A SEVEN MEMBER COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN 2003, THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION HAS THE POWERS AND DUTIES TO ACCEPT, REVIEW, GATHER INFORMATION REGARDING AND CONDUCT HEARINGS FOR ENTERTAINMENT-RELATED PERMIT APPLICATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION PLANS AND COORDINATES THE PROVISION OF CITY SERVICES FOR MAJOR EVENTS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO RECOGNIZED ORGANIZER, PROMOTER, OR SPONSOR.
HIGHLIGHTS

Limited Live Performance Permit To Include DJs And Entertainment in Enclosed Outdoor Spaces. It also allows Enforcement provisions regarding permits, and penalties for violations. It also expands definition of the Limited Live Performance Permit to include DJs and entertainment in enclosed outdoor spaces. It also allows the Executive Director to issue "Bridge" permits during business transfers, among other things.

SEC. 90.1. DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to have a system of coordinated planning and permitting for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments throughout the City to promote such establishments and events for the economic and cultural enrichment of San Franciscans and visitors to San Francisco, and to celebrate the diverse communities within San Francisco. To facilitate this goal it is the policy of the City to have the San Francisco Entertainment Commission:

1. Assist the organizers and operators of cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments to apply for, and obtain from the commission and other City departments when the applicant satisfies the requirements therefor, all necessary permits for the City;
2. Promote the responsible conduct and operation of such events and establishments;
3. Promote the development of a vibrant entertainment and late-night entertainment industry within the City;
4. Promote the use of City facilities for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events that generate revenue for the City;
5. Foster harm reduction policies, including but not limited to reduction of risks from substance use, hearing protection, heat exhaustion, and relevant health and safety measures;
6. Develop and recommend to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors "good neighbor policies" that appropriately balance the cultural, economic, employment and other benefits of a vibrant entertainment and late-night entertainment industry with the needs of residents and businesses in the vicinity of entertainment venues;
7. Mediate disputes between persons affected by cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments, and the organizers of such events and operators of such establishments;
8. Assume responsibility from the Police Department for issuing entertainment-related permits;
9. Plan and coordinate City services for major events or which there is no recognized or adequate organizer or promoter, such as Halloween bacchanalia in the Castro district and New Year's Eve festivities; and
10. Provide information regarding venues and services appropriate for conducting events and functions ancillary to conventions held within the City, including conventions at the Moscone Convention Center. (Added by Ord. 104-02, File No. 020783, App. 7/26/2002.)

The Entertainment Commission was created in July 2003 by an amendment to the Charter Section 4.117

SEC. 4.117. ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

The San Francisco Entertainment Commission shall consist of seven members nominated and appointed pursuant to this section. The Mayor shall nominate four members to the commission, and the Board of Supervisors shall appoint, by motion, three other members to the commission. Each nomination of the Mayor shall be subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors, and shall be the subject of a public hearing and vote within 60 days. If the Board of Supervisors fails to act on a mayoral nomination within 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the nominee shall be deemed approved. Appointments to the commission shall become effective on the date the Board of Supervisors adopts a motion approving the nomination or on the 61st day following the date the mayoral nomination was transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors if the Board of Supervisors fails to act upon the nomination prior to such date.

Of the four members nominated by the Mayor, the Mayor shall nominate one member to represent the interests of City neighborhood associations or groups, one member to represent the interests of entertainment associations or groups, one member to represent the interests of the urban planning community, and one member to represent the interests of the law enforcement community. Of the three members of the commission appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one member shall represent the interests of City neighborhood associations or groups, one member shall represent the interests of entertainment associations or groups, and one member shall represent the interests of the public health community.

To stagger the terms of the members, the initial appointments to the commission shall be as follows: the Mayor shall nominate two members to serve terms of four years, one member to serve a term of three years, and one member to serve a term of two years. Of the three remaining members of the commission, the Board of Supervisors shall appoint one member to serve a term of four years, one member to serve a term of three years, and one member to serve a term of two years. Except for appointments to fill a vacancy, all subsequent appointments shall be for a term of four years. Members of the commission nominated by the Mayor may be suspended by the Mayor and removed by the Board of Supervisors as set forth in Section 15.105. Members of the commission appointed directly by the Board of Supervisors may be suspended by a motion of the Board of Supervisors approved by six votes and may be removed by the Board of Supervisors only as set forth in Section 15.105. (Added November 2002).

