

This Week's Friday Report



San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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FRIDAY REPORT: February 13, 2009



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Upcoming Events

Feb 23 - Annual February Business Mixer with American Jewish Committee

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

WEATHER

San Francisco Weekend Weather

Saturday 14	Sunday 15
Golfing Outlook	Surf Report
<p>AM Showers</p> <p>High 52°F Low 49°F</p>	<p>Rain</p> <p>High 53°F Low 51°F</p>
Precip: 30%	Precip: 80%

NEWS

Latino groups to Napolitano: Stop immigration raids

A coalition of Latino groups sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano this week urging her to stop workplace immigration raids. The coalition - which includes the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Funds - said the raids were a "relentless attack" on the Latino community.

"The fear of raids in and around schools, neighborhoods and workplaces among immigrants - unauthorized and authorized - keeps our children and families from attending schools, obtaining needed services for which they are eligible and pay taxes and even contacting local police when they or their loved ones are in danger," the letter said. It also said that the raids "have destroyed families and spread terror."

The Bush administration conducted a string of large immigration raids at workplaces over the past few years.

Valentine's Day Discount with Alex Sotelo Winery

In The Napa Valley mustard is blooming beautiful and we are about 7 weeks away from but break on the vines. Valentine Day will be in a few days and I personally wanted to thank you for been part of my life and my project.

For you and yours two days only until Tuesday February 10 2009 you will get 20% off on any wines order. Plus if you get 6 or more bottles ground shipping will be free to a commercial address. We are featuring Moscato 2007 wish has been served in 3 official dinners in the White House last year.

Put your order by phone at 707-224-5920, mail and email or visit the website at <http://www.alexshotelocellars.com/vistas/orderwine.php>

Effective January 19, 2009, San Francisco employers are required to offer a commuter benefits program to encourage employees to use public transit or vanpools

San Francisco's new Commuter Benefits Ordinance allows employers and workers to tap into an existing federal program to pay for transit passes and van pool expenses. Employers save up to 9% on payroll taxes and employees save up to 40% on their transit costs. The benefit works like other pre-tax plans such as retirement, dependent care, and medical reimbursement, except that it's much simpler. Employers can offer commuter tax benefits as a payroll deduction, a subsidized benefit, or a combination of the two. Employers can administer the benefit themselves, purchasing the transit tickets or vouchers each month and distributing them to employees. Some employers may find it more practical to hire a third-party administrator to manage their program.

What are the requirements of the new commuter benefits law?

All employers in San Francisco that have 20 or more persons performing work for compensation on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis and who work an average of at least 10 hours a week while working for the same employer within the previous calendar month, must offer one of the following options:

1. **Pre-tax Transit:** Employer sets up a deduction program under existing Federal Tax Law 132(f), which allows employees to use up to \$115 a month in pretax wages to purchase transit passes or vanpool rides. SF Environment (San Francisco's Environment Department) is available to assist businesses in self-administering a benefit program or can offer assistance with hiring a third-party administrator.
2. **Employer Paid Transit Benefits:** Employer pays for workers' transit fares on any of the San Francisco Bay Area mass transit systems or reimburses workers for their vanpool expenses. Reimbursements for transportation expenses must be of at least an equivalent value to the purchase price of a San Francisco MUNI Fast Pass, which is presently \$45.
3. **Employer Provided Transit:** Employer offers workers free shuttle service on a company-funded bus or van between home and place of business.

What modes of transportation can pre-tax dollars be used for?

For a complete list of qualified transit operators, rail lines, ferry services, please visit commuterbenefits.org

- With commuter benefits, you or your employees can purchase bus passes with pre-tax dollars for Muni, AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, and others.
- With commuter benefits, you or your employees can purchase rail passes with pre-tax dollars for BART, Caltrain, Muni, ACE, and others.
- With commuter benefits, you or your employees can purchase ferry passes with pre-tax dollars for Golden Gate, Blue & Gold, etc.
- With commuter benefits, you can use shuttle services to pick up your employees at home and take them to work.

Vanpool

Employees can use pre-tax dollars from their commuter benefits to pay for vanpool expenses. In participation with 511.org, SF Environment can assist your employees with setting up a carpool or vanpool. Typically, vanpoolers have 7 or more passengers, including the driver. The van can either be owned or rented. Vanpoolers qualify for a discounted \$74/year on street parking space in San Francisco.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Non-compliance may result in fine: \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation within the same year, \$500 for each additional violation within the same year.

What else can employers do to encourage smart commute options? Employers can sign up for San Francisco's free Emergency Ride Home Program. Employees who use the bus, train, ferry, vanpool, carpool, bicycles, or walk to work on the day of an unexpected emergency can take a taxi or rental car, or other form of transportation home to deal with the crisis and SF Environment will reimburse them. To enroll in this free City-administered program, please visit SFERH.org.

Contact Information: CommuterBenefits.org

Commuter Benefits Hotline: (415) 355-3727

[Download Factsheet](#)

Mayor Gavin Newsom Announces San Francisco's Local Economic Stimulus Package

San Francisco, CA

Today Mayor Gavin Newsom unveiled the details of his five-part plan for stimulating and supporting the local economy. "Today we face extraordinary challenges, but among those challenges is the risk of being consumed solely by the crisis at hand," said Mayor Newsom. "We must continue to think strategically and continue to invest in the people, infrastructure and businesses that will pull our economy out of this decline."

The five-part economic plan includes: (i) accelerating capital spending, (ii) investing in local businesses, (iii) reducing the burdens local government places on local businesses, (iv) supporting our workforce and (v) attracting more foreign investment to San Francisco.

