

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: John Updike, Director, Real Estate Division  
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department  
John Rahaim, Director, Planning Department  
Harlan Kelly, Jr., General Manager, Public Utilities Commission

FROM: *ell*  
*for* Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director  
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: December 15, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Avalos on December 6, 2016:

**File No. 161323**

**Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors' support for urban agriculture and urging the evaluation and allocation of appropriate properties for urban agriculture.**

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org).

c: Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department  
Scott Sanchez, Planning Department  
Lisa Gibson, Planning Department  
AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department  
Aaron Starr, Planning Department  
Joy Navarrete, Planning Department  
Jeanie Poling, Planning Department  
Juliet Ellis, Public Utilities Commission  
Donna Hood, Public Utilities Commission

1 [Urging the Evaluation and Allocation of Properties for Urban Agriculture]

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3 **Resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors' support for urban agriculture and**  
4 **urging the evaluation and allocation of appropriate properties for urban agriculture.**

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6 WHEREAS, Urban agriculture provides proven benefits to San Franciscans by  
7 connecting City residents to the broader food system, providing green space and recreation,  
8 providing ecological benefits and green infrastructure, building community, and offering food  
9 access, public health, and workforce development potential; and

10 WHEREAS, Urban agriculture has been identified as a priority land use in the City and  
11 County of San Francisco on the basis of the aforementioned benefits through numerous policy  
12 developments; and

13 WHEREAS, Executive Directive 09-03 "Healthy and Sustainable Food for San  
14 Francisco (July 9, 2009), which report is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in  
15 File No. 161323 and is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully  
16 herein states, "Food production and horticulture education will be encouraged within the City  
17 and, to the extent feasible, on City owned land, through urban agriculture including  
18 community, backyard, rooftop, and school gardens; edible landscaping, and agricultural  
19 incubator projects;" and

20 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco further demonstrated its  
21 commitment to urban agriculture by modifying its Planning Code in April 2011 to allow urban  
22 agriculture in all zones throughout the city in its ordinance 66-11, which is hereby declared to  
23 be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

24 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco created the Urban Agriculture  
25 Program and position of an urban agriculture coordinator in 2012 to provide technical and

1 coordination support to the urban agriculture sector in its ordinance 162-12, which is hereby  
2 declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco underscored the value of urban  
4 agriculture and the importance of land access and land tenure when it created the state's first  
5 Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone in 2014 through its implementation of Assembly Bill 551 in  
6 its ordinance 184-14, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth  
7 fully herein; and

8 WHEREAS, Urban farm lands are limited in the City and County of San Francisco and  
9 as our population grows and farms disappear, an increasing number of citizens are deprived  
10 of access to and understanding of working farmland and of their food system; and

11 WHEREAS, Demonstration of intensive urban food production connects city residents  
12 to larger food systems and offers space for agricultural collaboration between urban and rural  
13 sectors; and

14 WHEREAS, Secure land tenure has been demonstrated as an essential component to  
15 the near and long-term viability of urban farms; and

16 WHEREAS, Urban farms are an important element in realizing urban agriculture's  
17 immense social and environmental potential; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
19 finds that urban farms are an important element in realizing urban agriculture's immense  
20 social and environmental potential; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of Real  
22 Estate, the Recreation and Parks Department, the Planning Department and Public Utilities  
23 Commission to evaluate possible sites, including surplus properties and possible sites  
24 available for acquisition, for their potential suitability for urban agriculture, including, but not  
25 limited to sites that meet the following criteria:

- 1 - remain permeable,
- 2 - were previously zoned for agriculture,
- 3 - are prone to flooding,
- 4 - meet the criteria of blight as defined in Administrative Code Section 80.3, or
- 5 - have been identified by the City, community groups, community plans or other
- 6 interested parties as well-suited for urban agriculture; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges that such properties be  
8 evaluated with the intent of establishing an urban agriculture project that provides educational  
9 benefits to children and adults while also being potentially economically self-sustaining  
10 through commercial operations.

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