In addition, the San Francisco Administrative Code sets forth the policy and form of the agency in Section 90.
Powers and Duties

SEC. 90.4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

In addition to the powers and duties set forth in Sections 4.102, 4.103 and 4.104 of the Charter, the commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Accept review, gather information regarding, and conduct hearings upon applications for entertainment-related permits; and rule upon and issue, deny, condition, suspend, revoke or transfer entertainment-related permits in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The commission may authorize the executive director or permit administrators, or both, to rule upon applications and grant, deny, condition, transfer or modify specified types of entertainment-related permits deemed by the commission to be routine and unlikely to pose significant negative impacts on persons in the vicinity of the event or establishment for which the permit is sought, provided, that any City department with an interest in the permit or person having a right to appeal to the Board of Appeals under Section 30 of the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code may, in writing, (i) request that the permit application be heard in the first instance by the commission, or (ii) request reconsideration by the commission of the executive director’s or permit administrator’s decision. If the commission grants a request for reconsideration, it may hear the matter de novo, or may limit its review to the administrative record that was before the executive director or permit administrator at the time of his or her decision.

(b) Impose reasonable conditions upon the issuance or renewal of entertainment-related permits consistent with the applicable law, regulations and the good neighbor policy or policies for the location or locations of the establishment or event for which the permit is sought.

(c) Suspend, revoke or withdraw entertainment-related permits in accordance with the law and regulations governing such permits.

(d) Coordinate with all relevant City departments for the conduct of any inspection or investigation necessary or appropriate for the full and fair consideration of applications for the issuance, renewal or transfer of entertainment-related permits, including without limitation the Police Department and the Department of Public Health.

(e) Promote the use of City facilities for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events that generate revenue for the City, in consultation with the City departments having jurisdiction over such facilities.

(f) Develop and recommend to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors “good neighbor policies” that balance competing interests and promote the health, safety and welfare of San Franciscans and visitors to San Francisco.

(g) Mediate disputes between persons affected by cultural, entertainment and athletic events and establishments permitted by the City and the operators of such events and operators of such establishments.

(h) Plan and coordinate the provision of City services for major events for which there is no recognized organizer, promoter or sponsor, or where identified organizers, promoters or sponsors cannot, in the opinion of the commission, provide adequate planning and coordination for the size, geographic distribution or nature of the event. For purposes of this Chapter, “major events” means an anticipated gathering of persons on or adjacent to public property or roadways that is likely to require police services, fire services, toilet facilities, traffic control, the availability of potable water or other City services to protect the health, safety and welfare of participants, neighbors or other persons likely to be affected by the event, including but not limited to spontaneous gatherings on Halloween, Pride events (including Pink Saturday), St. Patrick’s Day and New Year’s Eve.

(i) Prepare and submit to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors a report analyzing the commission’s effectiveness in advancing the policies specified in Section 90.1 and the laws governing entertainment-related permits, and making recommendations related thereto. The commission shall submit the report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors within one year of effective date of this Chapter, and not less than once every five years thereafter.

With the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission or Port Commission, as the case may be, exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth in this Section with respect to events and establishments to be held or operated upon property or within facilities under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Commission or Port Commission.

(Added by Ord. 164-02, File No. 020783, App. 7/26/2002)
The Importance of Nightlife to San Francisco

The Controller’s Office released an Economic Impact Study of San Francisco’s Nightlife Businesses in the spring of 2012 which illustrates the importance of Nightlife to San Francisco. Among the findings:

Nightlife establishments employed 48,000 workers, hosted 80 million spending customers, and generated $4.2 billion in 2010. These establishments also contributed $55 million in payroll taxes and sales taxes to the City.

The Nightlife Industry supported the city’s economy by purchasing $1.6 billion in services and supplies from local businesses, ranging from food and beverages to performers.

80% of San Francisco’s Nightlife economy is concentrated in visitor areas in the Northeastern sector of the city. 57% of Nightlife patrons in these areas were visitors to San Francisco.

Visitors who live in other Bay Area counties make up 40% of spending in these areas. The main reason cited by 94% of these visitors for coming to San Francisco was to patronize a Nightlife business.

These Bay Area patrons spent an average of $120 per night. San Francisco residents spent an average of $70 per night, across all venues surveyed.

Out-of-town visitors spend $2.2 billion at Nightlife businesses in San Francisco. This spending supports 27,000 jobs across every sector of the economy.
The Tenth Year of the Commission

FOUR COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR

Barbara Campagnoli
Effective date: June 2013 to July 2014

Audrey Joseph
Effective date: July 2003 to July 2015 (re-appointed)

John Newlin
Effective date: July 2010 to July 2014 (left May 2013)

Al Perez
Effective date: December 2009 to July 2013

Commissioner Newlin left with one year left in his term and Commissioner Campagnoli was appointed to fill in for the remainder.

The Commission elected Commissioner Tan as president and Commissioner Hyde as vice president in July 2013.

