



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 2019-2020 CIVIL GRAND JURY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*

### **Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center**

**San Francisco, CA, October 1, 2020** – The 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury (SFCGJ) today released a report focusing on the challenges Moscone Convention Center faces in attracting and retaining clients. The Moscone Convention Center is one of the nation's leading convention venues. It drives about a fifth of the City's approximately \$10 billion travel and tourism sector, generates local jobs, fills hotel rooms and restaurant seats, and generates substantial tax revenue for the City.

The SFCGJ's findings of potential adverse trends in future convention bookings and hotel occupancy rates should concern San Francisco. Principal among the potential longer term adverse trends are conventioners' concerns about the cleanliness and perceived safety of San Francisco's streets, event sponsor reticence spurred by high San Francisco costs, and the difficulty of blocking sufficient hotel rooms in a small number of hotels.

In the near term the COVID-19 fallout continues to wreak havoc on the City's convention business, as it has with hotels, restaurants and other travel and tourism business in general. However, the SFCGJ's report focuses on The Moscone Convention Center's long-term success, having studied challenges present before COVID-19, leading to recommendations to mitigate challenges to Moscone's ongoing success in the years after recovery from COVID-19.

The Superior Court selects 19 San Franciscans to serve year-long terms as Civil Grand Jurors. The Jury has the authority to investigate City and County government by reviewing documents and interviewing public officials and private individuals. At the end of its inquiries, the Jury issues reports of its findings and recommendations. City and County agencies identified in the report must respond to these findings and recommendations. The Board of Supervisors conducts a public hearing on each Civil Grand Jury report.

Civil Grand Jury reports may be viewed online at <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/report.html>.

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