



February 8, 2023

Mayor London Breed
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102
Sent via Email

Dear Mayor London Breed,

On behalf of the nearly 30,000 represented workers of the City and County, the San Francisco Labor Council–Public Employee Committee writes in response to the Budget Instructions. We are concerned for the residents and businesses of San Francisco as the City continues to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and face new crises.

We are troubled as the City is in the midst of a vacancy crisis – resulting in unmet needs and undelivered services. As of mid-January, there are nearly 7,000 budgeted vacant positions across the City and County of San Francisco, as well as thousands of wrongly classified temporary positions.

The staffing crisis means that critical work and projects are at risk. It also places undue burden on our members who are often doing the work of two, or sometimes three people. San Francisco’s constrained ability to deliver services inhibits our economic recovery in a post-COVID San Francisco, and residents are suffering the effects of such diminished capacity.

Despite the worst-case projections driving the message of austerity, current vacancy savings will result in large cash surpluses. Over 5,000 of the nearly 7,000 budgeted vacant position are in General Fund (GF) Departments, representing an annualized GF budget savings of \$720 million.

This is the time when our City needs vision and leadership; we should be hiring to deliver for our communities. Through the prolific rains caused by atmospheric rivers, the COVID-19 pandemic, and every crisis or emergency we face, time and time again, we see that San Francisco needs robust public services.

Given the critical needs of our City, we are asking you to put forward an immediate plan – ***to Staff-Up San Francisco*** – to hire public servants and fill our City’s vacant positions and to value the work of our wrongly classified public servants. We require leadership now to solve the staffing crisis, to invest in our communities and to promote this City’s economic recovery.

Sincerely,

David Canham
PEC Co-Chair

Debra Grabelle
PEC Co-Chair

Rudy Gonzalez
PEC Co-Chair

CC: Board of Supervisors