

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center"
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:54:43 PM
Attachments: [Moscone Center Civil Grand Jury Report Letter of Support December 2020.pdf](#)

From: Samantha Delucchi <sdelucchi@calacademy.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 3:57 PM
To: Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>
Cc: Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Ike Kwon <ikwon@calacademy.org>
Subject: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center"

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Hello Supervisor Mar,

On behalf of Ike Kwon, attached is a letter of support in reference to the Civil Grand Jury Report: Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center heard at today's (12/3/2020) Government Audit and Oversight Committee meeting.

Thank you,

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Samantha Delucchi
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December 3, 2020

TO: Chair Supervisor Gordon Mar, GAO Committee

CC: Supervisor Peskin, Vice Chair, GAO Committee
Supervisor Haney, Member, GAO Committee

RE: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center"

Dear Chair Mar,

To follow up on my public comment at GAO this morning, I am writing to you today to support the findings and recommendations set forth in the Civil Grand Jury's report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center."

The recommendations capture the primary concerns of tourist destinations in regards to maintaining and attracting new business to San Francisco and the various associated challenges. Moscone Center is a lifeblood for our economy bringing in hundreds of thousands of business meeting attendees annually and supporting thousands of employees and many small businesses, restaurants, hotels, and cultural institutions.

Travel and tourism have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Arguably, this industry has been hit hardest out of any other and will take the longest to recover. That is why the following recommendations in the above-referenced report are vital to our economic recovery:

- Supplement the current Moscone Expansion District Assessments with an additional general fund allocation of at least \$2.5M to provide rental discounts to convention center clients
- Effective for conventions after July 1, 2021, the Police Department must assign at least an additional three uniformed beat patrol officers per 10,000 expected event attendees, dedicated to patrolling areas around Moscone Center during the eight busiest convention hours
- Supporting the renewal of the Tourism Improvement District as well as establishing a multi-agency task force for event security and street management

These recommendations need to be prioritized and implemented immediately. Pre COVID, the City was losing business due to street conditions, street cleanliness, safety and security concerns as well as costs of doing business. In order for us to bring our number one economy back during this period of recovery, we must think differently and do more.

We must support the over 80,000 employees in San Francisco who are proud to call this industry their profession, many of which are still out of work and unable to support their families. We must ensure that San Francisco remains competitive as a destination so that we can continue to support the City's general fund with tax revenues that are desperately needed. And we must

think creatively about how to support the backbone of our city, our small businesses, who rely on business and leisure visitors to keep the lights on.

Please support the key recommendations in this report and ensure timely implementation so that we are able to recover and thrive once again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ike Kwon', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ike Kwon
Chief Operating Officer & Head of Government Affairs, California Academy of Sciences
Board of Directors Chair-Elect, San Francisco Travel Association
Board of Directors and Chair of the Sustainability Committee TIDA
*for identification purposes only

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Follow up to meeting - Civil Grand Jury Report Sustain our City's High Performing Moscone Center
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 1:04:04 PM

From: Ingrid Summerfield <Ingrid@Ingridsummerfieldhospitality.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>
Cc: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Follow up to meeting - Civil Grand Jury Report Sustain our City's High Performing Moscone Center

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Dear Chair Mar, Committee Members Haney, and Peskin,

I am writing to you today to support the findings and recommendations set forth in the Civil Grand Jury's report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center." The recommendations are factual, accurate, and fairly capture the primary concerns we must address to attract new and return the business to San Francisco and the various associated challenges. Historically 20% of San Francisco's tourism industry is generated by Moscone Center activities. Without meetings and conventions, many of our employees, small local businesses, hotels, restaurants, transportation providers, local attractions, cultural and entertainment venues will be left without essential resources to thrive and to reside here in San Francisco economically.

As you know, San Francisco has been walloped by COVID 19th and the economic standstill caused by the pandemic is immense.

That is why the recommendations in the report are critical to our recovery:

Make us competitive by supplementing the current Moscone Expansion District Assessments with an additional general fund allocation of at least \$2.5M to provide rental discounts to convention center clients. Our competitor cities are using these tactics successfully against us.