Since the initial announcement of the five-part plan in October, the City's economic condition has worsened. The updated strategy details, and in some cases expands, the City's efforts to implement those key strategies. These implementation strategies both build on existing economic development programs and launch a number of major new initiatives, including:

- Granting local businesses a New Jobs Payroll Tax exemption for two years. Businesses will not have to pay payroll tax on any increase in non partnership payroll over 2008 levels for two years. This means new businesses coming to San Francisco in 2009 and 2010 will not pay any local payroll tax until 2011. Amending the City's Public Works Code to further expedite billions of dollars of already funded

- local infrastructure projects and to make it easier for local companies to work on those projects;
- Directly providing over \$23 million in no-interest loans to local businesses;
 - Granting local businesses a tax credit on new, locally purchased equipment;
 - Providing an offset for qualifying small businesses who are participating in Healthy SF;
 - Launching a business assistance strategy specifically directed to Spanish-speaking businesses;
 - Building on the success of "Homeless Connect" by launching a series of new "Job Connect" events that include job fairs and workforce assistance and counseling;
 - Opening the a "one-stop" workforce center for the unemployed in the Western Addition;
 - Expanding the City's "Bank on San Francisco" program to include financial literacy;
 - Expanding the scope of the "Working Families Tax Credit" program;
 - Expanding the successful "Shop SF. Get More" and "Staycation" holiday marketing campaigns;
 - Expanding the City's successful Neighborhood Marketplace Initiative ("NMI") and Community Benefit District ("CBD") programs to support even more neighborhood commercial corridors;
 - Expanding the scope and reach of existing state and federal tax credit programs; and
 - Providing free space to local artists in vacant storefronts.

San Francisco Regulation Changes

Business Registration Renewal & Payroll Tax Statement: Payment and filing deadline for ALL businesses is March 2, 2009. San Francisco businesses with a taxable payroll of less than \$66,666.34 are not required to file a separate Payroll Tax Statement and may renew their registration online.

Commuter Benefits Program: Effective January 19, 2009, San Francisco employers that have 20 or more employees are required to offer a commuter benefits program to encourage employees to use public transit or vanpools. Employees save by using pre-tax dollars for their commute expenses. Employers receive the advantage of reduced payroll taxes. Commuter Benefits Hotline: (415) 355-3727

Labor Law Updates: The minimum wage rate is adjusted every January 1st for inflation and will be \$9.79 starting January 1st, 2009. The Health Care Security Ordinance's (HSCO's) new expenditure rate for employers with 20 to 99 employees is \$1.23 per hour; for employers with 100 or more employees, the rate is \$1.85 per hour.

Prop Q exemption for small business: The small business exemption will increase from \$167,000 to \$250,000 of annual payroll. That is, businesses whose payroll expenses are \$250,000 or less would be exempt from the payroll tax. Proposition Q takes effect on January 1, 2009, and does not apply to the 2008 tax year or prior years

No Interest Business Loan Program

Mayor Newsom continues to champion small businesses as he announces a No-Interest Business Loan Program as part of his local economic stimulus plan. Mayor Newsom will also make desperately needed credit directly available to businesses in San Francisco through two separate programs. In the next 30 days Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) will issue an RFP for community-based lending institution to administer a revolving small business loan fund. The City will seed the fund with \$800,000 in existing Federal funds from HUD. These small and micro loans will be for \$5,000 - \$50,000 and offered to qualified small businesses. The City will make available to qualified businesses and enterprises \$23 million in no-interest loans. These funds also come from HUD funds and available for this type of program.

It will take 30-60 days to establish criteria to administer these loans. Fill out this [form](#) indicating interest in the business loan program. SBAC will notify you once the program launches.

14th Annual Hispanic Business Salute Scholarship Application Deadline Saturday, February 14th, 2009

It's that time of the year to outreach to our qualified students, who are going to enter a four or two year college institution or who are currently attending one, to have them apply for one of several scholarships that will be presented at the annual Hispanic Business Salute gala in March. Please review the guidelines. All applications are due by February 14, 2009. This is a great opportunity for deserving students to be recognized and rewarded for their outstanding scholastic achievements! [Click Here for application](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 23 - Annual February Business Mixer with American Jewish Committee

Date: Monday, February 23, 2009

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Zazil (845 Market Street, #400, S.F. - in Westfield San Francisco Center)

Join us at our FIRST business mixer of 2009!! Come network with other Latino professionals and members of the [American Jewish Committee](#) while enjoying delicious appetizers and no host bar at Zazil's, one of San Francisco's hottest restaurants. We will also release a sneak preview of 2009 programming for the Chamber.

Fees:

Pre-Registration (by Feb 19) - FREE to SFHCC and AJC Members [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Registration at Door (After Feb 19) - Members \$10, Non-Members \$15 [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

EVENTS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Feb 13 - Business Mixer with Regional Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Contra Costa County presents this Business Mixer with the California Hispanic Chambers of the Northern Region. Come meet your business leaders, elected officials, and corporate advisors in Contra Costa County on Friday, February 13th from 6p-8p at Crowne Plaza located at 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA. Food will be provided with live music. Free to all members. For more information, call 925-281-2623.

FEATURED MEMBERS

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NEW MEMBERS

Chamber members have access to exclusive benefits that build relationships, increase visibility, and generate business leads. They're the first to learn about economic trends and developments that shape the City's business environment and their own companies' growth. And they influence decision makers in San Francisco and beyond, helping ensure that San Francisco means business-in every sense. Welcome additions to the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Memberships can be purchased online using the following link:
<https://sfhccregistration.chamberbusinesssuite.com/>

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