders have forced most businesses to severely limit their operations or close completely leading to an economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Economic Recovery Task Force recommended that the City explore policies and investments that encourage economic development and activity in San Francisco, such as funding public infrastructure projects, streamlining permitting processes, advocacy for state and federal resources in order to counteract the effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, While some businesses have been granted some reprieve, were able to re-open, or were allowed to function with certain restrictions in place such as limited capacity during the course of the pandemic, nightlife venues in particular were among the first businesses to close and have not been allowed to resume normal or even limited operation since the beginning of the shelter in place orders; and

WHEREAS, The permanent loss of independent venues and theaters will have tremendous economic impacts on the city of San Francisco including not only the direct impact on venue owners and staff, but also the artists who perform at these venues, the companies and individuals that provide rentals and other services to these venues, the hospitality and tourism industry which relies on these venues for entertainment for their
guests, the restaurants and bars that cater to those visiting these venues, taxi and ride-share
companies and drivers, parking lots and parking attendants, and more; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2018 update of the City Controller’s Economic Impact Study, over 3,850 nightlife establishments in San Francisco employed over 63,000 workers, and generated an estimated $7.2 billion for the city; and

WHEREAS, According to a May 2020 Entertainment Commission Industry Survey, nearly half of entertainment and nightlife businesses including many bars, live music venues, and nightclubs were highly concerned that their businesses would need to close permanently and that more than half of survey respondents reported having lost between 75-100% of their expected business income and between 75-100% of their expected individual income in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area cultural institutions such as the Stud Bar, Starline Social Club, the Stork Club, and the Uptown Nightclub have already closed and many more venues are on the brink of closure; and

WHEREAS, Our independent music venues and nightlife businesses are an integral part of San Francisco’s unique history, culture, and economy and contribute significantly to the vibrancy of the City; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly advocates for federal relief specifically for entertainment and nightlife businesses in the form of grants, forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loans; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges all city departments all act with urgency and work together to develop a recovery and relief plan specifically for entertainment and nightlife businesses; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, Urging that the moratorium on Commercial Evictions should be extended through the end of calendar year 2021 to support vulnerable entertainment and nightlife businesses; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, Urging that entertainment and nightlife business permitting should be streamlined to support expedient business activation; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Mayor’s Office, the Controller’s Office, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the Office of Small Business, and the Entertainment Commission.
Resolution urging the Controller, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and Office of Small Business to work together and prioritize providing aid to independent venues in San Francisco to help them survive their forced temporary-closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help prevent them from closing permanently.

January 05, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 201401
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/5/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved