

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [BOS-Operations](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Entezari, Mehran \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: SF Zoo
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024 10:16:51 AM

Hello,

Please see below communication regarding **File No. 240415**:

Resolution authorizing the Office of the Mayor, Recreation and Park Department, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, San Francisco International Airport, Office of the City Administrator, and the Chief of Protocol to solicit donations from various private entities and organizations to support San Francisco in hosting Panda Bears from the People's Republic of China.

Regards,

John Bullock
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisor
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5184
BOS@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

***Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: Yasmin Odanovich <yodanovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 7:42 AM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: SF Zoo

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good Morning Supervisors,

Mayor Breed should not be allowed to overturn safeguards put in place after a corruption scandal she was involved with.

San Francisco Zoo is crumbling and unfit for any animal. let alone Pandas who require extensive care. Please reject Mayor Breed's fundraising amendments. The animals cannot speak for themselves and it is the right thing to do to protect them.

You as our elected representatives must see to this.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reject this harmful amendment

Yasmin Odanovich

From: [Bruce Seltzer](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: San Francisco Zoo, The Pandas
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 4:45:59 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: San Francisco Zoo, The Pandas

TO: monique.crayton@sfgov.org

June 5, 2024

Dear San Francisco City Supervisors,

My name is Bruce Seltzer, and I had the opportunity to volunteer at the San Francisco Zoo for three consecutive years on an annual maintenance project with colleagues from USC between 2015-2017.

During my time at the San Francisco Zoo, I was immediately struck by the pervasive deferred maintenance that was never addressed during my three years there. The lack of shade for the animals, combined with the dilapidated state of fences, posts, and roofs, gave the zoo the appearance of a trash dump.

Having visited many zoos both in California and internationally, including the phenomenal San Diego Zoo and Basel Zoo, I can confidently say that the San Francisco Zoo is a very poor representation by comparison. The confined spaces for the animals were shocking. Even the giraffes, who had relatively more space, were confined to an area smaller than a large backyard. The primates, with barely 12 feet of clearance from the ground, were far from their natural arboreal habitat. Large cats like lions and tigers, who should never be confined, are kept in especially small enclosures.

I understand that the conditions have only deteriorated since my last visit. It is incredibly discouraging to see animals living in such confined and inadequate spaces. As city supervisors, I urge you to take immediate action to address these issues and ensure the well-being of the animals at the San Francisco Zoo. Furthermore, I implore you to prevent Mayor Breed from raising private funds to confine highly sensitive giant pandas, who are likely to suffer greatly in such conditions. It is crucial that we urgently prioritize restoring the health and dignity of all animals at the San Francisco Zoo instead of pursuing political interests.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Bruce Seltzer

Letter 2

Subject: Stop the Giant Panda Transfer to San Francisco Zoo

Dear Decision Maker:

I am writing to you on behalf of In Defense of Animals (IDA), an international animal protection organization with a 40-year history of defending animals, their guardians, and the environment located in California. It represents over 250,000 supporters, a large majority of whom reside in California, with many calling San Francisco home. I urge you to cancel plans to send giant pandas to the San Francisco Zoo, for several seriously critical reasons.

The zoo is currently in a dire state and unfit for any animal, as evidenced by recent tragic incidents, including a grizzly bear chasing a zookeeper due to a faulty door, a hydraulic door killing a baby gorilla, a penguin being decapitated due to an improper enclosure, and a tiger escape resulting in three people being mauled and a teenager's death. Two of four elephants who were kept there in substandard conditions died within months of each other and the San Francisco City Council forced the zoo to send the remaining two elephants to sanctuary. These incidents highlight systemic failures that prevent the animals from engaging in natural behaviors, leading to widespread depression among the zoo's inhabitants.

