

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
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TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

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:

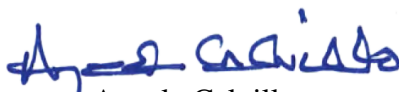
- Office of the Mayor:  
Received November 30, 2020; and
- Department of the Environment:  
Received November 30, 2020.

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](mailto: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 Holoher, 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

1 [Board Response - Civil Grand Jury Report - A Recycling Reality Check: What Actually  
2 Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins]

3 **Resolution responding to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings**  
4 **and recommendations contained in the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “A**  
5 **Recycling Reality Check: What Actually Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue**  
6 **Recycling Bins;” and urging the Mayor to cause the implementation of accepted**  
7 **findings and recommendations through her department heads and through the**  
8 **development of the annual budget.**

9  
10 WHEREAS, Under California Penal Code, Section 933 et seq., the Board of  
11 Supervisors must respond, within 90 days of receipt, to the Presiding Judge of the Superior  
12 Court on the findings and recommendations contained in Civil Grand Jury Reports; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, In accordance with San Francisco Administrative Code, Section 2.10(b),  
24 the Controller must report to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of

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1 recommendations that pertain to fiscal matters that were considered at a public hearing held  
2 by a Board of Supervisors Committee; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury Report, entitled “A Recycling Reality  
4 Check: What Happens to Things We Put in Our Blue Recycling Bins” (“Report”) is on file with  
5 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 201125, which is hereby declared to be a  
6 part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R1 states: “City government should establish a web  
21 page (available on both Recology SF and the San Francisco Department of the Environment  
22 sites) that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material. The website should be  
23 updated not less than twice a year, with data for the preceding six months. Key trends should  
24 be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and

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1           WHEREAS, Recommendation No. R2 states: “The existing mobile application related  
2 to recycling (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.recology.android>) should be  
3 updated to provide information that summarizes the recent disposition of blue bin material.  
4 The information should be refreshed not less than twice a year, with data from the preceding  
5 six months. Key trends should be identified in simple language or graphical elements;” and

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

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

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

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

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

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

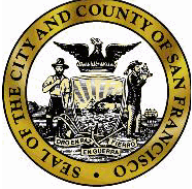
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1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors reports that Recommendation  
2 No. R2 has not been implemented but will be implemented no later than July 1, 2021, and  
3 urges the San Francisco Department of the Environment to prioritize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

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

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor to cause the  
11 implementation of the accepted findings and recommendations through her department heads  
12 and through the development of the annual budget.

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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Resolution

**File Number:** 201126

**Date Passed:** December 15, 2020

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

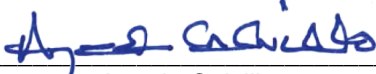
Unsigned

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.



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Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

12/23/2020

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Date

File No.  
201126