

[Street Cleanliness in San Francisco]

**Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to address street cleanliness in San Francisco.**

WHEREAS, The Office of the Controller found that the Tenderloin, the Mission, and Bayview Hunters Point had the highest street and sidewalk litter levels compared to other neighborhoods between July 2023-June 2024.

WHEREAS, Low-income people of color are more likely to live in these neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco generates 5,000 tons of trash a day, with SF Public Works crews removing an average of 900,000 pounds of litter and debris from public spaces a week; and

WHEREAS, Trash, which is usually non-biodegradable, enters stormwater systems. It has many detrimental effects, from waterlogging and flooding streets, to increasing soil erosion, and making its way into the Bay and Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Data collected in 2020 by Bay Area cities showed that more than 4 million gallons of trash was sitting in region's creeks; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in an environmentally polluted area quadruples the risk of depression later on in a child's life, and;

WHEREAS, Depression in youth increases stress, anxiety, sadness, and demotivation. This affects youth socially, mentally, and physically and hinders their performance at school, and;

1 WHEREAS, Trash is found most frequently around places where people frequent  
2 the most, including schools, community centers, and transportation hubs. Because of  
3 this, youth are frequently in contact with trash and other dangerous objects, and;

4 WHEREAS, Repeated exposure to unsanitary environments at a young age  
5 normalizes pollution, resulting in desensitization towards trash and reducing  
6 responsibility about trash in the future, and;

7 WHEREAS, The City's 311 complaint system skyrocketed from an average of  
8 1,400 requests per month in 2018 to 10,550 monthly complaints in 2023; and

9 WHEREAS, The City's 311 sidewalk cleaning request system had over 20,000  
10 requests for trash can maintenance last year in 2024; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2023, the Department of Public Works installed 1000+ sensors in  
12 its trash cans, which generate a 311 complaint when cans are 80% full; and

13 WHEREAS, These sensors generated more than 70,000 complaints in 2024,  
14 underscoring San Francisco's street cleanliness issues; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Works has partnered with property owners to  
16 maintain cleanliness, as well as creating several initiatives to clean the street such as  
17 CleanCorridorsSF, organizing more than 800 volunteer cleanups in 2023; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2022, San Francisco Public Works selected the "Slim Silhouette"  
19 trash can as the City's new trash can model. Designed to be the most rummage-  
20 resistant and easiest to keep clean, it has yet to be implemented widely across the City,  
21 partly due to its price of \$2000-\$3000; and

1 WHEREAS, Broken glass was observed in 60% of evaluations conducted by the  
2 Office of the Controller, indicating a high likelihood of seeing broken glass on a  
3 commercial street and a danger to pedestrians; and

4 WHEREAS, The presence of litter, broken glass, and needles on San Francisco  
5 streets poses significant safety risks to children and youth who frequent these areas;  
6 and therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board  
8 of Supervisors to explore different trash can models and strategies to increase the City's  
9 supply at a reasonable cost; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board  
11 of Supervisors to expand outreach efforts across San Francisco to educate young  
12 people on when to call 311, especially for reporting hazardous objects such as needles  
13 and broken glass; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the  
15 Mayor and Board of Supervisors to explore strategies to expand the street sanitation  
16 workforce, ensuring that the City has the manpower needed to address its street  
17 cleanliness challenges and creating a better environment for citizens overall.