

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: December 23, 2025

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

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The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following ordinance request, introduced on December 16, 2025:

**File No. 251254**

**[Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Garbage Receptacles]**

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written performance reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated terms concerning garbage receptacle requirements and authorize a process for the imposition of administrative fines; and affirming the Planning Department's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

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

CC:  
Office of Chair Dorsey  
Office of Supervisor Sauter  
David Steinberg, Public Works  
Ian Schneider, Public Works

[Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Garbage Receptacles]

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written performance reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated terms concerning garbage receptacle requirements and authorize a process for the imposition of administrative fines; and affirming the Planning Department's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

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

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

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

Section 2. General Background and Findings.

(a) The Department of Public Works ("Public Works") routinely performs significant 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 percent of San Francisco streets. Mechanical street sweepers remove litter  
4 from residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process prevents grime and  
5 pollutants from entering the City's combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of pollutants  
6 entering the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

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. In addition, the report recommended that Public Works "track  
14 route-specific performance indicators and conduct street cleanliness inspections timed against  
15 street sweeping routes" and "incorporate specific and routine street sweeping optimization  
16 efforts into its operational planning so that the Department is better equipped to respond to  
17 changing street conditions over time."

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

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

3  
4                           **CHAPTER 55: MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING**

5           **SEC. 55.1. BACKGROUND.**

6           (a) The Department of Public Works (“Public Works” or “Department”) provides routine  
7           mechanical street sweeping services to clean approximately 90% of San Francisco streets. Mechanical  
8           street sweepers remove litter from residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process  
9           prevents grime and pollutants from entering the City's combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of  
10           pollutants entering the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

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

13  
14           **SEC. 55.2. EVALUATION OF MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS.**

15           (a) Periodic Reporting on Performance and Recommendations. At least once every ten years,  
16           the Director of Public Works or the Director’s designee (“Director”) shall submit to the Board of  
17           Supervisors and the Mayor, and publish on the Department’s website, a written report evaluating the  
18           Department’s mechanical street sweeping operations. The report shall include the information  
19           identified in subsection (b) of this Section 55.2 and include findings and recommendations on how the  
20           Department may improve the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations. Prior to  
21           submitting the report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor for each reporting period, the  
22           Director shall provide a draft of the report to the Controller’s City Services Auditor. The City Services  
23           Auditor shall respond to the Department with any comments within 60 days of receiving the report.

24           (b) Performance Criteria. The written report may measure performance based on the  
25           following criteria and any other criteria that the Director determines to be relevant to evaluate

1 mechanical street sweeping operations:

2 (1) effectiveness and efficiency of mechanical street sweeping equipment;

3 (2) quantity of debris collected per block, season, mile, or supervisor district;

4 (3) rate of route completion as scheduled, including frequency that scheduled street  
5 sweeping is not completed and frequency that scheduled street sweeping is delayed; and

6 (4) the number of complaints from the public concerning street sweeping operations.

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

10 (1) traffic volume;

11 (2) land use;

12 (3) sediment and trash accumulation;

13 (4) proximity to bodies of water;

14 (5) illegal parking;

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

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

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

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

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

3  
4           **SEC. 283. CONTAINERIZATION AND BINDING OF REFUSE.**

5           No commercial establishment, dwelling, ~~householder~~ or other person or entity shall store  
6 or place out for collection any refuse that ~~is subject to putrefaction~~ may decompose, decay, rot,  
7 and/or produce odors, and any other refuse destined for disposal, unless it is contained or  
8 secured to prevent pets and other animals from gaining access to its contents and to prevent  
9 its dispersal by the wind or other elements. All refuse other than cardboard boxes that are  
10 destined for disposal ~~and all putrescible refuse~~ must be placed in suitable metal or solid plastic  
11 receptacles. Plastic bags not ~~otherwise~~ contained in metal or solid plastic receptacles shall not  
12 ~~in themselves~~ constitute suitable receptacles. The contents of suitable receptacles for  
13 ~~putrescible refuse and~~ refuse destined for disposal shall not extend above the top or rim thereof,  
14 and shall be contained by tight-fitting lids or sealed enclosures. Cardboard boxes need not be  
15 contained provided they are emptied, flattened, and tied into bundles of sufficient size to  
16 prevent their dispersal by the wind.

17  
18           **SEC. 283.1. PENALTY.**

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

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

25           (b) Administrative Citations Under Police Code Section 39-1. ~~In the alternative, a~~ Any

1 person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of Section 283 of this Article may be  
2 assessed an administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Such penalty  
3 shall be assessed, enforced and collected in accordance with Section 39-1 of the Police  
4 Code.

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

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

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

21  
22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DAVID CHIU, City Attorney  
23 By: /s/ Christopher T. Tom  
CHRISTOPHER T. TOM  
24 Deputy City Attorney