



UNION SQUARE  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT  
DISTRICT

Public Affairs Committee  
August 11, 2020 – 9:00 -10:30 am  
Virtual Communication System Zoom

## MINUTES

### In attendance

Committee members: Wes Tyler, Russell D. Keil, Jr., Donald Thomas, Erik Murray, Beau Simon, Kelly Powers, Corinna Luebbe, Terry Lewis, and J. Timothy Falvey.

Staff and contract service providers: Karin Flood (USBID Executive Director), Rob Silver (USBID Director of Marketing and Public Realm) and Eva Schouten (USBID Intern)

Guests: Ted Egan (San Francisco City Economist), Rodney Fong & Jay Cheng with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

### Call to Order and Introductions

Observing a quorum present, Karin Flood called the meeting to order at 9:01am. Introductions were made.

#### 1. Announcements

- Status of Union Square Businesses reopening  
Karin updated the committee that the district is continuing to slowly re-open including retail stores and restaurants. There are more outdoor dining locations such as John's Grill and Pinecrest Diner.
- Economic Recovery Task Force  
Karin informed the board that Chris Beynon who lead the strategic plan for Union Square BID in 2006 will lead the first three meetings to help guide the task force. The first meeting will be in approximately 3 weeks.
- Mural Projects  
Karin informed the committee that the mural project is still moving forward in collaboration with Paint the Void. The 100<sup>th</sup> mural will be painted on the Central Subway during which a small press conference will take place.
- Executive Committee Meeting - July 27, 2020 at 9am

Karin updated the committee that the next Executive Committee meeting is on July 27, 2020 at 9am and will be held through Zoom.

## **2. Public Comment**

Karin called for public comment. Seeing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

## **3. Action to approve the July 14, 2020 minutes**

Karin directed the committee to the minutes of the last meeting and gave a summary about the presentation from Rodney Fong regarding San Francisco's Economic Recovery Task Force and the 420 Sutter Development project for which the committee sent a letter of support.

**Action:** The Committee unanimously approved the July 14, 2020 minutes as motioned by Russell D. Keil Jr. and seconded by Kelly Powers.

## **4. Presentation: Tax Measures on the November Ballot – Ted Egan, San Francisco City Economist**

Karin introduced Ted Egan who is the Chief Economist for the City of San Francisco and has worked with the City for over 20 years. Ted directed the committee to his PowerPoint presentation. He summarized the taxes which will be on the November 3 ballot. The IPO tax will not be on the November Ballot, whereas the Gross Receipts Overhaul, CEO and Real Estate Transfer taxes will be on the Ballot. The goal of these tax measures is to increase the employment rate mainly in 2021 by 5000 jobs. He summarized the industries that will be affected from 2021 – 2024. A discussion about concerns regarding the taxes, in particular the Retail Estate Transfer Tax took place.

## **5. Other Advocacy Updates**

### – Earlier Cable Car resume service date

Karin updated the committee that the cable cars will not be back for a while as they cannot operate with the COVID-19 restrictions. However, she is looking into a way to get a cable car down to run every once in a while, and decorating it for during the holidays to send a message of hope and to let people know that Union Square is open.

### – 152 Geary Cannabis

Karin updated the committee that the Have a Heart cannabis store which was going to be on 152 Geary Street, next to Chanel will most likely not be developing there as the location is now for lease.

### – Letter by Joe D'Allesandro re: Street Conditions

Karin informed the committee that she was asked to sign onto a letter written by Joe D'Allesandro the President/CEO of SF Travel who is part of the Economic Recovery Task Force of San Francisco regarding the street conditions of San Francisco. In his letter he mentions that the Economic Recovery Task Force is not focusing enough on the street conditions and how to keep them clean and safe. Through his letter he is looking for support to make this a priority. A discussion about the action from the city to ask hotels to take in the vulnerable population took place.

**6. Adjournment and Next Meeting: September 8, 2020**

Karin adjourned the meeting at 10:26am.