

## This Week's Friday Report



### San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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## FRIDAY REPORT: April 25, 2008

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### Upcoming Events

May 12-17 - Small Business Week San Francisco 2008

May 13 - 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy

Jun 3 - Primary Elections - SAVE THE DATE

Check the "Mark Your Calendars" Section for more information about these events.

### Weather

#### San Francisco Weekend Weather

Saturday 26	Sunday 27
<p>High <b>73°F</b> Low <b>56°F</b></p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>Precip: <b>10%</b></p>	<p>High <b>70°F</b> Low <b>54°F</b></p> <p>Partly Cloudy</p> <p>Precip: <b>10%</b></p>

### NEWS

## Have Administrative Experience? The SFHCC Seeks an Administrative Assistance

The SFHCC is recruiting for an Administrative Assistant Position who is mature, responsible & organized who can easily multi-task. This position is a Temporary to Permanent Placement.

Job Requirements Include:

- Eligible candidates MUST have functional knowledge of Microsoft Office, particularly Excel and Word, no exceptions.
- Must be organized & detail orientated
- Support Client Requests
- Comfortable working in a fast-paced environment, can easily multi-task
- Have Strong Customer Service Skills
- Manage mass emails & merging
- Have proven Time Management & Organizational Skills
- General filing, faxing & telephone skills

This is an excellent position for someone who thrives in a fast-paced & challenging environment. Please contact Richard Ventura at 415-308-5206 or submit resume via email to [richard@sfhcc.com](mailto:richard@sfhcc.com).

## SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULATIONS DEPRESSINGLY ROBUST

*19 April 2008*

Mayor Gavin Newsom said he began to worry that the city's Board of Supervisors had gone too far when a member proposed tagging lobbyists. After all, in the last two years, Board members have passed laws banning plastic bags at supermarkets and plastic foam containers at food outlets, proposed an ordinance to fine office buildings that left lights on overnight, and yes, floated a proposition to make any lobbyist wear a name tag when doing business at City Hall. (And outside, too.) All of which left Mr. Newsom, a former restaurateur, thinking that the city's business community might be feeling a tad overlegislated.

"I think we've hit a point of saturation," said Mr. Newsom, a Democrat. "And I'm trying to make that point to the Board." But some business groups are not banking on the Board. On Thursday, federal judges heard arguments in a lawsuit filed against the city by the Golden Gate Restaurant Association over a fee in its 2006 universal health care plan, which the group says has led to marked increases in the cost of doing business.

"I know the city obviously knows what's best for everybody," said Daniel Scherotter, the group's incoming president. "But at a certain point, it gets ridiculous."

The health plan was just one of several laws affecting businesses passed by the Board and the city's voters in recent years, including ordinances mandating that employers pay for sick leave for employees and one establishing one of the highest minimum wages in the country. And those costs are being passed on to consumers. At Delfina, a popular restaurant in the nightlife-rich Mission District, diners receive a card with every meal that states that while owners are happy to offer their employees health care, their bills will include a \$1.25 surcharge to cover the cost.

"We must consider options that allow us to cover these costs which far exceed our current health care expenditures," the card reads. Other restaurants have followed suit, including the well-known Zuni Cafe, which now adds a 4 percent fee to all bills. Still others have tried to pare costs, cutting back on trips to the butcher and outsourcing food preparation, Mr. Scherotter said. "People are somewhere between depressed and angry," he said.

The animosity has not slowed the Board's momentum: in March, it followed New York City and passed an

ordinance requiring chain restaurants to post nutritional information on every menu item and imposed a fee to pay for such notices. But restaurant owners are hardly the only group that is upset. Party promoters have been fuming about a change in rules that would require permits and insurance for some events, a category that opponents say could include everything from waterfront raves to weddings to benefits at the opera. Some deli proprietors have voiced displeasure about a proposal to prohibit new liquor stores within 500 feet of churches or recreation centers, setting the kind of distance requirement usually reserved for laws dealing with sex offenders.

San Francisco voters have proved no less proactive, passing the 2006 sick leave law, which authorizes up to nine paid days off as credit for time worked. In 2003, voters also passed a minimum-wage act that currently sets it at \$9.36 - more than \$3.50 above the federal rate. And next year, it goes up. Health issues seem to be driving a variety of new laws, most prominently Healthy San Francisco, a first-of-its-kind plan to provide universal health care for city residents. Obesity was the justification for another proposal, made by Mr. Newsom in December, to charge big stores a fee when they sold drinks with high-fructose corn syrup. Still others are old-fashioned quality-of-life laws, like the proposed liquor store ordinance, which goes by the elaborately named "Alcohol Reduction and Safer Neighborhoods Act."

Despite the grumbling, some of San Francisco's ideas are being floated at the state level and in other cities, including the ban on plastic bags at large grocery stores. A bill modeled on the city's sick leave law was passed by a committee of the California Legislature last week. John Handley, the government relations director for the California Independent Grocers Association, said that the fees in San Francisco had exacerbated problems faced by grocers dealing with soaring costs and fears of a recession. "Food prices have gone up because of raw materials going up: corn, and fuel, mainly," Mr. Handley said. "And this just makes things harder."

Steve Falk, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, said his members recognized the need for many of the laws, but that the "cumulative impact of all this really is starting to have a significant impact on midsized and smaller business." "They've got profit margins of 8 to 10 percent," Mr. Falk said. "And when you add fees for a health care requirement and another for sick days, that begins to cut into a significant amount of that profit." Not all the recent proposals have found legislative traction. This month, the proposed change for promoters was rejected by the city's Entertainment Commission, which found it too broad.

Others said that their ideas were more like suggestions than hard and fast rules.

"Do I really think there's going to be some sort of light cop that's going to go up to the 29th floor and see if someone's working? Of course not," said the Board's president, Aaron Peskin, the author of the lights-off bill. "But you can kind of try to guilt-trip people with this kind of thing."

## Conservers get \$42 million in PG&E rebates

*David R. Baker, Chronicle Staff Writer*  
*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has handed out \$42 million in rebates this month to customers who were able to cut the amount of natural gas they used for winter heating, the utility reported Monday. Nearly 40 percent of PG&E's natural gas customers qualified for some form of rebate, which appeared as a credit on their April bills. The average residential customer received \$18. For the past three years, San Francisco's PG&E has tried to encourage conservation by promising rebates to customers who reduce the amount of natural gas they burn, when compared with previous winters. The program was designed to help cushion the blow of natural gas prices, which have fluctuated wildly in recent years.

PG&E's program works on a sliding scale.

For every 1 percent drop in the amount of natural gas a customer uses during wintertime, the customer receives a 1 percent rebate. Those who cut their usage 6 percent, for example, receive a 6 percent credit. But people who are able to slash their gas usage by 10 percent or more get a 20 percent rebate - the highest award in the program.













