



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**Disaster Relief for San Franciscans Affected by the Five-Alarm Mission Fire**

*San Francisco, CA* – Relief is well underway for businesses, workers, and residents that were impacted by the June five-alarm fire on the 3300 block of Mission Street. The Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) working with community partners activated the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund.

Six businesses that were impacted by the fire on 29th and Mission have received or will receive funding in the next few weeks under the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund which is led by the OEWD in partnership with the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA). The businesses are Keane’s 3300 Club, El Gran Taco Loco, Playa Azul Seafood and the team is actively working with Coronitas, The Front Porch, and Harvest Shop to access the funds.

“Fires and other disasters that impact small businesses are catastrophic for the owners, employees and the community. The Small Business Disaster Relief Fund and the technical assistance that the Office of Economic and Workforce Development provides, we can make a significant, positive and tangible impact, and preserve small San Francisco businesses, and their employees,” said Todd Rufo, Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. “Our goal is to get businesses up and running and back to serving their community.”

The Small Business Disaster Recovery Fund is part of a comprehensive assistance package which includes resources and services aimed at helping small businesses and their employees recover as quickly as possible. Services include: job search assistance, access to unemployment information, help obtaining small business loans, guidance concerning licenses and permits, and other small business and employee services.

In the immediate weeks after a disaster it is critical for a business to determine whether it can resume operations in San Francisco. While many businesses may receive insurance proceeds or have the ability to access a traditional or disaster loan, the delay in receiving these funds can take weeks or months. The Small Business Disaster Relief Fund will allow a business, after a disaster, to immediately access up to \$10,000 in funds for inventory replacement, equipment purchases, and security deposits for a new lease, employee salaries, or other expenses to stabilize cash flow. The fund is designed to provide

businesses with capital as they assess damages and compile resources to safely and effectively reopen.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will also open a Loan Outreach Center or DLOC which will be located at the Mission Economic Development Agency offices at 2301 Mission Street, Suite 301. The center will be open beginning on Friday, August 12 through Thursday, August 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and translators are available.

Immediately following the fire, the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (DEM) with information collected from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA), and San Francisco Department of Building Inspection (DBI) submitted an application to make low interest loans available to businesses and residents. Today, DEM received notice that the application was approved (Declaration #CA14797).

SBA provides low-interest loans to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by the fire. SBA representatives will be on hand at the center to answer questions about SBA's loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application.

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