Investigators from In Defense of Animals and SF Zoo Watch recently visited and found the conditions to be far worse than their worst expectations. The proposal to bring pandas to this deteriorating facility is highly concerning. Pandas require extensive, specialized care, and housing them in an already crumbling zoo would be irresponsible and cruel. Furthermore, the financial burden is immense, with many cities reporting significant losses from hosting pandas. Notably, the Memphis Zoo faced extreme criticism due to the neglectful death of a panda named LeLe—a fate that could easily befall pandas in San Francisco's substandard conditions. Alarmingly, the zoo's staff recently cast a unanimous vote of no confidence in the current director, further highlighting the dysfunction within the institution.

Beyond animal welfare and practical concerns, the funding plan to bring in the pandas is inherently corrupt. Mayor Breed plans to remove safeguards that were put in place only recently to tackle widespread corruption which Breed herself was implicated in and fined over \$8,000. Moving forward with this initiative not only jeopardizes animal welfare but also entangles San Francisco in a highly controversial situation and a morally fraught fundraising agreement. Breed's proposal could allow private companies to leverage their donations in exchange for favors. The city's resources would be better spent addressing the current inadequacies of the zoo rather than embarking on an ill-conceived panda program that promises more harm than benefit.

I strongly urge you to reject the panda plans and maintain the safeguards that protect against further mismanagement and corruption. The animals involved depend entirely on your carefully thought-out decision.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Signed

From: [Fleur Dawes](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Brittany Michelson](#); [Lisa Levinson](#)
Subject: IMPORTANT panda letter signed by 6,604
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 5:38:50 PM
Attachments: [IDA Logo Outline.png](#)
[Urgent - Pandas Must Not Go to Crumblng San Francisco Zoo - signers.pdf](#)
[Urgent - Pandas Must Not Go to Crumblng San Francisco Zoo - Letter 2.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Monique

I am writing to you today in regard to an alert we published on Friday, May 31, asking the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to cancel plans to house giant pandas at the San Francisco Zoo.

Please find attached a petition letter and the contact details of the 6,604 people who signed it. The letter is addressed, and has been emailed individually, to:

- Connie Chan - District 01 - Supervisor
- Catherine Stefani - District 02 - Supervisor
- Aaron Peskin - District 03 - Supervisor
- Joel Engardio - District 04 - Supervisor
- Dean Preston - District 05 - Supervisor
- Matt Dorsey - District 06 - Supervisor
- Myrna Melgar - District 07 - Supervisor
- Rafael Mandelman - District 08 - Supervisor
- Hillary Ronen - District 09 - Supervisor
- Shamann Walton - District 10 - Supervisor
- Ahsha Safai - District 11 - Supervisor
- Gavin Newsom - Governor of California
- London Breed - Mayor of San Francisco
- City of San Francisco
- Commission of Animal Control and Welfare
- San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
- Philip Ginsberg - General Manager of S.F. Recreation and Parks Department

In Defense of Animals is an international nonprofit organization based in Marin County with over 250,000 supporters, many of whom live in the San Francisco Bay Area. Through this letter we uphold our mission to defend animals, their guardians, and the environment. It is our duty to deliver this letter and signature pages to you.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and signatures with me at fleur@[idausa.org](mailto:fleur@idausa.org).

I thank you and the Board of Supervisors in advance for your kind consideration of this important matter. I will be present with others to provide verbal testimony tomorrow.

I also invite Supervisors to contact me directly to arrange a meeting with me and our

partners at SF Zoo Watch and Panda Voices, so we might resolve this matter directly and discuss this disturbing matter together, sharing our expertise.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Fleur Dawes
Director of Communications & International Partnerships



In Defense of Animals
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<https://twitter.com/idausa>
https://www.instagram.com/ida_international
<https://www.youtube.com/user/IDAUSAvideo>
<https://www.tiktok.com/@idausa>

It's our 40th! In Defense of Animals is celebrating four decades of defending animals, their advocates, and the environment. You can make a difference with a monthly donation - join our Animal Advocates team today: <http://idausa.org/advocates>

