

1 [Follow-Up Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - A Recycling Reality Check: What
2 Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins]

3 **Motion responding to the Civil Grand Jury’s request to provide a status update on the**
4 **Board of Supervisors’ response to Recommendation No. R1, R2, and R3 contained in**
5 **the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “A Recycling Reality Check: What**
6 **Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins.”**

7

8 WHEREAS, The 2019-2020 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury published a report, entitled
9 “A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling
10 Bins” (“Report”) on October 1, 2020; and

11 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee
12 (“GAO”) conducted a public hearing to hear and respond to the Report on December 3, 2020;
13 and, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 588-20 on December 15, 2020,
14 reflecting the GAO responses to the Report; a copy of which is on file with the Clerk of the
15 Board of Supervisors in File No. 201126; and

16 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R1 states: “City government should establish a web
17 page (available on both Recology SF and the San Francisco Department of the Environment
18 sites) that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material. The website should be
19 updated not less than twice a year, with data for the preceding six months. Key trends should
20 be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and

21 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on December 15, 2020, responded in
22 Resolution No. 588-20 that Recommendation No. R1 “has not been implemented but will be
23 implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the
24 Environment to prioritize timely and clear website communications on the trends of the
25 disposition of blue bin materials, in multiple languages;” and

1 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R2 states: “The existing mobile application related
2 to recycling (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.recology.android>) should be
3 updated to provide information that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material.
4 The information should be refreshed not less than twice a year, with data from the preceding
5 six months. Key trends should be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on December 15, 2020, responded in
7 Resolution No. 588-20 that Recommendation No. R2 “has not been implemented but will be
8 implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the
9 Environment to prioritize timely and clear mobile application updates on the trends of the
10 disposition of blue bin materials, in multiple languages;” and

11 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R3 states: “City government should enhance citizen
12 educational efforts on what *not* to place in the blue bins, so that the volume, quality, and
13 associated revenue from blue bin recycling can be increased, while decreasing the confusion
14 some citizens have on this topic;” and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on December 15, 2020, responded in
16 Resolution No. 588-20 that Recommendation No. R3 “has not been implemented but will be
17 implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the
18 Environment to ensure these communications are available in multiple languages;” and

19 WHEREAS, The GAO Committee conducted an additional hearing on
20 February 3, 2022, to receive an update from City departments on Recommendation Nos. R1,
21 R2, and R3; now, therefore, be it

22 MOVED, That Recommendation No. R1 has been implemented as follows: Recology
23 and the Department of the Environment launched new webpages on July 1st 2021 detailing
24 the recent disposition of blue bin materials, available in English, Spanish, and Chinese
25 languages, with graphic elements summarizing trends; and, be it

1 FURTHER MOVED, That Recommendation No. R2 has been implemented as follows:
2 Recology updated their mobile application on July 1st 2021 provide information summarizing
3 the recent disposition of blue bin material, with key trends identified by graphic elements; and,
4 be it

5 FURTHER MOVED, That Recommendation No. R3 has been implemented as follows:
6 Recology and the Department of the Environment launched new web pages addressing “What
7 Not to Put in the Blue Bin” on July 1st 2021, and continue to provide multilingual virtual and in-
8 person outreach and education about proper separation of waste, compost, and recyclables.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25