

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works
Daniel Tsai, Director, Department of Public Health

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood
Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following ordinance request, introduced on December 16, 2025, and substituted on February 10, 2026:

File No. 251254

[Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Refuse Receptacles]

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written performance reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated terms concerning refuse receptacle requirements and authorize a process for the imposition of administrative fines; and affirming the Planning Department's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

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

CC:
Office of Chair Dorsey
Office of Supervisor Sauter
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health
Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health

1 [Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Refuse
2 Receptacles]

3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public**
4 **Works to perform evaluations and report periodically 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6 **Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated**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 refuse 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-underline 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% of San Francisco streets. Mechanical street sweepers remove litter from
4 residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process prevents grime and pollutants
5 from entering the City’s combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of pollutants to be
6 treated in the City’s water treatment facilities.

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. Also, the report recommended that Public Works “incorporate
14 specific and routine street sweeping optimization efforts into its operational planning so that
15 the Department is better equipped to respond to changing street conditions over time.”

16 (d) Public Works’ cleaning and maintenance operations include enforcing laws against
17 littering on sidewalks. Certain provisions of the Municipal Code intended to prohibit and
18 address littering are outdated and should be revised to improve clarity, understanding, and
19 enforcement. In addition, Public Works may benefit from additional enforcement authority
20 under Administrative Code Chapter 100, which creates a process for the issuance of citations
21 and administrative fines for violations of certain provisions of the Municipal Code.

22

23 Section 3. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 55,
24 consisting of Sections 55.1 and 55.2, to read as follows:

25

1 **CHAPTER 55: MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING**

2 **SEC. 55.1. BACKGROUND.**

3 *(a) The Department of Public Works (“Public Works” or “Department”) provides routine*
4 *mechanical street sweeping services to clean approximately 90% of San Francisco streets. Mechanical*
5 *street sweepers remove litter from residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors. The process*
6 *prevents grime and pollutants from entering the City’s combined sewer system, reducing the quantity of*
7 *pollutants to be treated in the City’s water treatment facilities.*

8 *(b) Routine evaluation of mechanical street sweeping operations can better equip Public Works*
9 *to optimize its operational planning and response to changing street conditions over time.*

10
11 **SEC. 55.2. EVALUATION OF MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS.**

12 *(a) Periodic Reporting on Performance and Recommendations. At least once every ten years,*
13 *the Director of Public Works or the Director’s designee (“Director”) shall submit to the Board of*
14 *Supervisors and the Mayor, and publish on the Department’s website, a written report evaluating the*
15 *Department’s mechanical street sweeping operations. The report shall include the information*
16 *identified in subsection (b) of this Section 55.2 and include findings and recommendations on how the*
17 *Department may improve the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations.*

18 *(b) Performance Criteria. The written report may measure performance based on the*
19 *following criteria and any other criteria that the Director determines to be relevant to evaluate*
20 *mechanical street sweeping operations:*

21 *(1) effectiveness and efficiency of mechanical street sweeping equipment;*

22 *(2) estimated average quantity of debris collected per block, season, mile, or supervisor*
23 *district;*

24 *(3) number of requests and complaints from the public concerning street sweeping*
25 *operations; and*

1 (4) rate of route completion as scheduled, including frequency that scheduled street
2 sweeping is not completed and frequency that scheduled street sweeping is delayed.

3 (c) **Effects of Other Factors.** The written report may consider the effects of the following
4 factors, and any other factors the Director deems relevant, on the effectiveness of mechanical street
5 sweeping operations:

6 (1) traffic volume;

7 (2) land use;

8 (3) sediment and trash accumulation;

9 (4) proximity to bodies of water;

10 (5) illegal parking;

11 (6) traffic control devices in the roadway and bicycle lanes; and

12 (7) the Shared Spaces program, including blocks where mechanical street sweeping is
13 infeasible due to conflicts with the Shared Spaces Program.

14 (d) **Recommendations.** Each written report shall include recommendations on how to improve
15 the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations, including proposed changes to staffing and
16 the mechanical street sweeping schedule.

17 (e) **Initial Report; Subsequent Reports.** The Department shall submit its initial written report
18 to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor no later than March 31, 2027. Thereafter, the Department
19 shall submit a written report to the Board of Supervisors every ten years.

20
21 Section 4. Article 6 of the Health Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 283
22 and 283.1 to read as follows:

23
24 **SEC. 283. CONTAINERIZATION AND BINDING OF REFUSE.**

25 No commercial establishment, dwelling, ~~householder~~ or other person or entity shall store

1 or place out for collection any refuse that ~~is subject to putrefaction~~ may decompose, decay, rot,
2 and/or produce odors, including putrescible wastes, as defined in Section 17381 of Title 14 of the
3 California Code of Regulations, as may be amended from time to time, and any other refuse
4 destined for disposal, unless it is contained or secured to prevent pets and other animals from
5 gaining access to its contents and to prevent its dispersal by the wind or other elements.
6 ~~Other than cardboard boxes that are destined for disposal, a~~All refuse ~~other than cardboard boxes~~
7 ~~that are destined for disposal~~ and all putrescible ~~wastes refuse~~ must be placed in suitable metal or
8 solid plastic receptacles. Plastic bags not ~~otherwise~~ contained in metal or solid plastic
9 receptacles shall not ~~in themselves~~ constitute suitable receptacles. The contents of suitable
10 receptacles for ~~putrescible refuse and~~ refuse destined for disposal shall not extend above the
11 top or rim thereof, and shall be contained by tight-fitting lids or sealed enclosures. Cardboard
12 boxes need not be contained provided they are emptied, flattened, and tied into bundles of
13 sufficient size to prevent their dispersal by the wind.

14
15 **SEC. 283.1. PENALTY.**

16 Section 283 of this Article 6 may be enforced using any of the following processes:

17 (a) Infractions. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of
18 Section 283 ~~of this Article~~ shall be guilty of an infraction and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
19 punished for the first offense by a fine of not less than \$80 nor more than \$100; and for a
20 second offense by a fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$200; and for each additional
21 offense by a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500.

22 (b) Administrative Citations Under Police Code Section 39-1. ~~In the alternative, a~~Any
23 person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of Section 283 of this Article may be
24 assessed an administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Such penalty
25 shall be assessed, enforced and collected in accordance with Section 39-1 of the Police

1 Code.

2 (c) Administrative Citations Under Chapter 100 of the Administrative Code. Any violation of
3 Section 283 shall be deemed a public nuisance. Public Works is authorized to issue administrative
4 citations for violations of Section 283 under Administrative Code Chapter 100, which is hereby
5 incorporated in its entirety.

6

7 Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
8 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
9 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
10 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
11 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under
12 the official title of the ordinance.

13

14 Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
15 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
16 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
17 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

18

19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

20 By: /s/ Christopher T. Tom
21 CHRISTOPHER T. TOM
Deputy City Attorney

22

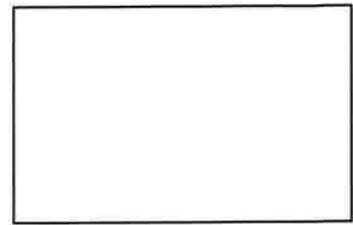
23 4936-1097-3070, v. 1

24

25

Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)



I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor _____ inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 251254
- 9. Reactivate File No. _____
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on _____

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Sauter

Subject:

Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping; Refuse Receptacles

Long Title or text listed:

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public Works to perform evaluations and report periodically on mechanical street sweeping operations, including submittal of written performance reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated terms concerning the appropriate use, placement, and storage of refuse receptacles; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: