



March 26, 2018

The Honorable Mark Farrell, Mayor
The Honorable London Breed, President, Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94012

Dear Mayor Farrell and President Breed,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and our partner organizations signed-on below, request a meeting with you and city agency staff to discuss ways to keep San Francisco clean and safe.

Maintaining thriving, successful businesses in San Francisco's commercial areas is a challenge for many reasons, especially for small local businesses. Those challenges are compounded by the current state of streets and sidewalks that are dirty, cluttered and feel increasingly unsafe. With the dramatic upswing in vehicle break-ins, San Francisco is earning a reputation as a city to avoid.

The degraded condition of our urban environment is an impediment to attract business and retain employees. People must walk the gauntlet of discarded needles, human waste, chop shops and broken glass. Longtime customers prefer shopping elsewhere or online. Workers feel unsafe coming and going from their jobs. Tourists express shock and say they will not return.

This is a citywide crisis that requires a comprehensive, coordinated response. Sufficient resources must be allocated in the 2018-2019 budget to fund programs, services and enforcement that keep every neighborhood clean and safe, for both immediate implementation and long-term sustainability.

We believe City Hall needs to work in partnership with a coalition of business organizations, merchant groups, civic organizations, community benefit districts, property owners, and residents to craft effective, on-going efforts to address these concerns.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and the undersigned, request that you convene an initial meeting during this budget-drafting period to discuss ways to prioritize these challenges moving forward. The Chamber would be happy to host such a meeting. Please contact Jim Lazarus at jlazarus@sfchamber.com to arrange a date.

We look forward to working with your offices to tackle these critically important problems.

Sincerely,



Tallia Hart
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Henry Karnilowicz
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations



Gwyneth Borden
Golden Gate Restaurant Association



Janan New
San Francisco Apartment Association



John Bozeman
Building Owners and Managers Association of
San Francisco



Paul Pendergast
Golden Gate Business Association



Kevin Carroll
Hotel Council of San Francisco



David Serrano-Sewell
Hospital Council of Northern and Central California



Cassandra Costello
San Francisco Travel