

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Police Code - Expanding Use of Unclaimed Personal Property And Bicycles]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to make unclaimed personal property, including unclaimed bicycles, worth \$500 or less available to the Human Services Agency for use in programs designed to prevent juvenile delinquency and programs to benefit low-income and transit-challenged residents.

Existing Law

Police Code Section 1405.1 provides that the Police Department may, instead of selling unclaimed bicycles and toys at public auction, turn them over to the Department of Social Services, now the Human Services Agency, for use in any program designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. For other unclaimed property, the Police Department may sell the property at public auction or transfer it to the City's Purchaser.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends Section 1405.1 to give the Police Department discretion to turn over to the Human Services Agency *any* unclaimed personal property (other than bicycles) valued at \$500 or less for use in any program or activity designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. For unclaimed bicycles worth \$500 or less, the ordinance would require the Police Department to turn the bicycles over to the Human Services Agency for use in a program or activity designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. If the unclaimed bicycles turned over to the Human Services Agency cannot be used by programs designed to prevent juvenile delinquency, they may be used in any program or activity designed to serve low-income and transit-dependent populations in San Francisco.

The ordinance also deletes and amends outdated provisions and replaces references to the now-renamed Department of Social Services.

Background Information

Prior to a 1999 amendment, California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 217, first enacted in 1976, allowed cities and counties by ordinance to authorize police departments to turn over unclaimed bicycles and toys to a county welfare department or any charitable or nonprofit organization for use in any program or activity designed to prevent juvenile delinquency, instead of selling them at public auction. The 1999 amendment substituted "personal property with a value of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500)" for bicycles and toys. The current version of Municipal Police Code Section 1405.1 limits the unclaimed property that the Police Department may turn over to the Human Services Agency to bicycles and toys. This ordinance expands the category of unclaimed personal property the Police Department may turn over to the Human Services Agency, requires the Police Department to

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turn over to the Human Services Agency bicycles worth \$500 or less, and allows any unclaimed bicycles that cannot be used by programs designed to prevent juvenile delinquency to be used in any program or activity designed to serve low-income and transit-challenged populations in San Francisco.

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