



**NOTES FROM THE  
JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE  
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Wermer, Richard Matsuno, Glynis Nakhara,

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Karen Kai, Robert Sakai, Robert Rusky.

**FORMULA RETAIL**

Paul Wermer reviewed the Formula Retail (FU) document (Attachment A) that he sent out to the the Japantown Task Force (JTF) Board highlighting concerns about various aspects of legislation being proposed by Supervisor Eric Mar. He also mentioned that Supervisor London Breed has proposed legislation specifically for Hayes Valley and Supervisor Mark Farrell for the upper Fillmore,

Paul is urging JTF to support not increasing the number from ten to nineteen, but include subsidiaries under formula retail. The JTF position is not an attempt to ban formula retail.

Robert Sakai urged that the statement support businesses that reflect and support the local

Glynis Nakahara encourages a positive statement that indicates an appropriate should be considered.

It was the consensus of those present that Paul would refine the draft he shared to include the proposed recommendations and share it with those attending the meeting and have the final version completed and ready for distribution to the JTF Board by August 13, 2014 with a recommendation for the Board to vote on this item and send its position to Supervisor Mar and the Planning Commission.

**SIGNAGE**

Paul stated that the staff of the Planning Commission is recommending changes to the signage requirements currently in place such as \_\_\_\_\_.

He raised concerns that those changes would have an impact on Special Use Districts (SUD), such as Japantown and that enforcement of the current requirements is inconsistent citing the large and number of signs erected for the, now defunct, Denny's Restaurant in Japantown.

Robert expressed his concern that this sort of matter adds to the challenges of a small business to be aware of the many issues such as signage requirements within Japantown might be seen as a another restrictive step in opening a business in the area.

Glynis commented that JTF could be the "welcome committee" for a new business considering doing business in Japantown and assist them with the "local" nuances.

Paul will have this added to the JTF August 20, 2014 agenda for consideration.