THREE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Naomi Akers
Effective date: June 2010 to July 2013 (reappointed)

Glendon Hyde
Effective date: July 2011 to July 2015

Steven Lee
Effective date: January 2012 to July 2014

The Commission continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM in room #416 of City Hall.

2012–2013 HIGHLIGHTS

THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION CELEBRATED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSION WITH A PARTY AT THE DRAKE ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF ENTERTAINERS, VENUE OPERATORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.
Permits Issued and Serviced

The Entertainment Commission issues a variety of permits. The majority are the following types:

» Loudspeaker permits (sound amplification)
» One Night Dance/Event permits
» Itinerant show permits (outdoor events)
» Place of Entertainment permits (POE)
» Extended Hours Premises (EHP)
» Billiard Parlor (BP, or pool tables)
» Mechanical Amusement Device (MAD, or video-games)
» Limited Live Performance (LLP)

In the FY 2012-2013, the Commission issued 674 one time permits (Loudspeaker, Itinerant Show, One Time Event, One Night Dance) and 67 new fixed place permits (POE, EHP, BP, LLP and MAD).

In addition, the balance of fixed place permitted venues city-wide are serviced throughout the year. Valid permits are kept up to date with licenses issued and renewed annual by the Tax Collector. Those total figures are:

| Place of Entertainment        | POE (P23) 356       |
| Extended Hours Premises       | EHP (P21) 98        |
| Billiard Parlor               | BP (P12) 114        |
| Mechanical Amusement Device   | MAD (A45) 85        |
| Dance Hall Keeper             | DHK (P22) 12        |
| Limited Live Performance      | LLP (P54) 15        |

Staffing and Budget

The Entertainment Commission offices continued to be staffed with only:

Executive Director (1)
Permit Coordinator (1)
Commission Secretary (1)
Sound Technician (2, additional sound technician hired 5/2013)

(See administrative Code Section 90.5 for duties of staff)

Budget for Entertainment Commission was given a line item but remained under the Administrative Services overall budget. Total budget is approximately $520,000 and does not include SFPD fees.
Highlights

During the FY 2012-2103, the Entertainment Commission accomplished the following:

» Issued a total of 674 one-time permits and 67 fixed location permits.

» Worked to bring many long standing un-permitted establishments into compliance, issuing Extended Hours Premises permits to 14 restaurants.

» Worked with Supervisor Wiener of the Board of Supervisors to amend the Police Code regarding entertainment related permits. The legislation expands suspension, citation and enforcement provisions regarding permits, and penalties for violations. It also expands definition of the Limited Live Performance permit to include DJs and entertainment in enclosed outdoor spaces. It also allows the Executive Director to issue “bridge” permits during business transfers, among other things.

» Promoted live entertainment as a growth opportunity to small business at the annual Small Business Week kick-off event Flavors of San Francisco.

» Continued safety protocols in North Beach Broadway corridor and Polk Street, resulting in a reduction of violence but also a concurrent reduction in income for the nighttime businesses.


» Successfully defended the appeal against a permit for the America’s Cup Pavilion at the Board of Permit Appeals.

» Coordinated and produced the 5th Annual Entertainment Summit, attended by over 200 entertainment professionals to discuss issues and concerns facing the nightlife industry.

» Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Entertainment Commission with a party at the Drake attended by hundreds of entertainers, venue operators, elected officials and the community at large.

» Continued to improve the partnership between the SFPD and the Entertainment Commission.

» Worked with the Mayor’s Office to create and fill a position within the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to focus on nightlife development and sustainability.

Enforcement

For the last eight years, the Entertainment Commission has had only one inspector for the entire City. A second inspector was hired in May of 2012. Inspectors visit venues weekly to monitor compliance with the Good Neighbor Policy. Typically a first violation results in a Notice of Violation, with citations issued for repeated violations.

Serious, or repeated violations, can result in a suspension or revocation of a permit.

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Looking Forward – Goals for the Next Year

1. Streamline permitting process with online applications to expedite reviews and approvals of permit applications by City Agencies.

2. Translate our forms, applications and documents into Spanish and Chinese language.

3. Work with permitted venues to on sustainability by taking advantage of City programs such as Invest In Neighborhoods, the Emerging Business Loan Fund and upcoming events such as Super Bowl 2016.


5. And we continue to broadcast that Entertainment is a major component of our City’s economy. Last year, at the behest of Supervisor Weiner, the Controller’s Office released an economic analysis of the Nightlife Industry which revealed that this is a $4.2 billion industry, consisting of over 3,200 businesses that employ over 48,000 people. This year we will be working with Scott Weiner on a second economic study to determine the value of street fairs and festivals.