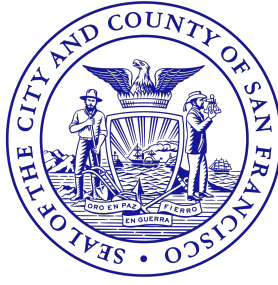


City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors
Member, District 6

MATT DORSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

Dorsey-Mahmood legislation seeks to expand overnight retail curfew to 6th Street and SoMa

Backed by evidence of its effectiveness in reducing drug-related crime, legislation aims to expand pilot and improve late-night public safety, neighborhood conditions

SAN FRANCISCO (Jan. 6, 2026) — Supervisor Matt Dorsey, in partnership with Supervisor Bilal Mahmood, today announced [legislation](#) to expand San Francisco’s existing late-night retail hours restriction pilot program to include portions of the South of Market neighborhood adjacent to the Tenderloin. The proposal builds on documented public-safety improvements that resulted from the City’s existing pilot in the Tenderloin neighborhood, and is designed to address persistent late-night drug activity, violence, and unsanitary conditions.

The proposed ordinance would establish an 18-month pilot program restricting late-night operating hours for certain retail food and tobacco establishments within a defined Tenderloin and South of Market Public Safety Area. Under the proposal, retail establishments without existing licenses from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, or ABC, would be prohibited from operating between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. ABC-licensed businesses would follow existing liquor-license closure requirements, with additional restrictions between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

“This is a strategy that works, and it’s absolutely worth expanding to the 6th Street corridor and adjacent parts of SoMa that are disproportionately harmed by drug-driven lawlessness,”

said **Supervisor Matt Dorsey**. “At the same time, I also recognize we’re asking many law-abiding small businesses to sacrifice to help solve problems they haven’t caused. I truly appreciate the many businesses willing to do their part, so we can give the neighborhood an overnight cooling off period — and make it a less welcoming environment for public drug use, drug dealing, and all the drug-driven lawlessness like illegal fencing operations that fund rampant drug use. The bottom line is this approach will help — but it must also be part of a larger approach to escalate consequences for drug crimes, and turn off the magnet that for far too long has made San Francisco a destination for drug-related bad behavior.”

“The success of the late-night curfew pilot in the Tenderloin over the past year and a half has improved safety for residents, small businesses, and street conditions, and it’s time to expand those benefits in the Tenderloin and SoMa,” said **Supervisor Bilal Mahmood**. “The retail-hours pilot is a short-term, targeted measure to help stabilize conditions while we work towards long-term solutions that support public safety, economic vitality, and compassion for everyone affected.”

According to data from the San Francisco Police Department, the existing Tenderloin pilot has contributed to measurable reductions in late-night violent crime, narcotics activity, and calls for service, as well as fewer large street gatherings associated with open-air drug markets. The proposed expansion is based on findings that similar late-night conditions persist in nearby South of Market corridors, particularly near late-night retailers, transit access points, and nightlife uses.

