AMENDED IN COMMITTEE
9/29/2025

FILE NO. 250784 RESOLUTION NO.

[Urging the City Develop Streetscape, Stairway, and Landscape Maintenance Standards]

Resolution urging the Controller's City Services Auditor and the Department of Public Works to develop objective streetscape, stairway, and landscape maintenance standards; and finding that well-maintained streetscapes and landscape assets are integral to support small businesses and economic development on commercial corridors.

WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Works ("Public Works") is one of the city's largest and most complex municipal operations, with a workforce of nearly 1,800 employees and an annual operating budget of $453 million, the department manages a capital project portfolio valued at over $3 billion, as one of San Francisco's oldest City departments, it remains among the most forward-thinking; and

WHEREAS, Public Works serves every neighborhood in San Francisco, and one of their core responsibilities is to maintain and green the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, In November 2003, San Francisco voters approved Proposition C, which created the role of a City Services Auditor within the Office of the Controller; and

WHEREAS, Proposition C tasked the City Services Auditor to collect data and measure the condition of streets, sidewalks, stairways, the urban environment, and landscape, as well as parks and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor is responsible for assessing the need for city services, monitoring performance of city services, and helping city departments make transparent, data-driven decisions in policy development and operational management; and

WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor, in collaboration with Public Works, developed objective measures of the cleanliness and condition of city streets and sidewalks maintained by Public Works, which were last updated in 2018; and

WHEREAS, The scope of the city's street and sidewalk, stairway maintenance standards includes Public Works' responsiveness to 311 service requests, and evaluating specific instances of street and sidewalk litter, dumping, graffiti, feces, needles, odors, as well as other health hazards and sidewalk cleanliness issues; and

WHEREAS, In November 2016, San Francisco voters passed Proposition E, to ensure Public Works received dedicated funding to help maintain San Francisco's street trees and urban forest; and

WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor and Public Works have not formally defined or established benchmark maintenance standards for trees, landscaping and planting areas, irrigation infrastructure, street furniture, seating, and decorative elements that are planned and incorporated in any major streetscape improvement project; and

WHEREAS, Public Works is also responsible for managing hundreds of acres of open spaces, naturalized areas, landscaped medians, and pocket parks; and

WHEREAS, The City Services Auditor and Public Works have not formally defined or established benchmark maintenance standards for existing open spaces, stairways, naturalized areas, landscaped medians, and pocket parks; and

WHEREAS, Well-maintained streetscapes enhance the vibrancy and economic vitality of San Francisco's commercial corridors, while promoting neighborhood identity and pride; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds well-maintained streetscapes, stairways, and landscape assets are integral to support small businesses and economic development on commercial corridors; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges Public Works and the City Services Auditor to develop objective streetscape, stairway, and landscape maintenance standards to support data-driven operational decisions and help align availability resources to maximize efficiency and impact.