

File No. 260425

Committee Item No. 1

Board Item No. 10

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Government Audit and Oversight

Date: May 7, 2026

Board of Supervisors Meeting:

Date: May 19, 2026

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Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: May 15, 2026

Prepared by: Monique Crayton

Date: May 1, 2026

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Behested Payment Waiver - Economic Revitalization Efforts]

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3 **Resolution authorizing a six-month waiver of the City’s Behested Payments Ordinance**  
4 **for the Mayor, members of the Mayor’s Office, and the Executive Director of the Office**  
5 **of Economic and Workforce Development and each of their direct reports to solicit**  
6 **donations from nonprofits, private organizations, grantmakers, foundations, and other**  
7 **persons and entities for the purpose of supporting the continued economic**  
8 **revitalization of San Francisco, pursuant to Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and**  
9 **Governmental Conduct Code.**

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11 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a beautiful and historic downtown area that has long  
12 been a connective hub for business, culture, and innovation; and

13 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s downtown area is vital to the City’s overall health and  
14 vibrancy, many residents work, transact business, or live in the area, and it remains a popular  
15 destination for both domestic and international visitors; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco and its downtown area have faced unprecedented  
17 challenges resulting in part from the Covid-19 pandemic, including a rise in homelessness, the  
18 closure of businesses, an increased number of residents living in or near poverty, a lack of  
19 affordable housing, and residents relocating out of the City; and

20 WHEREAS, While the City has in place numerous policies and initiatives aimed at  
21 encouraging a thriving economy in the downtown area and beyond, more resources are  
22 urgently needed to make sure the downtown area can be clean, safe, and thriving; and

23 WHEREAS, The City is aware of various charitable public benefit corporations, such as  
24 the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation, that aim to help revitalize San  
25 Francisco and specifically its downtown area, to ensure that residents, businesses, and

1 visitors have a safe, clean, dynamic, economically vibrant, and innovative place to live, work,  
2 play, and conduct business; and

3 WHEREAS, These nonprofit entities generally intend to accomplish this mission by  
4 making the City safer and more welcoming for residents and visitors, ensuring and  
5 maintaining clean public spaces, increasing foot traffic for local businesses, enhancing cultural  
6 and arts programming, using financial resources to support local businesses and projects, and  
7 researching and implementing other measures aimed at revitalizing the City and its downtown  
8 area, including projects in partnership with the City and projects that may become owned or  
9 maintained by the City; and

10 WHEREAS, These nonprofit entities are fundraising for these efforts, and the City is  
11 generally supportive of these efforts and their potential; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 10, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No.  
13 125-24 authorizing a 6-month waiver of the City's Behested Payments Ordinance (Campaign  
14 and Governmental Conduct Code, Section 3.600 et seq.) for the Mayor and the Mayor's Chief  
15 of Staff, Chief of Infrastructure, Climate and Mobility, Chief of Housing and Economic  
16 Development, Chief of Public Health, Homelessness, and Family Services, Chief of Public  
17 Safety, Policy Advisor, Director of Community Affairs, Assistant Chiefs of Climate and  
18 Mobility, Assistant Chiefs of Housing and Economic Development, Assistant Chiefs of Health,  
19 Homelessness, and Family Services, Assistant Chiefs of Public Safety, and the Director of the  
20 City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), for six months from the  
21 effective date of the Resolution, to solicitations of financial support or in-kind goods or  
22 services from nonprofits, private organizations, grantmakers, foundations, and other persons  
23 and entities to support the work of nonprofit entities to help revitalize San Francisco including  
24 its downtown area that expired on December 12, 2025; and

1           WHEREAS, On December 2, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No.  
2 567-25 authorizing a 6-month waiver of the City's Behested Payments Ordinance (Campaign  
3 and Governmental Conduct Code, Section 3.600 et seq.) for the Mayor; the Mayor's Chief of  
4 Staff; the Deputy Chief of Staff; the Director of Communications & Public Affairs; the Chief of  
5 Protocol; the Director of Strategic Partnerships; and the Policy Chiefs (Health, Homelessness  
6 & Family Services, Housing & Economic Development, Infrastructure, Climate & Mobility, and  
7 Public Safety), the Executive Director of the City's Office of Economic and Workforce  
8 Development (OEWD), and each of their direct reports, to solicit donations from nonprofit  
9 organizations, private entities, grantmakers, foundations, businesses, and other entities, and  
10 individuals affiliated with such organizations and entities to support the continued economic  
11 revitalization of San Francisco including the downtown area and that will expire on June 5,  
12 2026; and

13           WHEREAS, The parties receiving this waiver have agreed to report to the Board of  
14 Supervisors donations to the City and any third party that were solicited under this waiver;  
15 such reports will identify the donor, the amount of the donation, the party that received the  
16 donation, and the interested relationship the donor has with the department that solicited the  
17 donation; the departments will submit the reports to the Board within 60 days of the expiration  
18 of the six-month period authorized by this waiver; and

19           WHEREAS, more than \$60 million dollars have been pledged to support downtown  
20 revitalization through the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation's private  
21 fundraising efforts; and