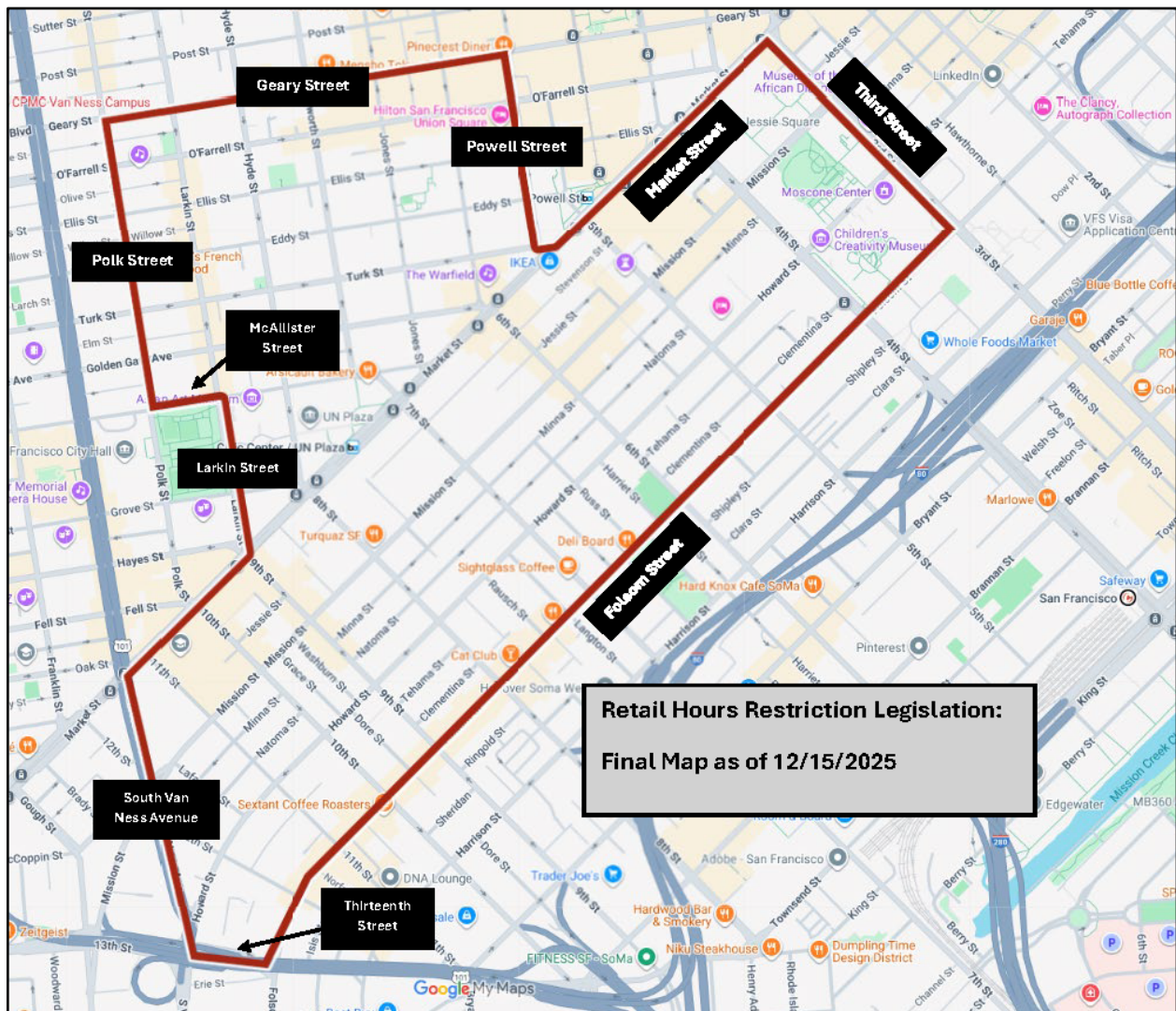
SFPD’s findings were buttressed by academic findings first reported in a Nov. 25, 2025 San Francisco Standard article, which cited an academic study recently published in Security Journal.¹ The study by Italian researchers estimated a 56 percent reduction “in drug-related incidents during curfew hours over nine months, with no evidence of spatial displacement to nearby areas or temporal displacement within the Tenderloin Public Safety Area.”

Throughout the development of the legislation, Supervisors Dorsey and Mahmood worked closely with City departments and engaged directly with merchants who would be impacted by the proposed changes. Retail operators were kept informed as the policy was shaped, and their feedback helped inform outreach, implementation planning, and enforcement

¹ Nazzari, M., Calaresu, M. & Triventi, M. No sales after midnight: evaluating the impact of a business curfew on drug-related crime in San Francisco’s tenderloin. Secur J 39, 5 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-025-00517-w>.

considerations. The legislation also requires continued coordination with affected businesses, including advance notice prior to implementation, multilingual outreach, and an ongoing channel for merchants to share concerns and feedback if the pilot moves forward.

The final map identifying the new Tenderloin and South of Market Public Safety Area, where the 18-month pilot program would restrict late-night operating hours for most retail food and tobacco establishments, is incorporated into the legislation as follows:



In addition to the retail-hours restrictions, the legislation emphasizes continued coordination among SFPD, the Department of Public Health, the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the City Attorney. The pilot includes formal reporting to the Board of

Supervisors to evaluate public-safety outcomes, enforcement activity, business impacts, and neighborhood conditions over time, followed by a public hearing to inform next steps.

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Contact: BRYAN DAHL

Bryan.Dahl@sfgov.org

+1 (650) 465-4358 m

+1 (415) 554-7969 w