



November 9, 2016

The Honorable Mark Farrell, Chair
Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Oppose File No. 160384 – Fiscal Feasibility Determination for Major Events

Dear Supervisor Farrell,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 businesses, is opposed to Supervisor Kim's "Fiscal Determination for Major Events" legislation. This proposed measure would place San Francisco at a significant disadvantage when attempting to attract future major events that bring many benefits to the City including increased economic activity, job creation and tourism promotion.

Businesses and organizations throughout San Francisco directly benefit from the multitude of special events the city hosts each year. These events provide benefits for residents through greater job creation and increased tax collections that go directly into the City's General Fund to support vital city services. This measure would place San Francisco's ability to attract these major events at significant risk for little to no purpose.

San Francisco has hosted a number of major events that would be subject to the provisions of this proposal. All of these events went through a rigorous review process and not resulted in a loss to the City. Instead, these events paid economic dividends through the following:

- (1) Tax collections that far exceeded City expenditures
- (2) Job creation for San Francisco residents
- (3) Promotion of San Francisco as a must see tourist destination that will pay future dividends through increased visitation

Adding another layer of public review to an already extensive review process – one that has proven to be effective in protecting the City - introduces an element of risk and uncertainty that major event planners are unwilling to take. Consequently, San Francisco would forgo the benefits of hosting these events as event planners would select cities offering less uncertainty in their approval process.

For these reasons, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce encourages the Board of Supervisors to reject this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Lazarus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Mayor Ed Lee, Clerk of the Board to be distributed to all members of the Board of Supervisors