

**BOARD of SUPERVISORS**



**City Hall**  
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**San Francisco 94102-4689**  
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**TDD/TTY No. 554-5227**

December 30, 2020

The Honorable Garrett L. Wong  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco  
400 McAllister Street, Department 206  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Civil Grand Jury Report - Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone  
Convention Center

Dear Judge Wong:

The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee conducted a public hearing on December 3, 2020, to review the findings and recommendations of the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury report, entitled "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center."

Prior to the Committee meeting, the following City Departments submitted required responses to the Civil Grand Jury:

- Office of the Mayor:  
Received November 30, 2020;
- City Administrator:  
Received November 30, 2020;
- Office of the Economic and Workforce Development:  
Received November 30, 2020;
- Police Department:  
Received November 30, 2020;
- Office of the Controller:  
Received November 30, 2020


During the December 3, 2020 meeting, the Government Audit and Oversight Committee prepared a resolution responding to the requested findings and recommendations identified in the report. The response was prepared by Resolution No. 587-20 (File No. 201124) and enacted on December 23, 2020.

By this message, the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is transmitting their response (Resolution No. 587-20) to your attention.

(Continues on next page)

If you have any questions, please contact John Carroll, Government Audit and Oversight Committee Clerk at (415) 554-4445, or via email to [john.carroll@sfgov.org](mailto:john.carroll@sfgov.org).

Sincerely,



Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

jec:bjj:ams

c: Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Office  
Andres Power, Mayor's Office  
Sally Ma, Mayor's Office  
Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office  
Anne Pearson, Office of the City Attorney  
Ben Rosenfield, City Controller  
Todd Rydstrom, Office of the Controller  
Peg Stevenson, Office of the Controller  
Mark de la Rosa, Office of the Controller  
Ken Bukowski, Acting City Administrator, Office of the City Administrator  
Lihmei Leu, Office of the City Administrator  
Tal Quetone, Office of the City Administrator  
Alisa Somera, Office of the Clerk of the Board  
Severin Campbell, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst  
Reuben Holoher, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst  
Ellie Schafer, 2020-2021 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury  
Jaime Guandique, 2019-2020 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury  
Rasha Harvey, 2018-2019 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury  
Peter Mills, 2019-2020 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury  
John Noguchi, Director of Convention Facilities  
Joaquin Torres, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
J'Wel Vaughan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Anne Taupier, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Lisa Pagan, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
William Scott, Police Chief, Police Department  
Rowena Carr, Police Department  
Lili Gamero, Police Department  
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department

1 [Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone  
2 Convention Center]

3 **Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings**  
4 **and recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled**  
5 **“Sustain Our City’s High Performance Moscone Convention Center;” and urging the**  
6 **Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted findings and recommendations**  
7 **through her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.**

8  
9 WHEREAS, Under California Penal Code, Section 933 et seq., the Board of  
10 Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior  
11 Court on the findings and recommendations contained in Civil Grand Jury Reports; and

12 WHEREAS, In accordance with California Penal Code, Section 933.05(c), if a finding or  
13 recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a  
14 county agency or a department headed by an elected officer, the agency or department head  
15 and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the Civil Grand Jury, but the  
16 response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only budgetary or personnel matters over  
17 which it has some decision making authority; and

18 WHEREAS, Under San Francisco Administrative Code, Section 2.10(a), the Board of  
19 Supervisors must conduct a public hearing by a committee to consider a final report of the  
20 findings and recommendations submitted, and notify the current foreperson and immediate  
21 past foreperson of the civil grand jury when such hearing is scheduled; and

22 WHEREAS, In accordance with San Francisco Administrative Code, Section 2.10(b),  
23 the Controller must report to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of  
24 recommendations that pertain to fiscal matters that were considered at a public hearing held  
25 by a Board of Supervisors Committee; and

1           WHEREAS, The 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “Sustain Our City’s High  
2 Performing Moscone Convention Center” (“Report”) is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
3 Supervisors in File No. 201123, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if  
4 set forth fully herein; and

5           WHEREAS, The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the Board of Supervisors respond  
6 to Finding Nos. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, and F9, as well as Recommendation Nos. R1,  
7 R2, R3, and R4, contained in the subject Report; and

8           WHEREAS, Finding No. F1 states: “MED and TID assessments to support convention  
9 sales and San Francisco Travel are a key support to Moscone’s competitiveness and  
10 success;” and

11           WHEREAS, Finding No. F2 states: “Currently, strong Moscone and San Francisco  
12 value propositions attract corporate and association conventions to the city, underpinning a  
13 robust convention business;” and

14           WHEREAS, Finding No. F3 states: “Moscone’s primary economic benefit to San  
15 Francisco is indirect, deriving from conventions that help fill hotel rooms and support local  
16 travel and tourism-related activities;” and

17           WHEREAS, Finding No. F4 states: “Moscone’s convention business supports a  
18 significant travel and tourism-based workforce that is largely local, vital, and diverse;” and

19           WHEREAS, Finding No. F5 states: “Economic activity due to Moscone’s conventions is  
20 a significant part of the City’s entire tourism sector, about one fifth of it;” and

