

7.1 Post travel report: Councillor Rafael Camillo, Los Angeles and San Francisco, United States**Report Author:** Rachelle Jordan, Acting Executive Officer Councillor Liaison**Report Presenter:** Rachelle Jordan, Acting Executive Officer Councillor Liaison**Executive Leader:** Kirsty Pearce, Chief of Staff Office of the CEO**Executive Summary**

1. To report to the Future Melbourne Committee on travel undertaken by Councillor Rafael Camillo to Los Angeles and San Francisco, United States in June 2025.
2. In May 2025, Council approved the proposal for Councillor Camillo to meet with officials in the Cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco whilst on private travel to the United States at no cost to Council.

Recommendation from management

3. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the overview of key commitments and observations by Councillor Camillo whilst on private travel to Los Angeles and San Francisco and at no cost to Council.

Purpose

4. To report to the Future Melbourne Committee on the travel undertaken by Councillor Camillo to Los Angeles and San Francisco to meet with government officials whilst on private travel.

Background

5. Council approved the proposal for Councillor Camillo to meet with government officials in both the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco whilst on private travel to the United States in June 2025.
6. Councillor Camillo undertook several meetings with representatives from both cities to discuss issues relevant to Melbourne with a particular focus on his portfolio areas of responsibility including infrastructure, safety, and cleaning.
7. Some of these included meeting with President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Council President and the Mayor of San Francisco, Mayor Daniel Lurie.
8. City challenges that emerged during discussions with both Los Angeles and San Francisco included safety, cleaning, and amenity issues. Councillor Camillo took the opportunity during his meetings to speak about the City of Melbourne experience in these areas.
9. During meetings with City of Los Angeles government officials, discussions also evolved around how the city is preparing for major disruption and infrastructure activities in the lead up to the 2028 Olympic Games.
10. Councillor Camillo was invited to address the Los Angeles City Council during their Council meeting in the Council Chambers and delivered a short speech about the City of Melbourne.
11. Councillor Camillo was also invited by the President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rafael Mandelman and Supervisor Matt Dorsey to attend and participate in the Pride March whilst he was in San Francisco.

Key considerations

12. An overview by Councillor Camillo on his key commitments and observations is included in Attachment 1.
13. Councillor Camillo's participation in meetings with city officials provided an opportunity to engage in dialogue with other city leaders and exchange in best practice ideas and initiatives.
14. Meetings with government officials from both Los Angeles and San Francisco also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships with those cities and promote the City of Melbourne. It also provided an opportunity for Councillor Camillo to provide an update on the work that the City of Melbourne is doing in the areas of city safety and cleaning as well as Arts, Events and Tourism activities.

Legal

15. There are no direct legal implications as a result of the recommendation.

Finance

16. Councillor Camillo's travel to the United States for meetings with officials in both Los Angeles and San Francisco was privately funded. There was no cost to Council.

Conflict of interest

17. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

18. The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* as it does not raise any human rights issues.

Health and Safety

19. Councillor Camillo undertook personal safety and awareness precautionary steps that apply to all travel destinations.

Consultation

20. In developing this report, no consultation was required.

Relevance to Council Plan and Council Policies

21. The report supports the following Council policies:
 - 21.1. International Engagement Framework priority: Facilitating inbound and outbound missions and visits to support Council achieving its objectives.
22. The Council Expenses Policy. The Policy provides that travel undertaken at a Councillor's own expense still requires approval when seeking to represent the City of Melbourne in official engagements interstate and overseas.

Social and environmental impacts

23. No social and environmental impacts were identified in developing this report.

Gender Impact Assessment

24. A Gender Impact Assessment is not considered necessary for this report.

Attachment List

1. Councillor Camillo post travel report attachment [7.1.1 - 5 pages]

Overview of key commitments and observations

Councillor Rafael Camillo's meetings with city officials in Los Angeles and San Francisco whilst on private travel to the United States, June 2025.

