

Amendment of the Whole
April 14, 2006.

FILE NO. 060250

ORDINANCE NO.

1 [Closing specified streets in Golden Gate Park on Saturdays on a trial basis for six months
2 beginning Memorial Day Weekend 2006]

3 **Ordinance adding Section 6.12 to the San Francisco Park Code to prohibit, on a trial**
4 **basis from May 27, 2006 and continuing for six months through November 25, 2006,**
5 **motor vehicle traffic on Saturdays in Golden Gate Park on John F. Kennedy Drive**
6 **between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive; Arguello Boulevard; Conservatory Drive**
7 **East and Conservatory Drive West; 8th Avenue; Bowling Green Drive between John F.**
8 **Kennedy Drive and Middle Drive East; and Stow Lake Drive between Stow Lake Drive**
9 **East and John F. Kennedy Drive; to require reports from the Recreation and Park**
10 **Department and Department of Parking and Traffic pertaining to the Saturday road**
11 **closures; to require the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority to share its own data**
12 **and reports that are relevant to the Saturday road closures with the aforementioned**
13 **departments; to require a hearing on the Saturday road closures before the Board of**
14 **Supervisors or a Board committee; and making environmental findings.**

15 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
16 deletions are *~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~*.
17 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
18 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

18 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

19 Section 1. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in
20 this Ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California
21 Public Resources Code sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of
22 the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____ and is incorporated herein by
23 reference.

24 Section 2. The San Francisco Park Code is hereby amended by adding Section 6.12
25 to read as follows:

1 SEC. 6.12. PROHIBITION ON MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK ON
2 SATURDAYS.

3 (a) Findings and Purpose. (i) Golden Gate Park was created more than 100 years ago to
4 provide a sanctuary from the pressures of urban life. Golden Gate Park remains an irreplaceable
5 resource of open space for visitors to and residents of San Francisco, especially those families for
6 whom it is difficult to travel out of the City for recreation.

7 (ii) For more than 30 years, Sunday and holiday closure to motor vehicles of a portion of John
8 F. Kennedy Drive, approximately 1.5 miles in length, between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive, and
9 closure of portions of adjacent roads connecting with that portion of John F. Kennedy Drive, has been
10 one of the most popular attractions in Golden Gate Park, attracting hundreds of thousands of people
11 each year from every neighborhood, racial/ethnic group, age category, and income level.

12 (iii) Proposition J, the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998, adopted by San Francisco
13 voters on June 2, 1998, has as one of its primary purposes to take steps to reduce the impact of
14 automobiles in Golden Gate Park while still providing long-term assurance of safe, reliable, and
15 convenient access for visitors to the Park. This goal remains of paramount importance in ensuring that
16 Golden Gate Park is scenically beautiful, environmentally sensitive, culturally diverse, and accessible
17 to all.

18 (iv) Concerns about ensuring automobile access to the cultural institutions in the Golden Gate
19 Park Concourse area, including the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum and the California Academy of
20 Sciences("CAS"), are being addressed by the construction of an underground parking garage in the
21 Concourse area pursuant to the aforementioned Proposition J.

22 (v) The public interest will be served by Saturday closure, on a trial basis, of John F. Kennedy
23 Drive, between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive, and closures of portions of adjacent roads
24 connecting with that portion of John F. Kennedy Drive. The limited vehicular access to the Golden
25 Gate Park Concourse area and the CAS provide an opportunity to extend to Saturdays the popular

1 Sunday and holiday road closures in Golden Gate Park on a trial basis. This coincides with the CAS'
2 closure, and thus has no possible negative impact on the CAS. This trial period of Saturday road
3 closures will expand the possibilities for recreational and other uses of Golden Gate Park during the
4 six-month period of the road closures, and will provide useful information to aid the City in making
5 future decisions about Saturday road closures in the Park.

6 (vi) This trial period of Saturday road closures is necessary for the safety and protection of
7 persons who would use these roads during the temporary closures.

8 (b) Saturday Road Closures. The following roads in Golden Gate Park shall be closed to
9 motor vehicle traffic on Saturdays, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time and 6:00 a.m. to
10 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, regardless of weather conditions: John F. Kennedy Drive between
11 Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive; Arguello Boulevard; Conservatory Drive East and Conservatory
12 Drive West; 8th Avenue; Bowling Green Drive between John F. Kennedy Drive and Middle Drive East;
13 and Stow Lake Drive between Stow Lake Drive East and John F. Kennedy Drive. The Recreation and
14 Park Department, with the assistance, as needed, of other City departments, shall arrange for
15 appropriate barriers to motor vehicles to be placed at entrances to Golden Gate Park and within
16 Golden Gate Park so as to effectuate the aforementioned street closures. The Saturday road closures
17 mandated in this subsection (b) shall be in effect beginning May 27, 2006 and continuing through
18 November 25, 2006.

