

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 17, 2026
To: Planning Department/Planning Commission
From: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Subject: Board of Supervisors Legislation Referral - File No. 251254 (Substitute)
Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Refuse
Receptacles]

- ☐ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination
(*California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.*)
 - ☒ Ordinance / Resolution (Substitute)
 - ☐ Ballot Measure
- ☐ Amendment to the Planning Code, including the following Findings:
(*Planning Code, Section 302(b): 90 days for Planning Commission review*)
 - ☐ General Plan ☐ Planning Code, Section 101.1 ☐ Planning Code, Section 302
- ☐ Amendment to the Administrative Code, involving Land Use/Planning
(*Board Rule 3.23: 30 days for possible Planning Department review*)
- ☐ General Plan Referral for Non-Planning Code Amendments
(*Charter, Section 4.105, and Administrative Code, Section 2A.53*)
(Required for legislation concerning the acquisition, vacation, sale, or change in use of City property; subdivision of land; construction, improvement, extension, widening, narrowing, removal, or relocation of public ways, transportation routes, ground, open space, buildings, or structures; plans for public housing and publicly-assisted private housing; redevelopment plans; development agreements; the annual capital expenditure plan and six-year capital improvement program; and any capital improvement project or long-term financing proposal such as general obligation or revenue bonds.)
- ☐ Historic Preservation Commission
 - ☐ Landmark (*Planning Code, Section 1004.3*)
 - ☐ Cultural Districts (*Charter, Section 4.135 & Board Rule 3.23*)
 - ☐ Mills Act Contract (*Government Code, Section 50280*)
 - ☐ Designation for Significant/Contributory Buildings (*Planning Code, Article 11*)

Please send the Planning Department/Commission recommendation/determination to Monique Crayton at monique.crayton@sfgov.org.

1 [Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Refuse
2 Receptacles]

3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public**
4 **Works to perform evaluations and report periodically on mechanical street sweeping**
5 **operations, including submittal of written performance reports to the Board of**
6 **Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated**
7 **terms concerning refuse receptacle requirements and authorize a process for the**
8 **imposition of administrative fines; and affirming the Planning Department's**
9 **determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

10 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
11 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
13 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
14 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~Arial font~~.
15 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
16 subsections or parts of tables.

17 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

18 Section 1. Environmental Findings. The Planning Department has determined that the
19 actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act
20 (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with
21 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ____ and is incorporated herein by reference.
22 The Board affirms this determination.

23 Section 2. General Background and Findings.

24 (a) The Department of Public Works ("Public Works") routinely performs significant
25 operations to ensure the cleanliness of sidewalks, roadways, and other public right-of-way

1 infrastructure in San Francisco.

2 (b) Public Works provides routine mechanical street sweeping services to clean
3 approximately 90% of San Francisco streets. Mechanical street sweepers remove litter from
4 residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process prevents grime and pollutants
5 from entering the City's combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of pollutants to be
6 treated in the City's water treatment facilities.

7 (c) On October 29, 2025, the Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office published a
8 report titled, "Performance Audit of the Management of Street Cleaning by San Francisco
9 Public Works." This report concluded, in part, that the absence of a "comprehensive citywide
10 evaluation [of mechanical street sweeping operations] means that outdated service patterns
11 may persist, leading to inefficiencies related to cleanliness and cost" and that due to the lack
12 of a comprehensive evaluation, "optimized route scheduling, frequency, and labor needs"
13 have not been determined. Also, the report recommended that Public Works "incorporate
14 specific and routine street sweeping optimization efforts into its operational planning so that
15 the Department is better equipped to respond to changing street conditions over time."

16 (d) Public Works' cleaning and maintenance operations include enforcing laws against
17 littering on sidewalks. Certain provisions of the Municipal Code intended to prohibit and
18 address littering are outdated and should be revised to improve clarity, understanding, and
19 enforcement. In addition, Public Works may benefit from additional enforcement authority
20 under Administrative Code Chapter 100, which creates a process for the issuance of citations
21 and administrative fines for violations of certain provisions of the Municipal Code.

22
23 Section 3. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 55,
24 consisting of Sections 55.1 and 55.2, to read as follows:
25

1 **CHAPTER 55: MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING**

2 **SEC. 55.1. BACKGROUND.**

3 (a) The Department of Public Works ("Public Works" or "Department") provides routine
4 mechanical street sweeping services to clean approximately 90% of San Francisco streets. Mechanical
5 street sweepers remove litter from residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process
6 prevents grime and pollutants from entering the City's combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of
7 pollutants to be treated in the City's water treatment facilities.

8 (b) Routine evaluation of mechanical street sweeping operations can better equip Public Works
9 to optimize its operational planning and response to changing street conditions over time.