From: [Paula Katz](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary \(BOS\)](#); [Engardio, Joel \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Please Vote Yes On Item 70, Resolution #240415 to Raise Money to Bring Pandas to San Francisco
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 8:37:53 PM

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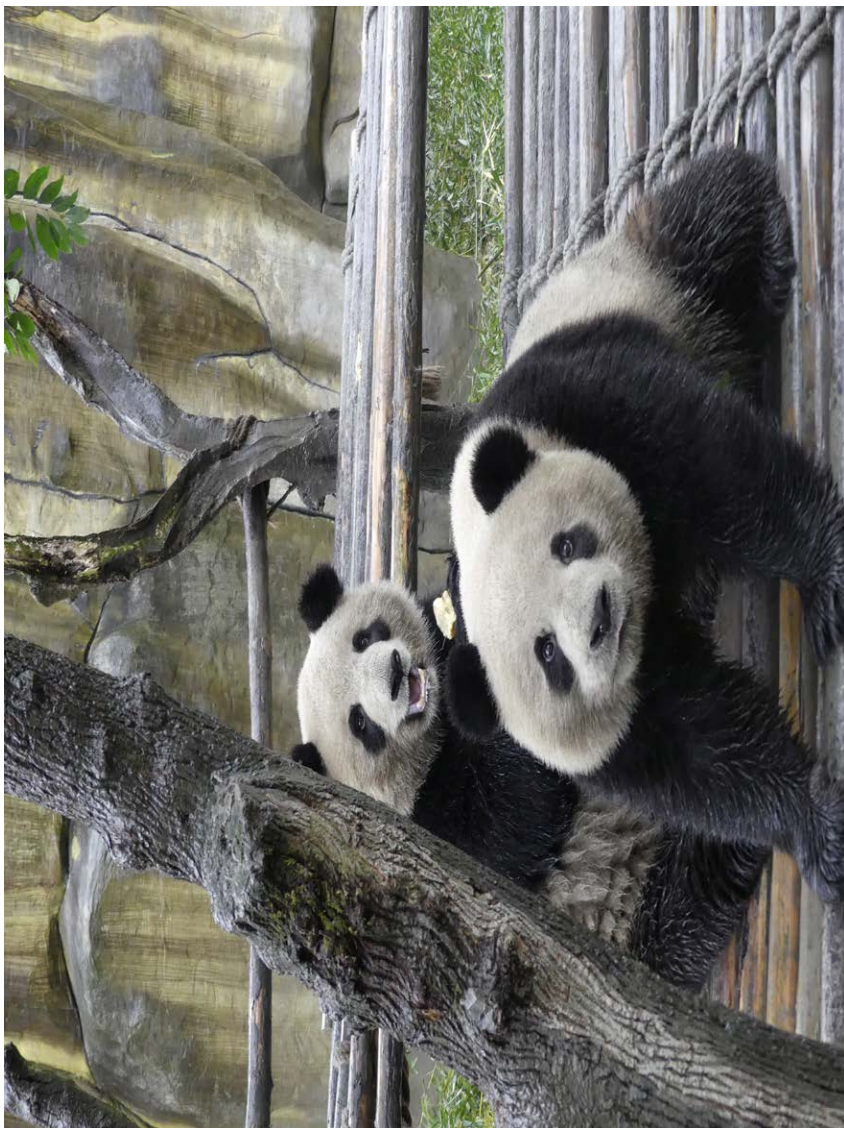
Dear Supervisors,

My name is Paula Katz, and as a long time District 4 resident and a long-time member of the San Francisco Zoo, I strongly urge you to pass item 70 on your agenda, Resolution #240415, to authorize the listed city agencies and offices to solicit donations from private entities and organizations to support our great City in hosting pandas from China, notwithstanding the Behested Payment Ordinance. I believe a waiver of this ordinance is appropriate in this particular situation.