19 (c) Exempt Motor Vehicles. The following motor vehicles are exempt from the Saturday road
20 closures mandated in subsection (b): (i) emergency vehicles, including but not limited to police and
21 fire vehicles; (ii) official City, state, or federal vehicles, or any other authorized vehicle, being used to
22 perform official City, state, or federal business pertaining to Golden Gate Park or any property or
23 facility therein, including but not limited to vehicles of the Recreation and Park Department and
24 construction vehicles authorized by the Recreation and Park Department; (iii) authorized intra-park
25 transit shuttle buses or similar authorized vehicles used to transport persons within Golden Gate Park;

1 ~~(iv) vehicles to transport disabled persons within Golden Gate Park to the extent required by~~
2 ~~federal or state disability law.~~

3 (d) Disability Access.

4 (i) In addition to the vehicles listed above in Subsection (c), paratransit vehicles and
5 motorist with disability placards may cross from Fulton Street to the Music Concourse and Tea
6 Garden Drive via 8th Avenue.

7 (ii) All vehicular access points to the areas of closure shall contain directional signage
8 that describes all access points and accessible surface parking areas for people with
9 disabilities and the underground parking facility in the Music Concourse.

10 (iii) Eight (8) accessible parking spaces shall be provided on 8th Avenue between
11 Fulton Street and John F. Kennedy Drive during the closure period.

12 (iv) An additional ten (10) accessible spaces shall be provided on a temporary or
13 permanent basis to assist with access to the road closure areas.

14 (v) A signed drop-off zone for people with disabilities shall be located on Bowling
15 Green Drive as close as practicable to its intersection with John F. Kennedy Drive.

16 (e) Departmental Reports. (i) The Recreation and Park Department, in consultation with such
17 other departments as it deems appropriate, shall conduct a study of the impact of the Saturday road
18 closures on use of Golden Gate Park, including particularly disability access and recreational and
19 other use of the roads closed to motor vehicle traffic. By no later than February 1, 2007, the
20 Recreation and Park Department shall transmit to the Board of Supervisors a written report detailing
21 the results of its study, including any recommendations it deems appropriate.

22 (ii) The Department of Parking and Traffic, in consultation with such other departments as it
23 deems appropriate, shall conduct a study of the impact of the Saturday road closures on parking and
24 traffic patterns in neighborhoods adjacent to Golden Gate Park and on patterns of cross-traffic in the
25 Park. By no later than February 1, 2007, the Department of Parking and Traffic shall transmit to the

1 Board of Supervisors a written report detailing the results of its study, including any recommendations
2 it deems appropriate.

3 (iii) The Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority shall cooperate with the Recreation and Park
4 Department and the Department of Parking and Traffic in connection with the studies mandated in
5 subsections (d)(i) and (d)(ii), by sharing data and reports of its own that are relevant to those
6 respective studies.

7 (ef) Board of Supervisors Hearing. The Board of Supervisors or a committee thereof shall
8 conduct a hearing on the Saturday road closures within two months of receiving the reports required
9 by subsections (d)(i) and (d)(ii).

10 (fg) Effect on Sunday and Holiday Road Closures. This section is not intended to have any
11 effect on street closures in Golden Gate Park on Sundays and holidays, or to limit the authority of the
12 Recreation and Park Commission to expand road closures in Golden Gate Park on Sundays and
13 holidays beyond their present scope or to extend road closures in Golden Gate Park to other days.

14 (gh) Emergency Authority. The General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department
15 shall have the authority to allow traffic on roads that would otherwise be closed in accordance with
16 this section in circumstances which in the General Manager's judgment constitute an emergency such
17 that the benefit to the public from the street closure is outweighed by traffic burden or public safety
18 hazard created by the emergency circumstances.

19 (hi) Conflict With Other Provisions of Law. If any provision of this section conflicts with an
20 earlier enacted provision of this Article or of any other earlier enacted provision of law, and the
21 conflict cannot be reasonably reconciled, the provision of this section shall govern.

22 (ij) Severability. If any provision, sentence, clause, or other part of this section is held to be
23 invalid or unlawful, such a holding shall not limit or abrogate other parts of this section that can be
24 given effect independently of the invalid or unlawful provision, sentence, clause, or part. If the
25 application of a provision, sentence, clause, or other part of this section to a person or class of persons,

1 or to a specific circumstance, is held to be invalid or unlawful, such a holding shall not limit or
2 abrogate other applications of the same provision, sentence, clause, or part that can be given effect
3 independently of the invalid or unlawful application.

4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

6 By: _____
7 John D. Malamut
8 Deputy City Attorney

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25