



SAN FRANCISCO  
**GRAFFITI  
ADVISORY  
BOARD**

London Breed, Mayor

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #248  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4645  
415.695.2003  
[www.sfdpw.org/gab](http://www.sfdpw.org/gab)

**Larry Stringer**, Chair  
**Jana Lord**, Vice Chair

**Graffiti Advisory Board**  
**Thursday, October 8, 2020**  
**Regular Meeting 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
WebEx (virtual meeting)  
San Francisco, California

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order – 3:35 pm
2. Welcome and Introductions - Present Members: Michael Santos, Cadi Poile, Officer Martin Ferreira, Johnny Wong, Jean Barish, Robert Bardell, Christian Martin, Jana Lord, Jessica Cabrera, Earl Shaddix, Devin Jones, Daniel King, Michael Petricca, Margeaux Casillas, Greg Dillon. Members of the Public: Darlene Frohm (SF Public Works), Carla Short (SF Public Works), Ramses Alvarez (SF Public Works), Eva Chang (SF Public Works), Tanika Gaines (SF Public Works), Thomas Ostly, Leslie Donahue, Leanna Louie, Robert Lowe. Excused Absences: Cammy Blackstone, Todd Berman, and Grace Breyley.
3. Public Comment - The public may comment on any matter within the Advisory Board's jurisdiction at this time. Please comment on agenda items below when the item is called. Comments may be limited to two minutes at the discretion of the Chair - (discussion item) – Leslie Donahue is frustrated that her house is regularly tagged, she receives NOV letters all the time, and her tenant must paint over them; Leslie wonders if something can be done for private property owners. Leanna Louie, a volunteer who has painted over 200 tags in Chinatown since July, caught a tagger and called the police. She didn't get any follow-up and wonders if the tagger could do volunteer graffiti removal with her community group. Officer Martin Ferreira suggests that it might not be possible due to the pandemic and Devin from Pretrial Diversion reports that graffiti vandals did not have to complete their volunteer service. Thomas Ostly offers his insight and assistance to the Board. Robert Lowe has cleaned graffiti for over 40 years in his Bayview neighborhood. Robert wants the city to hold people accountable or he thinks San Francisco will end up like New York City.
4. Approval of draft **September** draft minutes - (discussion and action item) –Minutes reviewed and approved.
5. Report by Chair – Darlene Frohm goes over the September report. Response rate for Graffiti Abatements on public property in September dropped 66% year to year. We attribute this drop to lower staffing levels associated with the on-going COVID-19 global pandemic. However, even with the drop, Public Works graffiti abatement team painted over 3,377 graffiti tags across the city. The steaming crews performed 252 abatement and our graffiti painters collectively reported 3,125 abatements. In September, Public Works began reissuing Notice of Violation (NOVs) citations to private property owners. The department had suspended NOV citations as a courtesy to people dealing with COVID-19. Since September 17, inspectors have issued 126. Jana Lord has been reappointed to the District 5 seat.
6. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Abatement – Johnny Wong and Greg Dillon did not report their discussion. Johnny says he had technological issues during the meeting.
  - b. Education – Ramses Alvarez shares that SF Public Works talked to Paint The Void and discussed possible collaborations; Public Works also referred them to the SF Arts Commission and possible grants.
  - c. Law Enforcement – Officer Martin Ferreira reports that 4 arrests were made September.
7. Old Business – (discussion and possible action item)
- a. Thomas Ostly's Certificate of Honor – Cammy Blackstone and Jana Lord prepared a letter which the Board unanimously approved.
  - b. Rebranding from Graffiti to Vandalism
    - i. Martin discusses the meaning of "graffiti" according to the penal code and he believes it is a terrible time to rebrand the Board.
    - ii. Jana Lord insists that rebranding would narrow the scope of the Board's discussions and she enjoys positive aspects of street and graffiti art.
    - iii. Jessica Cabrera, Margeaux Casillas, Michael Santos, and Earl Shaddix agree with Jana.
    - iv. The Board decides not to rebrand for now.
8. New Business -- (discussion and possible action item)
- a. The City's new metal trash cans
    - i. The Board reviews the 3 finalists: Salt and Pepper, Slim Silhouette, and Soft Square.
    - ii. Martin says that the Salt and Pepper design (left) looks like it would be hard to tag and kind of likes it.
    - iii. Devin adds that the only part of the Salt and Pepper can taggers can mess with is the top dome.
    - iv. Robert wonders if taggers can spray designs on the vertical elements on the Salt and Pepper and Slim Silhouette.
    - v. Devin explains that it'll be harder to see tags on the vertical elements on the Salt and Pepper which may discourage taggers. Devin notices that the Soft Square (right) will be the easiest to tag and will be "hit up hard" quickly. Robert agrees.
    - vi. Michael wonders if the cylinder of the Slim Silhouette is oblong or oval. Ramses adds that the dip in the center of Slim Silhouette is to discourage people from putting garbage on top of the trash can. All 3 will have graffiti repellent on them.
    - vii. Devin thinks the Slim Silhouette might be the best.
    - viii. Darlene clarifies that a few trash cans will be made and deployed in different neighborhoods.
    - ix. Jean Barish wants to know if they cost the same and thinks that the capacity is considerably different. Robert agrees that the Slim Silhouette won't hold as much trash and garbage will pile up on the sidewalk. The Board wonders if the 3 trash cans have the same capacity.
    - x. Darlene explains that the openings are small to discourage illegal dumping. They will have sensors to detect when the cans are full. She thinks that Public Works will get a deployment date by the next GAB meeting.
  - b. Graffiti vandalism at Manny's
    - i. Michael Santos wonders if it's a hate crime.
    - ii. Martin says that the foul language does not qualify as a hate crime and would require more specific language or a history of hateful speech.
9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn – 4:51 pm



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### **LANGUAGE INTERPRETORS**

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中文: 如需即時傳譯, 請於會議前最少四十八小時通知