The SFPD must assign at least an additional three uniformed beat patrol officers per 10,000 expected event attendees, dedicated to patrolling areas around Moscone Center during the eight busiest convention hours.

The renewal of the Tourism Improvement District must be supported as it is the funding source that helps drive our economic marketing engine.

We must establish a multiagency task force for event security and street management not only around the Convention Center but also along the key walking routes taken by our employees and visitors.

Before COVID, the City was losing business due to street conditions, street cleanliness, safety and security concerns, and the high costs to do business in the City. To bring our number one economy back during this period of recovery, we must think differently, do more, and be ready to compete immediately and effectively. Our reputation is severely tarnished. It is ever more critical that we, citizens, employees, businesses, and government, row together to make this City all it can be: a world-class destination and place to live!

We must support the over 80,000 employees in San Francisco who are proud to call this industry their profession, many of which are still out of work and unable to support their families. We must ensure that San Francisco remains competitive as a destination to continue to support the City's general fund with tax revenues that are desperately needed. And we must think creatively about how to support the backbone of our City, our small businesses, who rely on business and leisure visitors to keep the lights on.

Please support the key recommendations in this report and ensure timely implementation so that we can recover and thrive once again.

Best,

Ingrid Summerfield
Resident Hayes Valley, Asset Manager White Swan Inn and Petite Auberge, Board
Member SF Travel and Moscone Improvement
415 519 1516

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Government Audit and Oversight Committee Dec. 3
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:56:39 AM
Attachments: [S. Bethel Moscone Ctr Civil Grand Jury Report Letter of Support Dec 2020.docx](#)

From: shari bethel <sharigone@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Government Audit and Oversight Committee Dec. 3

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Hello Chairperson Mar and Members Haney and Peskin,
Attached is my letter in support of the Civil Grand Jury's Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center."
Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Bethel
I.A.T.S.E. Local 16 Journeyperson and Audit Committee Member

Chair Supervisor Gordon Mar, GAO Committee
Supervisor Peskin, Member, GAO Committee
Supervisor Haney, Member, GAO Committee

RE: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center"

December 2, 2020

Dear Chair Mar,

I am writing to you today to support the findings and recommendations set forth in the Civil Grand Jury's report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center."

The recommendations capture the primary concerns that I.A.T.S.E. Local 16 has regarding maintaining and attracting new business to San Francisco and the various challenges the city faces. Moscone Center is a major part of that economy bringing in hundreds of thousands of meeting attendees annually and supporting thousands of workers as well as many small businesses, restaurants, hotels, art museums, and sports and performance venues.

Travel and tourism have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The convention/event industry has been hit hardest and will take the longest to recover. That is why the following recommendations in the above referenced report are vital to our economic recovery:

- Supplement the current Moscone Expansion District Assessments with an additional general fund allocation of at least \$2.5M to provide rental discounts to convention center clients
- Effective for conventions after July 1, 2021, the Police Department must assign at least an additional three uniformed beat patrol officers per 10,000 expected event attendees, dedicated to patrolling areas around Moscone Center during the eight busiest convention hours
- Supporting the renewal of the Tourism Improvement District as well as establishing a multiagency task force for event security and street management

These recommendations need to be prioritized and implemented to make everyone feel safe, comfortable, and interested in attending conventions again. Pre COVID, the City was losing business due to street conditions, street cleanliness, safety, and security concerns as well as costs of doing business. For us to bring the economy back during this recovery period, we must think differently and do all we can. In entertainment/event services we always lead with, "safety first." We should approach the challenges faced with that in mind.

Last year conventions and meetings in other venues in San Francisco was 51% of I.A.T.S.E. Local 16's work. Much of the other live event work is minimized including concerts, parties, and smaller meetings to name a few, when conventions are not happening. Speaking for myself, most of the work I did early in my career in San Francisco was at larger events at Moscone Center giving me the opportunity to work with others and see how large events are created.

We must support the over 80,000 employees in San Francisco who work in this industry, many of whom are still unemployed or under employed and struggling to support their families. We must ensure that San Francisco remains competitive as a destination so that we can continue to support the City's general fund with tax revenues that are desperately needed. We must think creatively about how to support our small businesses who rely on business and leisure visitors to keep the lights on.

