



San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

November 3, 2023

Re: Amendments to San Francisco Police Department Full Staffing Act

Dear Supervisors,

We write you on behalf of the undersigned organizations to express our opposition to Supervisor Safai's amendment to the San Francisco Police Department Full Staffing Act (File No. 230985). Our initial support for this charter amendment was expressed in line with the original intent that new SFPD recruitment and retention efforts would be funded from the City's general fund. This amendment signals that a fully staffed police department is contingent upon San Franciscans agreeing to paying extra for it.

Our organizations are not opposed to paying our fair share to fund city services. In fact, there have been numerous new taxes levied in San Francisco over the last several years—many of which our organizations have supported—in pursuit of supporting resources for critical government functions. However, we now face a difficult climate in which San Francisco is one of the most expensive cities to do business in the nation. This dilemma has been cited by Supervisors, the City Controller and City Economist, who are now examining the need to overhaul our business tax structure to remain competitive: "The City, which started the decade with the highest business tax burden of any city in California, further raised that burden with several rate increases and new taxes...Our unique vulnerability to a few companies moving

their headquarters out of San Francisco demands that we urgently explore new ways to encourage businesses to locate and grow in San Francisco, as well as strategies to make our tax base more resilient.”

Although we understand the concerns in regard to the City’s projected budget shortfall, we also urge you to consider the consequences of severe police department understaffing in potential lost revenue to the City. Public safety perceptions are influencing decisions about whether companies want to locate here or host conferences, whether workers want to return downtown, and whether tourists will visit. Small businesses and their employees are victims of crime and greatly impacted by public disorder. These challenges have real impacts to the City’s tax revenue and overall vibrancy. We must get public safety right. Then tax revenue will follow.

In closing, we do not support this amendment which creates a false choice between police staffing and additional taxes. Public safety is a core public service that should already be fully funded from our current general fund. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

American Assets Trust

Avison Young

BOMA San Francisco

Brookfield Properties

BXP

Cushman & Wakefield

DivcoWest

Golden Gate Restaurant Association

Hotel Council of San Francisco

Hudson Pacific Properties

JLL

Kilroy

McClure Electric

Metro Services Group

Shorenstein

San Francisco Apartment Association

San Francisco Benefit District Alliance

San Francisco Travel Association

The Swig Company

Vanbarton Group

Young Electric & Communications