While not the topic of the resolution, I believe it would be a wonderful thing to bring pandas back to San Francisco, and this can be done only if you pass this resolution so the City can solicit private funds to raise the \$25 million needed to bring pandas here. I remember the time many years ago, in 1984 and 1985, when we had two pandas at the zoo for two three-month visits, and it was fantastic. It caused such great excitement in the City, and a lot of additional tourism. I have travelled to the Atlanta Zoo, the San Diego Zoo, the Smithsonian Zoo, and even to China to see and photograph pandas. I love them, and I'm certainly am not the only one. People are panda-crazy. I think many tourists will travel to San Francisco to see our pandas. This will be a great boon to our economy and bring more revenue to the City, helping our deficit, and to merchants where these new tourists will stay, eat, and shop. And in response to comments I have read online that pandas should remain in the wild and not in zoos, during my visit to China I learnt that most of the pandas are not living in the wild, but in conservation centers, and that the money the Chinese raise by lending pandas to cities around the world goes to further panda conservation efforts. The pandas that we would get would be from one of the panda conservation centers. I think that the Board of Supervisors should do everything in your power to make pandas in San Francisco a reality, and the first step is to approve this resolution.

I cannot attend the meeting but would have made a virtual public comment except that the BOS has eliminated virtual public comments. I hope you restore them so residents can let you know their views at the meetings even if they cannot attend in person.

Thank you.
Paula Katz



From: [Howard](#)
To: [Breed, Mayor London \(MYR\)](#); [Elsbernd, Sean \(MYR\)](#); [OEWD \(ECN\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: ANDAS DOWNTOWN: ANALYSIS
Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024 1:08:25 AM

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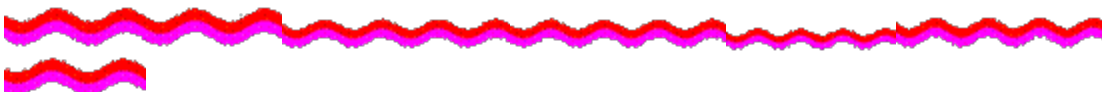
PANDAS DOWNTOWN ANALYSIS: Hello Everyone: My Chronicle Letter to the Editor proposed a concept for Pandas Downtown. A strong design process needs divergent thinking with more options---rather than convergent thinking with one solution. Pandas Downtown has more regional benefits, and arguably, more benefits for the Pandas---especially by

designing the largest state-of-the-art facility possible. Let's holistically study the project's premises, variables, needs, and possibilities. Regards, Howard Wong, AIA



CHRONICLE LETTER TO EDITOR (May 1, 2024): Build a Panda Park: Regarding "Is this real? San Francisco' panda plan has many hurdles ahead" (San Francisco, SFchronicle.com, April 26): Thinking as an architect, why not locate S.F.'s pandas downtown? Attracting crowds would help nearby businesses and tourism would thrive. What if China could guide the construction of an appropriate habitat using an existing downtown building---prefabricated units can be slipped into structural bays at lower costs than new construction. Indoor facilities could be linked to an outdoor enclosure. Reimagine the block of Geary Boulevard flanked by Macy's at Union Square. The Macy's structure could house an indoor habitat and a glass bridge could connect to an outdoor panda park on a portion of Union Square. The pandemonium would energize regional transit, spark investment and lure workers back to offices. **Howard Wong, San Francisco**

DEZEEN: BIG completes yin-and-yang-shaped Panda House at Copenhagen Zoo
<https://www.dezeen.com/2019/11/05/big-panda-house-copenhagen-zoo-architecture/>
Together this provides the pandas with plenty of opportunity to rest, explore, eat and find shade and sun depending on the season, temperature and preference.



BIGGER FLEXIBLE SPACE: Downtown offers more square footage than the existing SF Zoo---overcrowded, aging infrastructure. Portions of Macy's 400,000 square footage could be reimagined for a modern Panda habitat. Public spaces (Geary Boulevard, sidewalks, public air-rights, Union Square) could be reimagined as green parkways.