Los Angeles

1. Councillor Camillo met with President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Council President, Joanne Kim, Chief of Staff, Los Angeles City Council President and Aden Binyan, International Affairs Coordinator in President Harris-Dawson's Office.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the City of Los Angeles is handling challenges in maintaining city safety, cleaning, protests and amenity. Discussions also took place on how the city is preparing for disruption caused by major infrastructure in the lead up to the 2028 Olympic Games.
3. Discussions also took place about the possibility of a formal relationship between Los Angeles and the City of Melbourne, noting the announcement that Delta Airlines will launch direct flights between Melbourne and Los Angeles. It was discussed that Delta Airlines will become the first airline to fly the Airbus A350 non-stop from Melbourne and the United States, and the economic benefits this will bring to both cities.
4. President Harris-Dawson also spoke about 'Proposition HHH', a \$1.2 billion bond measure for permanent supportive housing to assist those experiencing homelessness. The success of the project was discussed, and it was noted the impact it has had on the community in providing affordable housing options and opportunities. Councillor Camillo provided a briefing about the City of Melbourne's Make Room project and the partnership model that was used to realise the project.
5. President Harris-Dawson also spoke about the program that he initiated to transform a controversial Metro train project into a public art museum and the potential opportunities for Melbourne to look at unused spaces for similar projects.
6. Whilst in Los Angeles, Councillor Camillo took the opportunity to speak to officers involved in maintaining the cleanliness of the city streets. Councillor Camillo noted that Los Angeles has a partnership between public and private sectors, and their vehicles are equipped with multiple cleaning attachments on them. Councillor Camillo also noted that the City of Los Angeles had introduced a system of including QR codes on the sides of their street sweeper cleaning vehicles to assist visitors and residents to easily report areas requiring attention.
7. Councillor Camillo took the opportunity to attend several events and functions whilst in Los Angeles including an event at the Greek Theatre in Hollywood where he met with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez. Councillor Camillo provided an update on his role on the Melbourne Arts Trust at the City of Melbourne and the role that events, live music and public art has on a city and the partnership opportunities it presents.
8. Councillor Camillo was also invited to address the Los Angeles City Council during their Council meeting in the Council Chambers and delivered a short speech about the City of Melbourne.

San Francisco

9. In San Francisco, Councillors are known as District Supervisors. Councillor Camillo met with Rafael Mandelman, President of the Council Board of Supervisors and Ahn Ha, Legislative Aide, Office of the President.
10. Supervisor Mandelman also took Councillor Camillo on a tour of their Council Chambers. Councillor Camillo noted how vivid their Town Hall is and how well it is utilised by members of the public for weddings and events.
11. Councillor Camillo also met with Supervisor Matt Dorsey from District 6 and Bryan Dahl, Legislative Aide, Office of the Supervisor for District 6.
12. District 6 is one of the city's most densely populated districts and home to many of San Francisco's key landmarks, including Salesforce Tower, the Chase Center in Mission Bay, Oracle Park in South Beach, and the rapidly developing Treasure Island, which is slated to add thousands of new housing apartments.
13. Discussions took place around Supervisor Dorsey being a proud member of the recovery community and how he has made recovery-focused initiatives, including the development of sober living sites a central part of his policy platform.
14. They also discussed Councillor Camillo's role as Portfolio Head for the City of Melbourne's Safety and Cleaning portfolio. Supervisor Dorsey noted that he is working to ensure San Francisco has a fully staffed police department.
15. Supervisor Dorsey also provided an update on some of the work the City of San Francisco is doing to address public safety issues, including looking at ways to address drug use and compelling repeat users into treatment plans. He noted his plan for rehabilitation through the compassionate accountability approach.
16. Councillor Camillo and Supervisor Dorsey also discussed San Francisco's plans to restore order to the streets and to address safety concerns. Councillor Camillo spoke about his own experience as Portfolio Head for Safety and Cleaning.
17. Supervisor Dorsey and Rafael Mandelman, President of the Council Board of Supervisors provided an update on their roles as champions for the LGBTIQ+ community, and they extended an invitation for Councillor Camillo to participate in the Pride March that was taking place in San Francisco.
18. Whilst participating in the Pride March, Councillor Camillo met with Mayor Daniel Lurie. Mayor Lurie spoke about his and Supervisor Dorsey's work on their new 'Recovery First' legislation that works to support the city's behavioural health and homelessness crisis. It was noted that this legislation is also assisting with safety, but they commented on how difficult it is to just get the basics right.

Councillor Camillo's meetings with city officials in Los Angeles and San Francisco, United States, June 2025	
Los Angeles	
	<p>Cr Camillo meeting with Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Council President at Los Angeles City Hall.</p>
	<p>Image of Los Angeles City Hall.</p>
	<p>Cr Camillo meeting with Joanne Kim, Chief of Staff, Los Angeles City Council President and Aden Binyan, International Affairs Coordinator in President Harris-Dawson's Office.</p>



Meeting with Councilwomen Monica Rodriguez at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.



Images of the street sweeper cleaning vehicles with the QR codes for ease in reporting waste and graffiti issues.

San Francisco



Meeting with Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.



Councillor Camillo participating in the Pride March and meeting with Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and Daniel Laurie, Mayor of San Francisco.



Pride March, San Francisco