



Office of the Independent Budget Analyst

Proposed Response to County Grand Jury Report

“The Ongoing Need for Downtown Public Restrooms”

Presentation for the City Council
September 22, 2015



Overview

- The Grand Jury filed this report May 27, 2015 directed to the City Council.
- The report discusses issues concerning the lack of public restrooms in downtown San Diego.
- The report includes 3 findings and 3 recommendations.



Due date for Council Responses to Presiding Judge

- Extension was requested and granted as the Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods (PS&LN) Committee reviewed this issue on July 29, 2015.
- PS&LN recommended approval of the proposed response.
- City Council is required to provide response to Presiding Judge by October 23, 2015.



Overview

Prescribed Grand Jury responses include:

- For each Finding:
 - Agree
 - Disagree wholly or partially
- For each Recommendation:
 - Has been implemented
 - Has not yet been implemented, but will be
 - Requires further analysis
 - Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable



Highlights of Findings

1. *There is a need for additional public restrooms in Downtown San Diego.*

– Agree

2. *It takes too long for the City to install needed additional public restrooms.*

– Agree

Although the City Council and Mayor agree there are a limited number of 24/7 restroom facilities in the downtown area, there are competing needs for limited funds.



Highlights of Findings

3. *Public restrooms in the downtown area are difficult to locate, are not available on a 24/7 basis and are often considered unsanitary.*
 - **Partially disagree**
 - Public restrooms signage could be incorporated into the Downtown Wayfinding Design Signage Upgrade, in collaboration with Civic San Diego, Unified Port of San Diego, and Caltrans.
 - Some, but not all downtown public restrooms, are available on a 24/7 basis.
 - Janitorial cleaning contract requires two to three cleanings a day.



Highlights of Recommendations

15-39 Develop, fund and implement a plan to provide additional 24 hour accessible, clean, safe and well maintained public restrooms in Downtown San Diego...

- Requires further analysis

- Limited capital funding.
- Engineering and public safety challenges to finding suitable locations.
- Horton Plaza Park will include public restrooms.



Highlights of Recommendations

15-40 *Establish and implement a budget that adequately addresses safety concerns and maintenance requirements to maintain safe, secure and properly maintained restrooms.*

- Requires further analysis

- Current annual estimate of \$160,000 for daily cleaning.
- Current annual estimate of \$168,000 - \$400,000 to provide security.



Highlights of Recommendations

15-41 *Establish, in cooperation with affected stakeholder groups in the downtown area, a “way-finding” system allowing the public to locate public restrooms...*

- Requires further analysis

- Signage issues, including physical signage and web-based locators/apps, will be studied by the City within the next six months.
- There is currently no funding identified in FY 2016 to install or maintain signage for restrooms.



Next Steps

We request the City Council approve this item so it can be forwarded to the Presiding Judge by October 23, 2015.