

1 [Ocean Beach Safety Efforts]

2 URGING THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA TO TAKE SAFETY
3 MEASURES, INCLUDING CREATING A LIFEGUARD STATION, TO PREVENT WATER
4 ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES AT OCEAN BEACH.

5 WHEREAS, An estimated 2 million people visit Ocean Beach each year, sometimes as many as
6 10,000 in a single day; and,

7 WHEREAS, This beach suffers from killer rip currents, each between 50 feet and 50 yards
8 wide, identified by their choppy surface and dirty brown color, making it the most perilous beach in
9 California and the deadliest beach in the U.S.; and,

10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is particularly concerned by the fact that 7
11 persons have drowned in the past year at Ocean Beach, accounting for 10% of all unguarded beach
12 fatalities in the country; and,

13 WHEREAS, If a surfer is not close enough to rescue someone caught in a rip current, it is often
14 too late by the time the San Francisco Fire Department and National Park rangers can respond to a cell
15 phone call; and,

16 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors' Parks and Recreation Committee held a widely attended
17 hearing to discuss signage policies and other recommended safety measures for Ocean Beach on
18 September 17; and,

19 WHEREAS, Attendees of this hearing included representatives from the Golden Gate National
20 Recreation Area, as well as representatives from the United States Lifesaving Association; and,

21 WHEREAS, The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, responsible for oversight of this
22 beach, has increased safety efforts by placing additional lifesaving and outreach personnel to patrol the
23 beach; and,

24 WHEREAS, The Park Service has also placed more signs along the beach to warn visitors of the
25 dangerous undercurrents, including international symbol signage; and,

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Stinson Beaches have lifeguards, yet Ocean Beach
2 does not; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the Golden Gate National
4 Recreation area to take the following steps in addressing safety concerns at Ocean Beach:

- 5 1. Investigate the possibility of installing an elevated observation post tower at the Cliff House
6 or the Beach Chalet, which would serve as a command center that could quickly dispatch
7 trained lifeguards to the scene without providing visibility that might indicate that
8 swimming is endorsed at this beach; and
9 Request an appropriation specific to Ocean Beach to provide regular
10 ~~Make permanent the added beach patrol personnel in policy and in funding, even if only~~
11 ~~seasonal, for consistent attention to this ongoing danger; and,~~
12 Acquire a water rescue vehicle to be stationed at Ocean Beach, and install
13 ~~Install a launching platform for emergency water rescue craft, such as a jet ski or hovercraft;~~
14 a launching platform to facilitate emergency water rescues
15 and,
16 4. Continue its efforts to provide materials and signage in various languages, including
17 international symbols; and,
18 5. Make warning signs permanent, elevated to eye level; and,
19 6. Use due diligence in enlisting culturally competent outreach workers to approach the diverse
20 range of beach visitors; and,
21 7. Exhaust all possible resources in installing telephones or call boxes along the parking lot
22 and/or along the highway at Ocean Beach, including applying for state funding to do so;
23 and,
24 8. Work with City agencies, particularly MUNI and the Airport in disseminating information
25 about Ocean dangers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board does hereby urge the Golden Gate National Recreation
Area to provide the Board with a progress report, asking for additional assistance as necessary to
accomplish these goals; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests a copy of this resolution be
2 sent to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Attention: Len McKenzie, Fort Mason, Building
3 201, San Francisco, California 94123; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests a copy of this resolution be
5 sent to Representative Nancy Pelosi, Attention: Fred Ross, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco,
6 California 94102; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that copies of this resolution
8 be sent to the San Francisco Municipal Railway and to the San Francisco Airport, and, be it

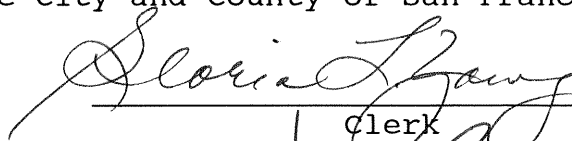
9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That his Honor, the Mayor, is requested to transmit a copy
10 of this resolution to the members of San Francisco's Congressional Delegation with
11 a request they take all action necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Adopted - Board of Supervisors, San Francisco September 28, 1998

Ayes: Supervisors Ammiano Brown Katz Kaufman Leno Medina
Newsom Teng Yaki Yee

Absent: Supervisor Bierman

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution
was adopted by the Board of Supervisors
of the City and County of San Francisco


Clerk

File No.
98-1571

OCT - 9 1998

Date Approved


Mayor