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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

THE JAZZ ROOM APPROVED BY SF SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION FOR LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY

San Francisco, CA — On Monday, April 9, **Jazz Room** in the Bayview was unanimously approved by the San Francisco Small Business Commission for the Legacy Business Registry. The Registry recognizes longstanding, community-serving businesses as valuable cultural assets to the city. There are currently 130 small businesses on the Legacy Business Registry.

The Jazz Room: 5267 3rd St.

Nominated by Supervisor Malia Cohen

Jazz Room opened in 1962, offering live music and drinks catering to the social and entertainment needs of the evolving African-American community in the Bayview. Now owned by Bernedette Smith, the business has been family-owned and -operated for over 54 years. Since its founding, Jazz Room has become a cultural staple for local residents, hosting many notable jazz musicians over the years and organizing regular BBQs open to the community free of charge. In an ever-changing neighborhood, Jazz Room is a vestige of old school Bayview-Hunters Point – many of its regulars have been patrons for decades.

“The Jazz Room has grounded its cultural and historical significance in the Bayview-Hunters Point community,” said Supervisor Malia Cohen. “Bernedette Smith’s family-owned business is a critical asset to the city of San Francisco.”

“Our community is very proud to have Jazz Room named a Legacy Business,” said Theo Ellington, Board Member of Economic Development on Third. “This further cements and acknowledges the deep contributions of African-Americans in Bayview and San Francisco.”

A Legacy Business is a for-profit or nonprofit business that has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years. The business must contribute to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community, and it must commit to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary or art forms.

The registration process for the Legacy Business Program includes nomination by the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors, a written application, an advisory recommendation from the Historical Preservation Commission and approval of the Small Business Commission. Inclusion in the Registry provides Legacy Businesses with recognition and support as an incentive for them to stay in the community. The program also provides educational and promotional assistance to encourage their continued viability and success in San Francisco.

For more information about the Legacy Business Program, including a list and map of businesses on the Legacy Business Registry, visit <http://sfosb.org/legacy-business>.

