



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 23, 2025
To: Planning Department/Planning Commission
From: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Subject: Board of Supervisors Legislation Referral - File No. 251254
Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Garbage
Receptacles]

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination
(*California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.*)
 - Ordinance / Resolution
 - Ballot Measure
- Amendment to the Planning Code, including the following Findings:
(*Planning Code, Section 302(b): 90 days for Planning Commission review*)
 - General Plan
 - Planning Code, Section 101.1
 - Planning Code, Section 302
- Amendment to the Administrative Code, involving Land Use/Planning
(*Board Rule 3.23: 30 days for possible Planning Department review*)
- General Plan Referral for Non-Planning Code Amendments
(*Charter, Section 4.105, and Administrative Code, Section 2A.53*)
(Required for legislation concerning the acquisition, vacating, sale, or change in use of City property; subdivision of land; construction, improvement, extension, widening, narrowing, removal, or relocation of public ways, transportation routes, ground, open space, buildings, or structures; plans for public housing and publicly-assisted private housing; redevelopment plans; development agreements; the annual capital expenditure plan and six-year capital improvement program; and any capital improvement project or long-term financing proposal such as general obligation or revenue bonds.)
- Historic Preservation Commission
 - Landmark (*Planning Code, Section 1004.3*)
 - Cultural Districts (*Charter, Section 4.135 & Board Rule 3.23*)
 - Mills Act Contract (*Government Code, Section 50280*)
 - Designation for Significant/Contributory Buildings (*Planning Code, Article 11*)

Please send the Planning Department/Commission recommendation/determination to Monique Crayton at monique.crayton@sfgov.org.

1 [Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Garbage
2 Receiptacles]

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6 Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated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

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

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

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

23 Section 2. General Background and Findings.

24 (a) The Department of Public Works ("Public Works") routinely performs significant
25 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.

24

25

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, 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 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
22 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

23 By: /s/ Christopher T. Tom
24 CHRISTOPHER T. TOM
Deputy City Attorney

25 4906-2409-3314, v. 1