

Marjan Philhour

Meet the candidates, week 16: “What is your plan to fill empty storefronts in District 1?”

The Richmond District has seen a disproportionate share of empty storefronts in recent years. I owned a brick and mortar business with my sister on Balboa Street, and as co-founder of the Balboa Village merchants Association, I hear from business owners every day about the challenges they face operating their businesses in the Richmond District. Merchants love what they do and they love being in our community, however it is the responsibility of our local supervisor to ensure that the neighborhood is one that is both safe and clean so that local businesses can operate effectively.

Last January, 6 merchants on Clement Street were burglarized in one evening. Fully staffing our local police department will ensure that we have a fully staffed Richmond station, and that means more officers on the beat to ensure that our businesses are safe during the day and overnight.

We must continue the reforms put forward by Proposition H in 2020 which streamlined processes to help small businesses get up and running quickly. This should also include diversifying the use of spaces so as not to limit possibilities for small business owners. Foot traffic drives business in local corridors. We must support housing creation in transit corridors, so that residents can shop locally and support local businesses.