10
11 **SEC. 55.2. EVALUATION OF MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS.**

12 (a) Periodic Reporting on Performance and Recommendations. At least once every ten years,
13 the Director of Public Works or the Director's designee ("Director") shall submit to the Board of
14 Supervisors and the Mayor, and publish on the Department's website, a written report evaluating the
15 Department's mechanical street sweeping operations. The report shall include the information
16 identified in subsection (b) of this Section 55.2 and include findings and recommendations on how the
17 Department may improve the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations.

18 (b) Performance Criteria. The written report may measure performance based on the
19 following criteria and any other criteria that the Director determines to be relevant to evaluate
20 mechanical street sweeping operations:

- 21 (1) effectiveness and efficiency of mechanical street sweeping equipment;
22 (2) estimated average quantity of debris collected per block, season, mile, or supervisor
23 district;
24 (3) number of requests and complaints from the public concerning street sweeping
25 operations; and

1 (4) rate of route completion as scheduled, including frequency that scheduled street
2 sweeping is not completed and frequency that scheduled street sweeping is delayed.

3 (c) **Effects of Other Factors.** The written report may consider the effects of the following
4 factors, and any other factors the Director deems relevant, on the effectiveness of mechanical street
5 sweeping operations:

6 (1) traffic volume;

7 (2) land use;

8 (3) sediment and trash accumulation;

9 (4) proximity to bodies of water;

10 (5) illegal parking;

11 (6) traffic control devices in the roadway and bicycle lanes; and

12 (7) the Shared Spaces program, including blocks where mechanical street sweeping is
13 infeasible due to conflicts with the Shared Spaces Program.

14 (d) **Recommendations.** Each written report shall include recommendations on how to improve
15 the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations, including proposed changes to staffing and
16 the mechanical street sweeping schedule.

17 (e) **Initial Report; Subsequent Reports.** The Department shall submit its initial written report
18 to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor no later than March 31, 2027. Thereafter, the Department
19 shall submit a written report to the Board of Supervisors every ten years.

20
21 Section 4. Article 6 of the Health Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 283
22 and 283.1 to read as follows:

23
24 **SEC. 283. CONTAINERIZATION AND BINDING OF REFUSE.**

25 No commercial establishment, dwelling, ~~householder~~ or other person or entity shall store

1 or place out for collection any refuse that ~~is subject to putrefaction~~ may decompose, decay, rot,
2 and/or produce odors, including putrescible wastes, as defined in Section 17381 of Title 14 of the
3 California Code of Regulations, as may be amended from time to time, and any other refuse
4 destined for disposal, unless it is contained or secured to prevent pets and other animals from
5 gaining access to its contents and to prevent its dispersal by the wind or other elements.
6 ~~Other than cardboard boxes that are destined for disposal, a~~ All refuse ~~other than cardboard boxes~~
7 ~~that are destined for disposal~~ and all putrescible ~~wastes refuse~~ must be placed in suitable metal or
8 solid plastic receptacles. Plastic bags not ~~otherwise~~ contained in metal or solid plastic
9 receptacles shall not ~~in themselves~~ constitute suitable receptacles. The contents of suitable
10 receptacles for ~~putrescible refuse and~~ refuse destined for disposal shall not extend above the
11 top or rim thereof, and shall be contained by tight-fitting lids or sealed enclosures. Cardboard
12 boxes need not be contained provided they are emptied, flattened, and tied into bundles of
13 sufficient size to prevent their dispersal by the wind.

14 15 **SEC. 283.1. PENALTY.**

16 Section 283 of this Article 6 may be enforced using any of the following processes:

17 (a) **Infractions.** Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of
18 Section 283 ~~of this Article~~ shall be guilty of an infraction and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
19 punished for the first offense by a fine of not less than \$80 nor more than \$100; and for a
20 second offense by a fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$200; and for each additional
21 offense by a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500.

22 (b) **Administrative Citations Under Police Code Section 39-1.** ~~In the alternative, a~~ Any
23 person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of Section 283 of this Article may be
24 assessed an administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Such penalty
25 shall be assessed, enforced and collected in accordance with Section 39-1 of the Police

1 Code.

2 (c) Administrative Citations Under Chapter 100 of the Administrative Code. Any violation of
3 Section 283 shall be deemed a public nuisance. Public Works is authorized to issue administrative
4 citations for violations of Section 283 under Administrative Code Chapter 100, which is hereby
5 incorporated in its entirety.

6
7 Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
8 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
9 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
10 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
11 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under
12 the official title of the ordinance.

13
14 Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
15 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
16 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
17 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

18 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
19 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

20 By: /s/ Christopher T. Tom
21 CHRISTOPHER T. TOM
22 Deputy City Attorney

23 4936-1097-3070, v. 1
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