

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Administrative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Public Works Letter re: Trash Cans
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:11:12 PM
Attachments: [Public Works Letter to BOS-Trash Cans.pdf](#)

From: Degrafinried, Alaric (DPW) <alaric.degrafinried@sfdpw.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:40 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>; Spitz, Jeremy (DPW) <Jeremy.Spitz@sfdpw.org>
Subject: Public Works Letter re: Trash Cans

To the offices of the Board of Supervisors:

As you review San Francisco Public Works' request for the release of funds today to support the prototyping of the City's new trash can designs (File # 210749), we want to make sure you have all the necessary information available. Please see the attached letter.

Regards,
Alaric

Alaric Degrafinried
Acting Director

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July 27, 2021

To the offices of the Board of Supervisors:

As you review San Francisco Public Works' request for the release of funds today to support the prototyping of the City's new trash can designs (File # 210749), we want to make sure you have all the necessary information available.

Why has San Francisco Public Works decided to go down the path of designing a custom public trash can as opposed to buying one off the shelf?

1. We have been driven by several key design components. Some of them are:
 - a. The can needs to be tamper-proof to minimize scavenged trash being dumped on the sidewalk.
 - b. It must accommodate a rolling toter so that Recology workers will not have to lift a plastic liner and risk injury.
 - c. It includes a sensor that monitors the remaining capacity for trash inside the can that signals the need for servicing before it overflows.
 - d. That it is durable and can withstand street life.
2. And, we are driven by seeking the lowest cost per unit.

We found two off-the-shelf cans that are tamper-proof: Big Belly and PEL. PEL is only available as a rental and costs \$180/month. Big Belly is available by rental for \$1,800 rent/year or for purchase at \$3,900/can. Both of these require a higher level of maintenance than the City can provide. In addition, neither fit the aesthetic nor dimensional needs of a narrow San Francisco sidewalk.

The goal is to develop a uniquely San Francisco can that addresses all our design and use needs and will be well below the \$3,900 cost per can of Big Belly.

As a custom-designed trash can, it will be the intellectual property of the City and County of San Francisco. We could decide to license it to other jurisdictions.

Why has this process taken three years?

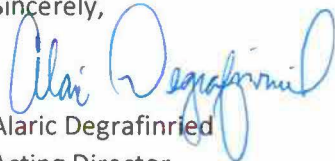
The trash can redesign process has been guided by transparency, fair processes and community outreach. The time it took to get to where we are today is not extraordinary; it is in line with standard research, design and outreach practices and government processes, given the added challenges of the COVID pandemic. Here is an outline of steps:

Fall 2018: Development of RFP for trash can designers
November 2018: Release of RFP
Winter 2019: Selection of finalist
April 2019: Contract signed with Institute for Creative Integration (ICI)
2019-2020: Design development; work with ICI, SF Public Works and Recology
Summer 2020: Community outreach to residents and Community Benefit Districts, merchants
September 2020: Civic Design Review approval
Winter 2021: Research into fabricators
Spring 2021: Work with Office of Contract Administration around engagement process
Spring 2021: Union notice and Civil Service Commission approval
Spring 2021: Identify the San Francisco APROE as fabricator for prototypes cans
July 2021: Request before the Board of Supervisors to release the necessary funds

<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4995119&GUID=67C0396D-32AF-45DC-A5E3-CFC527E821D1>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me prior to this afternoon's Board of Supervisors meeting. My team and I also will attend the meeting and be available to answer any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Alaric Degrafinried
Acting Director