December 30, 2020

The Honorable Garrett L. Wong
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Department 206
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Civil Grand Jury Report - A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins

Dear Judge Wong:

The Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee conducted a public hearing on December 3, 2020, to review the findings and recommendations of the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury report, entitled “A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins.”

Prior to the Committee meeting, the following City Departments submitted required responses to the Civil Grand Jury:

- Office of the Mayor:
  Received November 30, 2020; and
- Department of the Environment:
  Received November 30, 2020.

During the December 3, 2020 meeting, the Government Audit and Oversight Committee prepared a resolution responding to the requested findings and recommendations identified in the report. The response was prepared by Resolution No. 588-20 (File No. 201126) and enacted on December 23, 2020.

By this message, the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is transmitting their response (Resolution No. 588-20) to your attention.

If you have any questions, please contact John Carroll, Government Audit and Oversight Committee Clerk at (415) 554-4445, or via email to john.carroll@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

jec:bjj:ams

(Continues on next page)
c: Sophia Kittler, Mayor’s Office
    Andres Power, Mayor’s Office
    Sally Ma, Mayor’s Office
    Rebecca Peacock, Mayor’s Office
    Anne Pearson, Office of the City Attorney
    Ben Rosenfield, City Controller
    Todd Rydstrom, Office of the Controller
    Peg Stevenson, Office of the Controller
    Mark de la Rosa, Office of the Controller
    Alisa Somera, Office of the Clerk of the Board
    Severin Campbell, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
    Reuben Holober, Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst
    Ellie Schafer, 2020-2021 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury
    Jaime Guandique, 2019-2020 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury
    Rasha Harvey, 2018-2019 Foreperson, San Francisco Civil Grand Jury
    Jonathan Gohstand, 2019-2020 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury
    Deborah Raphael, Director, Department of the Environment
    Peter Gallotta, Department of the Environment
    Charles Sheehan, Department of the Environment
Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins;” and urging the Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.

WHEREAS, Under California Penal Code, Section 933 et seq., the Board of Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations contained in Civil Grand Jury Reports; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with California Penal Code, Section 933.05(c), if a finding or recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or a department headed by an elected officer, the agency or department head and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the Civil Grand Jury, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority; and

WHEREAS, Under San Francisco Administrative Code, Section 2.10(a), the Board of Supervisors must conduct a public hearing by a committee to consider a final report of the findings and recommendations submitted, and notify the current foreperson and immediate past foreperson of the civil grand jury when such hearing is scheduled; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with San Francisco Administrative Code, Section 2.10(b), the Controller must report to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of
recommendations that pertain to fiscal matters that were considered at a public hearing held
by a Board of Supervisors Committee; and

Check: What Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins” (“Report”) is on file with
the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 201125, which is hereby declared to be a
part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the Board of Supervisors respond
to Finding Nos. F1, F2, and F3, as well as Recommendation Nos. R1, R2, and R3, contained
in the subject Report; and

WHEREAS, Finding No. F1 states: “San Francisco Department of the Environment and
Recology are to be commended for their commitment to maximizing the effectiveness of their
recycling efforts. San Francisco sets a positive, powerful example for how a commitment to
recycling can pay off in the form of reduced landfill use;” and

WHEREAS, Finding No. F2 states: “San Francisco Department of the Environment and
Recology do not provide a sufficient amount of timely information to the public related to the
disposition of material placed in the blue bins;” and

WHEREAS, Finding No. F3 states: “While significant efforts are being made by the San
Francisco Department of the Environment and Recology, many residents still struggle to
understand what belongs in the blue bins and what does not;” and

WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R1 states: “City government should establish a web
page (available on both Recology SF and the San Francisco Department of the Environment
sites) that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material. The website should be
updated not less than twice a year, with data for the preceding six months. Key trends should
be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and
WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R2 states: “The existing mobile application related to recycling (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.recology.android) should be updated to provide information that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material. The information should be refreshed not less than twice a year, with data from the preceding six months. Key trends should be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and

WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R3 states: “City government should enhance citizen educational efforts on what not to place in the blue bins, so that the volume, quality, and associated revenue from blue bin recycling can be increased, while decreasing the confusion some citizens have on this topic;” and

WHEREAS, In accordance with California Penal Code, Section 933.05(c), the Board of Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on Finding Nos. F1, F2, and F3, as well as Recommendation Nos. R1, R2, and R3, contained in the subject Report; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F1; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F2; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court that they agree with Finding No. F3; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation No. R1 has not been implemented but will be implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the Environment to prioritize timely and clear website communications on the trends of the disposition of blue bin materials, in multiple languages; and, be it
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation No. R2 has not been implemented but will be implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the Environment to prioritize timely and clear mobile application updates on the trends of the disposition of blue bin materials, in multiple languages; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation No. R3 has not been implemented but will be implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and urges the San Francisco Department of the Environment to ensure these communications are available in multiple languages; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to cause the implementation of the accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.
Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled "A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins;" and urging the Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads and through the development of the annual budget.

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

December 03, 2020 Government Audit and Oversight Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 201126

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

12/23/2020

Date Approved
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

_______________________________    __________________________
Angela Calvillo   Date
Clerk of the Board

12/23/2020
_______________________________    __________________________
Date

File No.
201126