DONATIONS-IN-KIND: Macy's could donate portions of their building---in exchange for added value to their property, tax advantages, and advertising returns. Public parks, streets, sidewalks, and air-rights are existing public assets---no cost.

FUNDRAISING DIVERSIFICATION: Widens the pool of donors---with broad swaths of downtown benefiting from Pandas Downtown.

STATE-OF-THE ART: With more flexible square footage, China could foster the latest Panda technology. Prefabricated shelter units, food/ medical/ research pods, air/ environmental quality controls and more.

PANDA HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: More space allows for more natural habitats--room to roam and places to hide. Unlike other Zoo enclosures, no need to cram animals into tight spaces.

BIGGER REVENUE: Pandas Downtown would be a centralized regional asset. With frameless glass-walled habitats (built-in privacy designs), the exhibit could nearly operate around the clock. Downtown and SF economic benefits would be huge---with guaranteed reinvestments into panda health and the SF Zoo & Gardens.

PANDA GLASS BRIDGE: A slightly arched glass bridge can connect the indoor Panda House to the outdoor habitat on a portion of Union Square and over Geary's sidewalk/ street. The bridge also serves as a "Panda Run" for exercise---and panda sightings.

* * * * *

From: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [De Asis, Edward \(BOS\)](#); [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Operations](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: File No. 240415
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2024 2:27:17 PM

Dear Supervisors,

Please see below from Tam Tam regarding:

File No. 240415 - Resolution authorizing the Office of the Mayor, Recreation and Park Department, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, San Francisco International Airport, Office of the City Administrator, and the Chief of Protocol to solicit donations from various private entities and organizations to support San Francisco in hosting Panda Bears from the People's Republic of China, notwithstanding the Behested Payment Ordinance.

Regards,

Richard Lagunte
Office of the Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Voice (415) 554-5184 | Fax (415) 554-5163
richard.lagunte@sfgov.org | www.sfbos.org

Pronouns: he, him, his

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From: c nie <cniev51@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 2:09 PM
To: ChanStaff (BOS) <ChanStaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; DorseyStaff (BOS) <DorseyStaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <MelgarStaff@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff (BOS) <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Waltonstaff (BOS) <waltonstaff@sfgov.org>; EngardioStaff (BOS) <EngardioStaff@sfgov.org>; Ahsaha.safai@sfgov.org; Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>
Subject:

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor,

This letter is an objection to the use of San Francisco Zoo to exhibit Chinese Panda Bears. I object to this for two reasons: 1) Participating in a monetary exchange with a country that is run by a Dictator who violates human rights & is openly opposed to democracy is absolutely contrary to American & San Francisco values. This Dictator uses his minority population as slave labor to produce single use disposable products. No part of this is acceptable in a free human oriented society. Or a society concerned about the environment. Economically supporting this regime is contrary to any morals or decency. NO to Pandas!

Secondly, the zoo privatization was a scam that was misrepresented to voters. The benefits of Public/Private Zoo has only resulted in poor management & a yearly LOSS in revenue since it was established! Taxpayers pay at least \$2 Million each year to a facility run by attorneys, NOT by zoologists. There is clear favoritism in the appointment of the Zoo Board of Directors that needs review if not investigation. Add this to the complete animal security failures, the poverty wages staff receive and the decrepit animal housing conditions plus poor animal programs and care! This facility should be SHUT Down!! until it is properly managed!! The Zoo is NOT a tourist friendly destination!! What are you thinking??? It is a taxpayer money pit. NO to Pandas!

Please do not support a government that violates human rights, democracy and exploits animals with a greenwash cover. Vote NO \$\$\$ for Pandas. Do not support another taxpayer bailout like the APEC convention. Vote NO Pandas.

Respectfully,
Tam Tam



Virus-free. www.avg.com