

File No. 260085

Committee Item No. 5

Board Item No. 9

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Budget and Finance Committee Date February 11, 2026

Board of Supervisors Meeting Date February 24, 2026

Cmte Board

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Completed by: Brent Jalipa Date February 5, 2026

Completed by: Brent Jalipa Date February 19, 2026

[Appropriation - General Reserve - Municipal Transportation Agency - Portsmouth Square Garage Parking and Transit Fares - \$311,269 - FY2025-2026]

Ordinance appropriating \$311,269 from the General Reserve to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to support free one-hour parking in the Portsmouth Square Parking Garage from February 7~~8~~ to March 7~~8~~, 2026 and transit fares for the Lunar New Year Parade on March 7, 2026 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are ~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~. Board amendment additions are double underlined. Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

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

Section 1. The sources of funding outlined below are herein appropriated to reflect the projected sources of funding for FY2025-2026.

SOURCES Appropriation

1	Fund /	Project & Activity /	Account	Description	Amount
2	Department ID	Authority			
3	10020 / 230018	10023237- 0001	598040	Designated For	\$311,269
4	GF Continuing Authority	17064 General Reserve	Designated For	General	
5	Ctrl/ GEN General City	/ General Reserve	General	Reserve	
6	Responsibility		Reserve		
7					
8	Total SOURCES Appropriation				\$311,269
9					

10 Section 2. The uses of funding outlined below are herein appropriated in San
11 Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for FY2025-2026.

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13 **USES APPROPRIATION**

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1	Fund /	Project & Activity /	Account	Description	Amount
2	Department ID	Authority			
3	22870 - MTA SS Op	10022175 - 0001 SE	527000	Prof & Specialized	\$311,269
4	Annual Account Ctrl /	MTA/SFPD-PKG &		Svcs-Bdgt	
5	207964 - MTASSEF	TRANSIT ENF - SE			
6	Enforce Spec Event-	MTA/SFPD-PKG &			
7	GEN	TRANSIT ENF/ 10000 -			
8		Operating			
9					
10	Total USES Appropriation				\$311,269

Section 3. The Controller is authorized to record transfers between funds and adjust the accounting treatment of sources and uses appropriated in this ordinance as necessary to conform with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other laws.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

FUNDS AVAILABLE:
GREG WAGNER, Controller

By: /s/
BRADLEY RUSSI
Deputy City Attorney

By: /s/
GREG WAGNER
Controller

Item 5 File 26-0085	Department: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
Legislative Objectives - The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$311,269 from the General Reserve to the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) to subsidize free parking at Portsmouth Square Parking Garage and free Muni service for the 2026 Chinese New Year celebrations. Key Points - The 2026 celebrations are scheduled from February 17 to March 15, with key events centered around Chinatown, including an opening ceremony, parade, community street fair, and a Lunar New Year run. These activities are expected to draw large crowds to the Chinatown area. - Free one-hour parking would be offered at Portsmouth Square Parking Garage from February 8 to March 8, 2026, and transit fare relief for Muni buses and light rail vehicles (excluding cable cars) would apply on March 7, 2026. Fiscal Impact - The ordinance appropriates \$311,269 from the General Reserve, which has a current balance of approximately \$160.8 million. Under City policy, any funds used from the General Reserve must be replenished in the following fiscal year. - MTA estimates that free parking for one-month at Portsmouth Square Parking Garage would cost \$150,000 and free Muni service for the day of the Lunar New Year Parade would cost \$161,269, totaling \$311,269. Recommendation - Approval of the proposed ordinance is a policy matter for the Board of Supervisors.	

MANDATE STATEMENT

City Charter Section 9.105 states that amendments to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance, after the Controller certifies the availability of funds, are subject to Board of Supervisors approval by ordinance.

BACKGROUND**Lunar New Year Parade**

The 2026 Chinese New Year celebrations in San Francisco are scheduled from February 17 to March 15. Key events include the Chinese New Year Opening Ceremony on February 17, 2026, the Lunar New Year Parade on March 7, 2026, Community Street Fair on March 7th and 8th, and the Chinatown Lunar New Year Run on March 15, 2026. These events are expected to attract large crowds to Chinatown and surrounding areas.

In previous years, the General Fund subsidized parking at the Portsmouth Square Parking Garage during February, as well as transit fares and community ambassadors on the day of the parade, to facilitate community involvement in these events.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$311,269 from the General Reserve to the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) Operating Fund. The purpose of the funding is to: (1) subsidize free one-hour parking at the Portsmouth Square Parking Garage from February 8 through March 8, 2026, and (2) subsidize Citywide free transit on March 7, 2026. The proposed resolution states February 7 through March 7, 2026 for free one-hour parking; however, MTA states that these dates will be revised to be February 8 through March 8, 2026.

The proposed appropriation of \$311,269 from the General Reserve is less than the appropriation of \$526,000 approved by the Board of Supervisors in February 2025 for the 2025 Chinese New Year celebrations, which subsidized free two-hour parking (rather than one-hour parking) and citywide free transit for two days (rather than one day) (File 25-0041).

Subsidized Free Parking at Portsmouth Square Parking Garage

Between February 8 and March 8, 2026, visitors to Portsmouth Square Parking Garage, near the end of the Chinese New Year Parade route, would receive up to one hour of free parking per transient parking ticket. This subsidy aims to improve access to Chinatown during Lunar New Year activities.

