

From: [Karin Flood](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Pagan, Lisa \(ECN\)](#)
Subject: Re: Remarks for item #1
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:36:56 AM

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Dear John:

I just sent these remarks to you and hope they will be included in the full packet to the Board of Supervisors. I was on the line this morning waiting to speak at the Gov & Audit Committee item 1 and following the hearing and somehow my call was not registered. I pressed *3 when directed to and then heard there were no callers on the line. Anyway here are my remarks again.

Thank you.

Karin

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 7, 2021, at 11:14 AM, Karin Flood <karinflood@gmail.com> wrote:

Remarks

Please add to packet to Gov & Audit item #1

Good morning Supervisors Peskin, Haney and Mar

My name is Karin Flood and I am the Executive Director of the Union Square BID. By

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments about this resolution which appears to be additional oversight on the operations of privately funded organizations (BIDs and CBDs) that are set up to enhance City Services. - mostly public safety and cleanliness.

Let me first just say that this has been an incredibly challenging year for all of us and the for the people who come to work and try to run their businesses in Union Square we are collectively concerned about our our economic viability and our future. And not just because of the pandemic but more because of the weaknesses

that the pandemic has exposed namely public safety issues.

Over the past year we have had 2 shootings in broad daylight, we have had vehicles drive through our store windows, we had a security guard held down while at one of our stores while thieves pushed their way into the store to steal merchandise, it seems every other day there is a store break in. Sometimes I watch some of this footage and it is deeply troubling. Employees are scared. The area does not feel safe. Many of our stores now have to hire armed guards outside and if you want to be really safe you also have to pay for 1-2 inside

At the end of May we had 36 store windows smashed, merchandise taken, vandalism covering our buildings - easily \$50 million dollars worth of damage, our foot traffic is down 90% from last year, large brand stores are closing on Powell Street our busiest street and I could go on.

We set up a private security camera system starting in 2013 with 6 cameras to help protect ourselves and our properties. We now have about 375 cameras. With all the activity I just described we provide camera footage for probably 1-2 incidents a day that assists in an SFPD investigation. We have our own camera policy that we established with advice from the police on how the system should be used and a Board of Directors who oversees our operations and acts responsibly. Most of the system was funded by additional funds raised beyond our assessments. We have shared some of this funding and expertise with other districts including Mid Market, Tenderloin, Japantown and Chinatown.

Our concern with this legislation is that it will place an additional administrative burden on our organizations (if I may speak for the other CBDS) many of which only have a few staff members. The additional reporting of funds, the extra public hearings. Instead of more oversight we need help and support from our elected officials and from those in our criminal justice system to keep us safe. Instead when we are down and struggling you are asking for more oversight?

The oversight of the camera system should already be covered in the policy that is being developed by SFPD and I would hope also for all of the other agencies that request camera footage from us - the DAs office, Public Defender's office as well.

As for the funding - we haven't received an anonymous donation in 2 years - some very generous person through the SVCF funded a good portion of our camera system early on and we are so grateful for that investment. To have to record every donation of any amount doesn't make sense - maybe there should be a threshold - over \$500.

If our criminal justice system as a whole actually served us our camera system would be even more effective in deterring and solving crime and we might actually be able to protect ourselves and our properties better.

Just before the holidays all the CBDs received a video from Mayor Breed thanking us for our service and for really stepping up to help keep our City clean and safe in this incredibly challenging year. This is what I would have hoped to receive from all of you as well instead of a request for more oversight. Really?

Thank you.

Karin Flood

Sent from my iPhone