Please support the key recommendations in this report and ensure timely implementation so that we can recover and thrive once again.

Sincerely,

Shari Bethel
Member and Audit Committee of I.A.T.S.E. Local 16

From: [Cassandra Costello](#)
To: [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: GAO Committee Hearing_Moscone Center Item
Date: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:32:18 AM
Attachments: [Civil Grand Jury LOS_SF_Travel_Dec_2020.pdf](#)

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Good Morning Chair Mar and Members of the GAO Committee,
Please see attached letter from San Francisco Travel supporting the recommendations outlined in the report before you this morning.

Thank you,
Cassandra



Cassandra Costello | SVP, Public Policy & Executive Programs
E cassandra@sftravel.com | T 415.227.2655

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December 3, 2020

To: Chair Supervisor Gordon Mar, GAO Committee
Supervisor Peskin, Member, GAO Committee
Supervisor Haney, Member, GAO Committee

RE: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center"

Dear Chair Mar,

I am writing to you today to support the findings and recommendations set forth in the Civil Grand Jury's report, "Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center."

The recommendations capture the primary concerns that the San Francisco Travel Association and our members and stakeholders have in regard to maintaining and attracting new business to San Francisco and the various associated challenges. We hear time and time again from our visitors, meeting planners and conference attendees that more needs to be done to address safety and security on our streets and that we need to find ways to cut costs to host a meeting in San Francisco. Absent these actions, we will lose these conferences to other competing cities.

Moscone Center is a lifeblood for our economy bringing in hundreds of thousands of business meeting attendees annually and supporting thousands of employees and many small businesses, restaurants, hotels and cultural institutions.

Travel and tourism have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This industry has been hit hardest out of any other and will take the longest to recover. That is why the following recommendations in the above referenced report are vital to our economic recovery:

- **Supplement the current Moscone Expansion District Assessments with an additional general fund allocation of at least \$2.5M to provide rental discounts to convention center clients**
 - Implementing this recommendation will provide a tool for our city to compete with other destinations who are offering their convention facilities for free
 - This modest investment will bring in millions in taxes to the city and hundreds of millions in direct spend to support our small businesses, hotels and restaurants
 - For example, for a typical nonprofit association conference of 30,000 attendees-their total rent at Moscone Center was \$672,500 in 2019. This conference supports over 11,000 jobs, 64,354 hotel room nights, \$3.1 million in taxes and \$66 million in total economic impact

- **Effective for conventions after July 1, 2021, the Police Department must assign at least an additional three uniformed beat patrol officers per 10,000 expected event attendees, dedicated to patrolling areas around Moscone Center during the eight busiest convention hours**
 - This modest request will help to retain and attract new business to Moscone Center
 - Safety and security remain as one of the top concerns from our visitors, meeting planners and convention attendees

- **Supporting the renewal of the Tourism Improvement District**
 - We support this recommendation and, as the organization responsible for the renewal, we will begin our outreach to assessed accommodations in the new year and work with the city on the hearing and legislative process to establish the renewal

- **Establishing a multiagency task force for event security and street management**
 - Bringing key parties together on agreed upon plans on security and street management are certainly welcome and we would happily participate as an organization

These recommendations need to be prioritized and implemented immediately. Pre COVID, the City was losing business due to street conditions, street cleanliness, safety and security concerns as well as costs of doing businesses. In order for us to bring our number one economy back, we must think differently and do more.

We must support the over 80,000 employees in San Francisco who are proud to call this industry their profession, many of which are still out of work and unable to support their families. We must ensure that San Francisco remains competitive as a destination so that we can continue to support the City's general fund with tax revenues that are desperately needed. And we must think creatively about how to support the backbone of our city, our small businesses, who rely on business and leisure visitors to keep the lights on.

Please support the key recommendations in this report and ensure timely implementation so that we are able to recover and thrive once again.

Sincerely,

Joe D'Alessandro
President and CEO



Joe D'Alessandro
President and CEO