

1 [Resolution urging the Recreation and Park Department to conduct a Recreation and Open
2 Space Equity Analysis.]

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4 **Resolution urging the development and implementation of a recreation and open space**
5 **equity analysis and enhancing protocols for preserving youth and community access**
6 **in our City's parks.**

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD)
8 is to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the
9 environment for the well-being of our diverse community;¹ and

10 WHEREAS, the Recreation and Parks Commission believes that every resident should
11 have the opportunity to take part in public recreational programs and classes, which foster
12 human development, promote health and wellness and increase cultural unity;² and

13 WHEREAS, due to the 2007-2009 Recession, RPD, along with other city agencies and
14 organizations, had to lay off dozens of staff and recreational employees; and

15 WHEREAS, during this time, RPD also began renting out recently renovated
16 clubhouses, and generally pursuing revenue-generating strategies;³ and

17 WHEREAS, the subsequent voter-approved 2012 \$195 million park bond allowed for
18 the renovation of several parks; and

19 WHEREAS, today RPD boasts over 440 programs, 50,000 applicants, and more youth
20 participants than ever before; and

21 WHEREAS, the department has the capacity to offer 16,000 slots for youth in their
22 summer programs; and

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25 ¹ San Francisco Recreation & Park Department < <http://sfrecpark.org/about/who-we-are/>>

² San Francisco Recreation & Park Department: Rec Program Scholarships <

<http://sfrecpark.org/recreation-community-services/recreation-program-scholarships/>>

1 WHEREAS, over \$800K of scholarships were awarded this past summer and \$1.5
2 million were awarded annually for 50%, 75%, and 100% program scholarships;⁴ and

3 WHEREAS, RPD plays a significant role in violence prevention strategies including
4 late night basketball, Camp Mather outdoor experience with JPD, SFPD & Park Patrol, and
5 youth leadership programs; and

6 WHEREAS, one of the most vital public services and violence prevention services that
7 RPD provides is simply providing reliable, safe, public spaces for young people to spend their
8 time during out of school hours in our City's parks; and

9 WHEREAS, in October 2014, there was an incident at Mission Playground involving
10 neighborhood youth and adult tech workers, wherein the adults had reserved the soccer field
11 for permitted play on a field that had historically been used as a pick-up soccer field before
12 renovations; and

13 WHEREAS, it should be among the primary goals of publicly-funded park renovations
14 of our public spaces to better serve communities that have long been using and living near
15 each park, and especially youth and families; and

16 WHEREAS, in June 2014, Herz playground was the site of a fatal daytime shooting
17 witnessed by 60 children, including the son of the victim; and

18 WHEREAS, park safety is an equity and access issue, affecting young people's ability
19 to spend time outdoors; and

20 WHEREAS, RPD tries to work with specific communities to figure out what they want
21 and what is essential, and what are service-specific programs; and

22 WHEREAS, RPD does their best to allocate resources appropriately and equally
23 across neighborhoods in the city; and

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1 WHEREAS, an equity analysis would help RPD provide a template to measure equity
2 amongst parks across neighborhoods and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, on March 5, 2015 at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services hearing
4 on the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights, public comments from youth included concerns over
5 site staffing and the need for park monitors, park safety, the need to extend lighting hours,
6 playfield access, and teen access;

7 WHEREAS, subsequent to hundreds of community members who attended and spoke
8 at the October Recreation and Park Commission meeting, the youth commissioners
9 recommended that the Recreation and Park Department reassess the reservation system for
10 “adult permitted play,” extend lighting hours, hire full time staff and monitors at parks and
11 playgrounds, and maintain language accessible signage at other San Francisco parks; and

12 WHEREAS, an equity analysis will help RPD identify which parks are in greater need of
13 extended lighting hours, full time staff and monitors, and more pick-up/drop-in hours for field
14 play; and

15 WHEREAS, an Equity Analysis would assess need by looking at factors such as
16 relative safety of parks; ability for youth in a particular neighborhood to access parks and
17 fields in other part of the city via rides from parents or league play; number of youth in need of
18 after-school activities; the distribution of open space, recreation facilities by type, and open
19 hours by neighborhood; neighborhood density; and neighborhoods with high concentrations of
20 youth, people of color, low-income families, immigrant families, non-English-speaking
21 residents, or disabled people; and

22 WHEREAS, such an equity analysis would be valuable in guiding investment of the
23 2012 parks bond and open space fund, ensuring diverse groups of stakeholders are engaged
24 in renovation planning, and highlight needs and opportunities for innovative programs like
25 neighborhood fields or sports league programs, extended lighting, and other initiatives; and

1 WHEREAS, Add scholarship information!!!! an equity analysis will help RPD verify their
2 distribution of scholarship money to adults and youth in different districts; and

3 WHEREAS, many community members, especially those whose primary language is
4 not English, have expressed confusion or *no knowledge* of rules at recreational facilities, and
5 an Equity analysis would help RPD identify the facilities and services that need most attention
6 regarding language access; and

7 WHEREAS, A Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis would focus on improving
8 Recreation and Park services in neighborhoods with high concentrations of low income
9 households, communities of color, residents with disabilities, and households with high
10 percentages of youth; and

11 WHEREAS, a Recreation and Open Space Equity Analysis will create neighborhood
12 specific strategies to improve Recreation and Park service by addressing key issues (such as
13 reassessing the reservation system for “adult permitted play”, extending lighting hours, hiring
14 full time staff and monitors at parks and playgrounds for safety and maintaining language
15 accessible signage) facing targeted neighborhoods and communities; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2014 SFMTA announced that they would be conducting a Service
17 Equity report on MUNI to assess how low-income neighborhoods are affected in their study of
18 on-time performance, service gaps, and crowding; and

19 WHEREAS, King County in Washington has also conducted a parks equity analysis,
20 where they measured safety and cleanliness, facilities and activities and quality of outdoor
21 space based on equity factors such as ability of community members to access parks, and the
22 need for open space and/or programming based on income, level of education, and English
23 language proficiency; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
25 Supervisors to urge the Recreation and Park Department to conduct a Recreation and Open

1 Space Equity Analysis on all parks, playgrounds, playfields, and recreation facilities, studying
2 accessibility and service performance in neighborhoods with large numbers of low-income,
3 residents of color, and that they monitor progress to improve services to these communities
4 over time and report on these strategies at their annual budget presentation to the Board of
5 Supervisors; and be it;

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of
7 Supervisors to consider our recommendations made during the Children's Outdoor Bill of
8 Rights hearing, as well as stated above (site-staffing, non-permitted play, extended lighting
9 hours, and scholarship outreach), while reviewing the budget of the Recreation and Park
10 Department as the main purveyor of outdoor experiences for youth in the city.

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