



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF THE TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR

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JOSÉ CISNEROS, TREASURER
GEORGE PUTRIS, TAX ADMINISTRATOR

Press Release

Treasurer José Cisneros and Supervisor David Chiu announce opportunity for payroll tax relief *Payroll Taxpayers who are experiencing a financial downturn may petition Treasurer's Office for a reduction in tax prepayments to the City*

Contact: David Augustine, Treasurer's Office, 554-7601 (office)
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SAN FRANCISCO — Treasurer José Cisneros announced today that payroll tax-paying businesses in San Francisco experiencing a downturn may petition his office to reduce their tax prepayments to the City.

“We are all feeling the effects of the recession, particularly people who run businesses,” Treasurer Cisneros announced. “If your business is having a bad year, and your payroll is less than it was last year, you can work with our office to make sure that the City is collecting the appropriate amount of tax.”

“I am pleased that the City is taking steps to offer support to San Francisco businesses in a difficult time,” commented Supervisor Chiu. “As a former member of the Small Business Commission, I know firsthand how difficult it can be for small businesses right now.”

“This is one of a series of steps the City is taking to assist businesses in this difficult economic environment,” commented Mayor Newsom. “I’m glad the Treasurer can offer assistance to our local business community.”

Approximately 8,700 businesses make payroll expense tax prepayments to the City. Prepayment amounts are based on a business’ prior year tax. However, pursuant to Section 6.9-3(d) of the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code, a taxpayer may petition the Treasurer’s Office to reduce the taxpayer’s payroll expense tax prepayment amount. The taxpayer must show by clear and convincing evidence that the prepayment amount calculated by the Treasurer’s Office will amount to more than one quarter or one half (depending on the size of the business) of the taxpayer’s total payroll expense tax liability for the 2009 tax year.

Requests for prepayment reduction must be made in writing and must clearly explain the facts and circumstances relating to the anticipated reduction in 2009 payroll expense tax liability. The Treasurer’s Office encourages taxpayers to provide as much detail as necessary to explain the situation (e.g. detail about the taxpayer’s actual payroll expense tax liability thus far in 2009, as well as the taxpayer’s total anticipated payroll expense tax liability for 2009). **Any change in prepayment amount will be effective only upon written approval by the Treasurer’s Office. Until that time, taxpayers must pay prepayment amounts on a timely basis, based on the amounts the Treasurer’s Office has calculated.**

“It’s critical that taxpayers continue to pay the prepayment amount we ask them to pay until we notify them otherwise,” said Treasurer Cisneros.

In order to apply, taxpayers may write a letter to Business Tax Section, Account Services Unit, P.O. Box 7425, San Francisco, CA 94120. Information is also available on the Treasurer's Office website at www.sfgov.org/treasurer.

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