

1 [Maintaining Recreational Activities and Environmental Protection at Ocean Beach]

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3 **Resolution urging the establishment of fair and effective guidelines for beach fires at**
4 **Ocean Beach that protect the public’s access to recreational activities and support**
5 **environmental protection.**

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7 WHEREAS, For generations, beach fires held at Ocean Beach have offered affordable
8 and unique recreational opportunity for individuals and families throughout San Francisco and
9 Northern California; and

10 WHEREAS, Ocean Beach is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS)
11 as a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and plays a critical role in San
12 Francisco’s recreational system; and

13 WHEREAS, Historical records show beach fires at Ocean Beach dating at least as far
14 back as 1890; and

15 WHEREAS, The NPS has a responsibility to listen to and work in partnership with of
16 San Franciscans and others who frequent and appreciate Ocean Beach; and

17 WHEREAS, In the spirit of shared responsibility for Ocean Beach’s welfare, the City
18 and County of San Francisco allocated \$50,000 to the Recreation and Parks Department
19 (RPD) in FY2014-2015 and an additional \$185,000 in FY2015-2016 to conduct janitorial and
20 maintenance services and a robust outreach and education campaign to ensure compliance
21 with regulations; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2014, the NPS piloted new regulations to mitigate the impact of the
23 beach fires at Ocean Beach and will use the data collected to inform new guidelines; and

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1 WHEREAS, From calendar year 2013 through 2015 only 15 citations were issued by
2 the NPS for illegal fires on Ocean Beach; and

3 WHEREAS, That, while regulations should aid in Ocean Beach’s environmental
4 protection, they must also protect the public’s access to recreational activities they have long
5 appreciated and enjoyed; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the National Park
7 Service to establish fair and effective guidelines for beach fires at Ocean Beach that maintain
8 the level of affordability and access San Franciscans are acclimated to; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the National Park
10 Service to not implement its current proposal, to create a fee-based permitting system to
11 reserve fire rings, as it limits access and creates a financial barrier that will adversely impact
12 the equitable nature of the Ocean Beach recreation experience; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, Honoring the shared responsibility for safety and maintenance at Ocean
14 Beach between residents, community organizations, the NPS, and local government, the City
15 and County of San Francisco is committed to working with the NPS to protect the environment
16 and to providing access to recreational activities at Ocean Beach.