

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.**

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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
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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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