



TO: President Mandelman and Members of the Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Adam Thongsavat, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors  
RE: File No: 251083 [Behested Payment Waiver - Economic Revitalization Efforts]  
DATE: December 2, 2025

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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 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 \$50 million has been pledged to support downtown revitalization, with \$6.2 million already secured. Funds raised through the existing waiver have supported several key initiatives, including:

- The Market Street Safety program, which has placed ambassadors at Embarcadero and Montgomery BART station exits as commuters return to work.
- Power washing the convention corridor near Moscone (4th Street from Market to Howard, and Mission Street from 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Attracting tens of thousands of visitors to exciting large events like Downtown First Thursdays and upcoming holiday events Winter Walk and Let's Glow that increase foot traffic to our local businesses.

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 above (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:

- The Conway Family Foundation  
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 200  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681  
TELEPHONE: (415) 554-6141

- The Resiliency Fund
- Ripple Labs Inc.
- Lior Susan
- Shorestein Realty Services LP
- Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation
- Mimi & Peter Hass Fund
- Charles Schwab and Co Inc.
- Spero Charitable Fund
- Chen Family Fund

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.