22           WHEREAS, This waiver will likewise serve the public interest and does not create an  
23 appearance of impropriety; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That under Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct  
2 Code, the Board of Supervisors hereby approves the waiver of the Behested Payments  
3 Ordinance for six months authorizing the Mayor; the Mayor’s Chief of Staff; the Deputy Chief  
4 of Staff; the Director of Communications & Public Affairs; the Chief of Protocol; the Director of  
5 Strategic Partnerships; and the Policy Chiefs (Health, Homelessness & Family Services,  
6 Housing & Economic Development, Infrastructure, Climate & Mobility, Public Safety, and  
7 Strategy and Performance), the Executive Director of the City’s Office of Economic and  
8 Workforce Development (OEWD), and each of their direct reports, to solicit donations from  
9 private individuals and organizations to support the continued economic revitalization of San  
10 Francisco including the downtown area; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this waiver shall expire six months after the effective date  
12 of this Resolution; and, be it

13           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this waiver continues to be subject to the City’s rules and  
14 policies governing transparency and disclosure, including annual reporting to the Board of  
15 Supervisors and other applicable requirements.

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TO: President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Adam Thongsavat, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors  
RE: Behested Payment Waiver - Economic Revitalization Efforts  
DATE: April 21, 2026

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Downtown is San Francisco's front door to the world, the Bay Area's primary transit nexus, and our economic engine. When downtown thrives, it powers our city's services and employs San Franciscans from every neighborhood. Downtown has historically accounted for more than 40% of the city's resident employment, tax revenue, and number of small businesses. Its world-renowned cultural institutions, iconic destinations, and innovation ecosystem attract visitors from across the region and globe.

San Francisco and its downtown area have faced unprecedented challenges resulting in part from the Covid-19 pandemic, including a decline in tourism, the closure of businesses, a rise in homelessness, an increased number of residents living in or near poverty, a lack of affordable housing, and residents relocating out of the City. More resources are urgently needed to support downtown's evolution into a live, work, play destination, accelerate downtown's recovery as the city's economic engine, and promote greater prosperity and opportunity for all San Franciscans.

This urgent need led the Mayor's Office to pursue and secure a waiver of the Behested Payments Ordinance under Section 3.620(f) in June and December 2025. The waiver has enabled the Mayor's Office and OEWD to coordinate with organizations like the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation, a public benefit corporation that is raising funds to revitalize San Francisco and specifically its downtown area. Through these efforts, more than \$60 million has been pledged to support downtown revitalization, with \$34.3 million already secured. Funds raised through the existing waiver have supported several key initiatives, including:

- Launch of Downtown Business Fund: \$25 million program by the San Francisco Downtown Development Corporation and SF New Deal that provides technical assistance, accessible capital, and move-in grants of up to \$500,000 to support existing businesses opening new storefronts in downtown San Francisco. The program is also available to established operators on key corridors who are making meaningful investments to attract new audiences and communities downtown.
- Downtown Safety Ambassadors: Funding a 1-year continuation of the city's sunseting HEART Safety Ambassador program in Union Square and Yerba Buena.
- BART Station Ambassadors: Funding for Embarcadero BART and Montgomery BART safety ambassadors since November, with additional funding for 1 year starting April. Funding to expand to Powell BART station.
- Cleaning & pressure washing: (1) Continuing daily pressure washing in the Convention Corridor, (2) New grant for enhanced pressurewashing / cleaning in Union Square and Hallidie Plaza, (3) New grant for pressurewasher equipment for Mid-Market.
- Major events: Funding to continue Downtown First Thursdays for 2026.
- Public space activation: Funding for East Cut Park programming for 2026; the park hosted more than 300 successful events in 2025 with over 18,000 attendees.
- Public art: Arts installation, including artist Jeffrey Gibson's fa√bade installation across the vacant Bloomingdale's space, in partnership with the SF ICA. In addition, Sadie Barnette vinyl art on City College building.

The staff covered under this waiver may participate in conversations with potential funders to continue this revitalization effort. Together, we will ensure that downtown is a safe, clean, dynamic, economically vibrant, innovative, and inviting place for residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

## **Engagement with Potential Interested Parties**

Businesses, foundations, property owners, and other private employers and parties could be solicited under this waiver. These parties are increasingly recognizing how vital downtown's success is — not only for their own operations and employees, but for the broader economic prosperity of San Francisco. We are pursuing a behested payments waiver out of an abundance of caution since some of the types of parties named below (especially businesses or property owners) could have business before the City.

The Mayor's Office and OEWD staff covered under the previous waiver has engaged with the following entities that may be considered interested parties:

- Amazon
- BXP
- Gap, Inc.
- Google
- JPMorgan Chase
- OpenAI
- Ripple Labs Inc.
- Salesforce

As stated in the resolution in terms substantially similar to the existing waiver, we will offer a report that identifies donors and their interested party relationship, if any, within 60 days of the waiver's expiration.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



DANIEL LURIE  
MAYOR

TO: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Dexter Darmali, Legislative & Ethics Secretary  
RE: Behested Payment Waiver – Economic Revitalization Efforts  
DATE: April 21, 2026

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Resolution authorizing a six-month waiver of the City's Behested Payments Ordinance for the Mayor, members of the Mayor's Office, and the Executive Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to solicit donations from nonprofits, private organizations, grantmakers, foundations, and other persons and entities for the purpose of supporting the continued economic revitalization of San Francisco, pursuant to Section 3.620(f) of the Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code.

Should you have any questions, please contact Adam Thongsavat at [adam.thongsavat@sfgov.org](mailto:adam.thongsavat@sfgov.org)