



February 27, 2018

The Honorable Ahsha Safai
Chair, Rules Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Fair Chance Ordinance Amendments, File #171170

Dear Supervisor Safai:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and numerous local business organizations, was pleased to endorse the "Fair Chance Ordinance", enacted unanimously in 2014. That legislation, sponsored by Supervisors Cohen and Kim, was not drafted overnight. It took months of meetings with employers and advocates, which was time well spent because it became a model for local jurisdictions throughout the country. We cannot say the same for the amendments pending in the Rules Committee.

The amendments have not been subject to the same participatory process. While we were informed of the legislation last fall, and made numerous requests for meetings, the first and only meeting with city staff occurred yesterday. And while some of the amendments are minor, many will have serious impacts on employers such as opening the door for litigation, hugely increased penalties and expanding the local law to micro businesses. Many of these changes directly impact provisions that we spent months negotiating with advocates and the sponsors.

The Chamber urges the Rules Committee to continue this item for at least two weeks so that we can meet with Supervisor Cohen and city staff.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc. Supervisor Malia Cohen, Supervisor Jane Kim, Supervisor Catherine Stefani, Supervisor Norman Yee