Dear Business Owner:

You are reading this letter because your community has decided to institute the Safe Haven program in your neighborhood. Participating in the Safe Haven program means you agree to:

1. Place a Safe Haven logo in your window or door, which lets members of the community know that your business will provide assistance during an emergency or in a time of distress and

2. Give those in distress at least 15 minutes to wait for assistance and to make a phone call for the person if necessary.

The Safe Haven program will be promoted for use to vulnerable community members, specifically children, women, and the elderly. As the program begins, we ask that you are available as a Safe Haven from 2-8pm, or any hours within that time frame that you are operating for business. The level of assistance that you provide can vary from allowing an elderly person to rest, or making a phone call for a lost child, or even calling 911 for serious cases of distress. We have included a list of community resource phone numbers for easy access to help.

To minimize abuse of the Safe Haven system, it is necessary to assist only those people that are in a state of distress and sober. This condition may be difficult to ascertain, so we suggest that you use your best judgment. In cases where you feel your safety is jeopardized you may refuse assistance, however please call local police so that they may assist the individual. Liability has never been a factor for any merchant when an individual has asked for assistance. The liability for opening your doors to people needing help is no greater than if you were to leave your business and attend to them on the sidewalk.

Please consider allowing your business to be a part of this program and help foster safety in your neighborhood. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact us at SOMASafeHaven@gmail.com or contact Nicole Workman, SF SAFE Inc, at 415-553-1986. Thank you!

SoMa Community Safety Group