

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 people of San Francisco have long supported the parks of our city,
11 passing the 2012 \$195 million park bond and previous measures², establishing the Park,
12 Recreation and Open Space Fund³, organizing Park Clean-Up days, and spending their free
13 time in our parks; and

14 WHEREAS, today RPD boasts over 440 programs, 50,000 applicants, and more youth
15 participants than ever before;⁴ and

16 WHEREAS, the department has the capacity to offer 16,000 slots for youth in their
17 summer programs;⁵ and

18 WHEREAS, over \$800K of scholarships were awarded this past summer and \$1.5
19 million were awarded annually for 50%, 75%, and 100% program scholarships;⁶ and

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

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

24 ² 2012 Parks Bond <<http://sfrecpark.org/park-improvements/2012-bond/>>

25 ³ Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund <<http://charter.sanfranciscocode.org/XVI/16.107/>>

⁴ Presentation by the Recreation and Park Department to the Full Youth Commission on
February 2, 2014. <<http://www.sfbos.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=51586>>

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⁶ "

1 WHEREAS, after the recession in 2008, the RPD faced severe cuts and had to lay off
2 recreation directors and recreation staff positions; and

3 WHEREAS, during this time, RPD also began renting and leasing out recently
4 renovated clubhouses, which were funded by public tax dollars, to private entities as a way to
5 generate revenue;⁷ and

6 WHEREAS, similar revenue-generating policies of the RPD led to confusion and
7 irritation of long-standing community members, as heard at the October 16, 2014 Recreation
8 and Park Commission Special meeting where people came out to speak about the Mission
9 Playground incident;⁸ and

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

14 WHEREAS, the Recreation and Parks Commission believes that every resident should
15 have the opportunity to take part in public recreational programs and classes, which foster
16 human development, promote health and wellness and increase cultural unity;⁹ and

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

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⁷ Indoor Facilities <<http://sfrecpark.org/permits-and-reservations/indoor-facilities/>>

24 ⁸ Recreation and Park Commission, Minutes October 16, 2014 <<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/101614-minutes.pdf>>

25 ⁹ San Francisco Recreation & Park Department: Rec Program Scholarships <<http://sfrecpark.org/recreation-community-services/recreation-program-scholarships/>>

1 WHEREAS, General Manager of the Recreation of Park Department, Phil Ginsberg,
2 expressed that the Mission Playground incident serves as an example of the city's lack of and
3 limited play space for youth and residents in addition to the city's larger issue concerning
4 gentrification and displacement;¹⁰ and

5 WHEREAS, after an emotional process, the youth and representatives from community
6 organizations who use Mission Playground were able to convince Mr. Ginsberg, the
7 department, and the Recreation and Park Commission to make changes to field scheduling
8 including the elimination of adult permits, maintain language access, and extend the hours of
9 lighting for open community play; and

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

14 WHEREAS, while reservations and rentals may be necessary for the RPD to continue
15 to generate revenue, the Mission Playground incident taught the city that these policies may
16 have further restricted our already limited park accessibility; and

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

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

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25 ¹⁰ Recreation and Park Commission, Minutes October 16, 2014 <<http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/101614-minutes.pdf>>

1 WHEREAS, many cities and agencies, including our San Francisco Municipal
2 Transportation Agency, have conducted an equity analysis to help guide their citywide and
3 departmental policy decisions after realizing the limited amount of resources they have; and,

4 WHEREAS, in 2014 SFMTA announced that they would be conducting a Service
5 Equity report to ensure that service performs equally across neighborhoods and that transit
6 dependent customers such as riders from low income and no vehicle households are
7 prioritized in the department's Strategic Plan;¹¹ and

8 WHEREAS, SFMTA's Equity Strategy is a neighborhood based approach to
9 improving routes most critical to low-income and minority communities; and

10 WHEREAS, King County in Washington developed a Strategic Innovation Priority Plan
11 after realizing that persistent inequities by race and place for many community conditions and
12 systems resulted in significant portions of the their community being left behind, especially if
13 looked at by race, ethnicity, income, immigration status and ZIP Code;¹² and

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

23 ¹¹ MUNI Service Equity Strategy Policy Presentation to SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council on
24 May 1, 2014 < [http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/agendaitems/5-1-
14%20Equity%20Strategy%20ppt.pdf](http://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/agendaitems/5-1-14%20Equity%20Strategy%20ppt.pdf)>

25 ¹² Advancing Equity and Social Justice through development of a Strategic Innovation Priority
Plan and Executive department actions < <http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/policies/executive/administrationaao/aco92aao.aspx>>

1 WHEREAS, such an equity analysis would be valuable in guiding investment of the
2 2012 parks bond and open space fund, ensuring diverse groups of stakeholders are engaged
3 in renovation planning, and highlight needs and opportunities for innovative programs like
4 neighborhood fields or sports league programs, extended lighting, and other initiatives; and
5 now therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of
7 Supervisors to urge the Recreation and Park Department to conduct a Recreation and Open
8 Space Equity Analysis on all parks, playgrounds, playfields, and recreation facilities, studying
9 accessibility and service performance in neighborhoods with large numbers of low-income,
10 residents of color, and that they monitor progress to improve services to these communities
11 over time and report on these strategies at their annual budget presentation to the Board of
12 Supervisors; and be it;

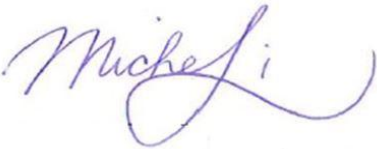
13 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of
14 Supervisors to consider our recommendations made during the Children's Outdoor Bill of
15 Rights hearing, as well as stated above (site-staffing, non-permitted play, extended lighting
16 hours, and scholarship outreach),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

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Michel Li

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2014-2015 Youth Commission Chair

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Adopted by Youth Commission March 2, 2015

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