21           WHEREAS, Finding No. F6 states: “Compared to many cities’ competing venues, high  
22 local hotel costs, labor costs, and Moscone facility costs make contracting future conventions  
23 a significant challenge (notwithstanding current MED and TID assessments);” and

24

25

1           WHEREAS, Finding No. F7 states: “Compared to some cities’ competing venues,  
2 convention planner and conventioner concerns about insecurity (real and perceived) in San  
3 Francisco make contracting and retaining future conventions a significant challenge;” and

4           WHEREAS, Finding No. F8 states: “Unwelcome street behaviors and uncleanliness  
5 that bother convention attendees and exhibitors have been important reasons for convention  
6 planners of medium and large size events to select venues in other cities;” and

7           WHEREAS, Finding No. F9 states: “In the face of San Francisco’s challenges in the  
8 areas of (i) event hosting costs, (ii) street blight and (iii) unwelcome street behavior, increasing  
9 Moscone’s pricing discounts could at least partly offset these to more effectively attract and  
10 retain convention events;” and

11           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R1 states: “Renew the current Tourism  
12 Improvement District that expires December 31, 2023 to at least maintain then current levels  
13 of TID assessments and other terms no less favorable than the current agreement;” and

14           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R2 states: “Starting with FY 2021/2022 city budget,  
15 supplement current MED assessments with an additional general fund allocation of at least  
16 \$2,500,000 to provide additional discounts to Moscone gross rental charges, targeting multi-  
17 year deals with priority organizations, subject to case by case approval by the City’s Director  
18 of Convention Facilities;” and

19           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R3 states: “Effective with conventions taking place  
20 after July 1, 2021, the Police Department must assign at least an additional 3 uniformed beat  
21 patrol officers per 10,000 expected event attendees, dedicated to patrolling areas extending  
22 four or more blocks from any side of Moscone Convention Center during the 8 busiest  
23 convention hours overlapping daily start and end times;” and

24           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R4 states: “By June 30, 2021, establish a task force  
25 comprised of at least (i) ASM Global, (ii) Community Behavioral Health Services, (iii)

1 Convention Facilities Department, (iv) the San Francisco Hotel Council, (v) San Francisco  
2 Police Department, and (vi) San Francisco Travel, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan  
3 for event security and street management, to achieve a goal of 25% or fewer ‘needs  
4 improvement’ responses in convention post-event surveys for security and street cleanliness;”  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In accordance with California Penal Code, Section 933.05(c), the Board of  
7 Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior  
8 Court on Finding Nos. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, and F9, as well as Recommendation  
9 Nos. R1, R2, R3, and R4 contained in the subject Report; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge of the  
11 Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F1; and be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
13 of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F2; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
15 of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F3; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
17 of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F4; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
19 of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F5; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
21 of the Superior Court that they disagree partially with Finding No. F6 for reason as follows:  
22 Moscone Center remains one of the highest in-demand destinations among the nation’s first-  
23 tier venues for conventions and visitors before the pandemic despite costs, because  
24 conventioners consider a variety of factors to determine the overall value of hosting events in  
25 the City; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
2 of the Superior Court that they disagree partially with Finding No. F7 for reason as follows:  
3 Moscone Center remains one of the highest in-demand destinations among the nation’s first-  
4 tier venues for conventions and visitors before the pandemic despite real and perceived  
5 security, because conventioners consider a variety of factors to determine the overall value  
6 of hosting events in the City; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
8 of the Superior Court that they disagree partially with Finding No. F8 for reason as follows:  
9 Moscone Center remains one of the highest in-demand destinations among the nation’s first-  
10 tier venues for conventions and visitors before the pandemic despite street behaviors and  
11 cleanliness, because conventioners consider a variety of factors to determine the overall  
12 value of hosting events in the City; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge  
14 of the Superior Court that they disagree with Finding No. F9 for reason as follows: There are  
15 many contributing factors to conventioners’ decisions, San Francisco should focus on long-  
16 lasting competitive advantages by elevating the overall value of hosting conventions at  
17 Moscone Center; and, be it

18           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation  
19 No. R1 will not be implemented because the renewal of the Tourism Improvement District is  
20 subject to a public and democratic process that includes input from hotels, tourism industry  
21 leaders, and the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation  
23 No. R2 will not be implemented because the City is unable to commit additional General Fund  
24 given the City’s future fiscal uncertainty due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and,  
25 be it

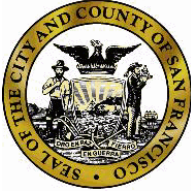
1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation  
2 No. R3 will not be implemented because the City is unable to commit additional resources to  
3 San Francisco Police Department to assign at least an additional 3 uniformed beat patrol  
4 officers per 10,000 expected event attendees given the City’s future fiscal uncertainty due to  
5 the COVID-19 public health emergency; and, be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation  
7 No. R4 will not be implemented because the City has already established an active  
8 relationship with various city departments and organizations that oversees event security and  
9 street management; and, be it

10           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to cause the  
11 implementation of the accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads  
12 and through the development of the annual budget.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 201124

Date Passed: December 15, 2020

Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled "Sustain Our City's High Performance Moscone Convention Center;" and urging the Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 201124

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board


Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

12/23/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

12/23/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

File No.  
201124