According to MTA, the City's prior two-hour free parking program at Portsmouth Square Garage from January 28 to February 28, 2025, resulted in foregone revenue totaling \$25,008 for one-hour parking and \$218,464 for two-hour parking. By applying a 50 percent adjustment to the two-hour figure to reflect the proposed one-hour program, adding the one-hour amount, and

rounding up, MTA estimates the total cost of one-hour free parking between February 8 and March 8, 2026 to be \$150,000, although actual costs could vary if garage usage differs.

Transit Fare Relief

During the day of the Lunar New Year Parade on March 7, 2026, transit fare relief would be offered for all Muni buses and light rail vehicles, excluding cable cars. According to MTA, the foregone revenue estimate of \$161,269 is based on February 2025 single-ride revenue data, adjusted by an approximately one percent ridership increase and four percent fare increase. In February 2025, MTA reported average daily single-ride revenue of approximately \$153,484, which, after applying projected ridership and fare escalations for Fiscal Year 2026, results in the one-day total of \$161,269.

FISCAL IMPACT

The ordinance would appropriate \$311,269 from the General Reserve to the Municipal Transportation Agency.

MTA has estimated that free one-hour parking for the month and free Muni fares for the day of the Lunar New Year Parade on March 7, 2026 would total approximately \$311,269. These costs are summarized below in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1: Lunar New Year Transportation-Related Costs

Cost Component	Estimated Cost
Free Parking (Month)	\$150,000
Transit Fare Relief (March 7, 2026)	161,269
Total Estimated Costs	\$311,269

Source: MTA

General Reserve

The General Reserve balance for the current fiscal year is approximately \$160.8 million. The proposed \$311,269 appropriation from the General Reserve (as well as a proposed appropriation ordinance of \$4,150,000¹ currently pending Board of Supervisors' approval) would reduce that balance accordingly, and any amounts used from the General Reserve in the current fiscal year must be replenished in the following fiscal year pursuant to the City's reserve policies.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the proposed ordinance is a policy matter for the Board of Supervisors.

¹ The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$4,000,000 from the General City Reserve to the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for expanded street conditions staffing, and \$150,000 from the General City Reserve to the Human Rights Commission (HRC) for community initiatives in FY 2025-2026 (File 25-1249)



SFMTA

2026 SFMTA Lunar New Year Chinatown Transportation Incentives

Budget and Finance Committee, Board of Supervisors
February 11, 2026





tm

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE
GARAGE
花園角停車場

1-hour free parking for Lunar New Year February 8th – March 8th

- Garage located in the heart of Chinatown.
- Open from 5am-Midnight Sunday-Thursday,
 - Open until 2am on Friday and Saturday

Simple user experience

- Customer pulls a ticket and proceeds to destination
- Prior to exiting, pays via pay stations or scan QR code on ticket.
- System set to not charge until 61st minute
- Can be used with merchant validations to extend free parking for end user.



The advertisement features a woman in a yellow jacket and sunglasses holding a smartphone, with a blurred city background. The SFMTA logo is in the top left corner. The main text reads "Skip the line! PAY THE SMART WAY". Below this, a section titled "Pay via smartphone" includes a three-step numbered list: 1. Open the camera app on your smartphone and scan the QR code from your ticket. 2. Pay on your smartphone. 3. Use the ticket at the exit. To the left of the list is an illustration of a smartphone displaying a QR code. Below the list, the phrase "Scan - Pay - Go" is written, followed by logos for VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, Apple Pay, and Google Pay.

SFMTA

Skip the line!
PAY THE SMART WAY

Pay via smartphone

- ① Open the camera app on your smartphone and scan the QR code from your ticket.
- ② Pay on your smartphone.
- ③ Use the ticket at the exit.

Scan - Pay - Go

VISA Mastercard American Express Discover Apple Pay Google Pay

Free Muni on LNY Parade Day! (March 7th)



Let's Go (to Chinatown) San Francisco!

Request from General Fund

\$150,000 for Parking (First Hour Free from 2/8 - 3/8 at Portsmouth Square Garage)

+

\$161, 269 for Free Muni (citywide, day-long "Free Muni" for day of Lunar New Year parade, not incl. cable cars)

\$311,269 Total Request



President, District 8
BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 544-5227

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

Date:

To: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Madam Clerk,

Pursuant to Board Rules, I am hereby:

Waiving 30-Day Rule (Board Rule No. 3.23)

File No.

(Primary Sponsor)

Title.

Transferring (Board Rule No 3.3)

File No.

(Primary Sponsor)

Title.

From:

Committee

To:

Committee

Assigning Temporary Committee Appointment (Board Rule No. 3.1)

Supervisor:

Replacing Supervisor:

For:

Meeting

(Date)

(Committee)

Start Time:

End Time:

Temporary Assignment:

Partial

Full Meeting

Rafael Mandelman, President
Board of Supervisors

Introduction Form

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

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2026 JAN 27 PM 01:57

W

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. _____
- ☐ 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):

Chan, Chen, Sauter

Subject:

Appropriation - General Reserve - Municipal Transportation Agency - Portsmouth Square Garage
Parking and Transit Fares - \$311,269 - FY2025-2026

Long Title or text listed:

Ordinance appropriating \$311,269 from the General Reserve to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to support free one-hour parking in the Portsmouth Square Parking Garage from February 7 to March 7, 2026 and transit fares for the Lunar New Year Parade on March 7, 2026 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

W