

File No. 200962

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 30

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: August 25, 2020

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OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: August 21, 2020

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Declaring Support for Urgent Funding for the United States Postal Service - Urging the United
2 States Postal Service to Maintain Longstanding Delivery Standards and Services]

3 **Resolution declaring the City and County of San Francisco’s support for urgent**
4 **funding for the United States Postal Service in light of the coronavirus pandemic; and**
5 **urging the Postal Service to maintain their longstanding delivery standards and**
6 **services to ensure the well-being of our nation’s democracy.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service operates an essential service by
9 providing uniform and equal mail services to all Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, Ahead of this November’s election, the United States Postal Service must
11 continue to play an essential role in contributing to our nation’s democracy; and

12 WHEREAS, Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the United States Postal
13 Service has requested \$25 billion in urgent funding; and

14 WHEREAS, The President of the United States has, at this time, stated opposition to
15 providing additional funding to the United States Postal Service that would ensure the
16 continued functioning of their essential services; and

17 WHEREAS, Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it is expected that absentee
18 ballots will surge in popularity across the country during the upcoming November election; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has long treated all election mail as First
20 Class mail, ensuring that election mail is delivered within the standard 2-5 day delivery time;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has informed States that they will be
23 required to pay higher rates for election mail than they have previously been accustomed to;
24 and

25

1 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service will not automatically treat all election
2 mail as First Class mail; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has informed States that sending
4 election mail as Nonprofit Marketing Mail, which falls within a standard 3-10 day delivery time,
5 will result in slower delivery times than previous election years; and

6 WHEREAS, Election officials across the country have long relied on Nonprofit
7 Marketing Mail prices, more affordable than First Class mail prices, to ensure that they can
8 provide election materials to voters in a cost-effective manner; and

9 WHEREAS, During the 2018 elections, the United States Postal Service Office of
10 Inspector General found that 95.6% of election mail was delivered within 1-3 days, equivalent
11 to First Class mail; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has currently provided \$400 million in
13 emergency funding to states for election functions during the coronavirus pandemic, while
14 election officials across the country have continued to demand additional emergency funding;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service forcing elections departments to pay
17 First Class mail prices for election mail would create further strain on the operations of
18 elections departments; and

19 WHEREAS, United States Postal Service documents from May 15, 2020, outlining
20 equipment reductions nationwide, stated plans to decommission numerous Advanced Facer
21 Cancellor System machines, Delivery Bar Code Sorter machines, and Automated Flat Sorting
22 Machines, which account for the vast majority of election mail processing, from United States
23 Postal Service Processing and Distributions Centers across the country; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service's planned decommissioning of these
25 machines would result in an 18.2% reduction of Advanced Facer Cancellor System machines,

1 19.8% reduction in Delivery Bar Code Sorter machines, and 20.2% reduction in Automated
2 Flat Sorting Machines nationwide; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service plans to remove 1 Advanced Facer
4 Cancellor System machine, 5 Delivery Bar Code Sorter machines, and 1 Automated Flat
5 Sorting Machine from their San Francisco Processing and Distribution Center; and

6 WHEREAS, Decommissioning these machines will result in a 20% reduction in
7 Advanced Facer Cancellor System machines, 20% reduction in Delivery Bar Code Sorter
8 machines, and 25% reduction in Automated Flat Sorting Machines at the United States Postal
9 Service's San Francisco Processing and Distribution Center; and

10 WHEREAS, The Postmaster General has stated his intentions to cut overtime for
11 Postal Service employees; and

12 WHEREAS, Overtime for Postal Service employees allows for the United States Postal
13 Service to pay employees who may need to work extra hours, for the purpose of covering the
14 shift of an ill coworker, covering the shift of a coworker who is unable to perform their duties
15 due to the ongoing pandemic, to increasing staffing levels during surges in mail, such as
16 during an election, and for other reasons; and

17 WHEREAS, It is essential for the United States Postal Service to continue providing
18 normal overtime to its employees to ensure that surges in mail are met with necessary levels
19 of service during the upcoming November election; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has recently removed letter collection
21 boxes in States across the country ahead of the November election; and

22 WHEREAS, It is expected that the United States Postal Service will see a surge in
23 absentee ballots ahead of this November's election, resulting in increased election mail being
24 dropped off at United States Postal Service letter collection boxes, in lieu of voting in person;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Voters in San Francisco have long relied on the United States Post
2 Office to successfully participate in their local elections; nearly two-thirds of the San
3 Franciscans who vote, do so through our local vote-by-mail system; in the most recent
4 presidential election, more than 260,000 San Franciscans cast their ballot by mail, which
5 represents more than half of San Francisco’s registered voters; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors considers the United States
7 Postal Service an essential piece of our election infrastructure and consider any deliberate
8 attempt to impede the function of the United States Postal Service to be an attempt to
9 undermine democracy; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United
11 States Congress to provide urgent funding to the United States Postal Service in light of the
12 coronavirus pandemic and due to an expected surge in mail ahead of this November’s
13 election; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United
15 States Postal Service to continue applying First Class mail standards to all election mail; and,
16 be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United
18 States Postal Service to postpone any decommissioning of mail sorting machines at the
19 San Francisco Processing and Distribution Center and throughout the country; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United
21 States Postal Service to halt removal of all letter collection boxes; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes that
23 implementing any of these changes to the United States Postal Service’s longstanding
24 services and standards, ahead of this November’s election, is equivalent to voter suppression;
25 and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
2 transmit a copy of this Resolution to the members of our Congressional delegation and to our
3 City Lobbyist.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only