FILE NO. 160205 RESOLUTION NO. 103-16

[Opposing Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Proposed Rule Regulating Dog Walking]

Resolution opposing Golden Gate National Recreation Area's proposed rule regulating on- and off-leash dog walking in urban parklands throughout San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a densely populated urban environment where an estimated 120,000 dogs reside with their families; and

WHEREAS, Dogs require daily exercise to live healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Many residents, including dog owners, live in homes with little to no outdoor space and often rely on public open space for recreation; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has more than 220 parks administered by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, of which only 28 are designated dog play areas where dogs may play off-leash; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these dog play areas, many dog owners have also exercised their dogs for decades at popular locations under the jurisdiction of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and the National Park Service (NPS), such as Ocean Beach, Baker Beach, Crissy Field, Ft. Funston, Ft. Mason, Lands End, and Sutro Heights Park; and

WHEREAS, The GGNRA was established in 1972 as an urban park with a goal of making open space more available to a broader segment of the public and so that urban-dwelling families would not have to drive far to access open space; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, San Francisco voters turned over 500 additional acres of city parkland – including Ocean Beach, Ft. Funston and Lands End – to the GGNRA; and

WHEREAS, Upon the transfer of these GGNRA lands in San Francisco from the City and County of San Francisco to the federal government, it was widely known that among other activities, dog walking, including off-leash dog walking, occurred at these sites; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, GGNRA created a Pet Policy after extensive public input that allowed dogs to be walked off-leash in areas including Ocean Beach, Ft. Funston, Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Lands End, Ft. Mason, and Ft. Miley in San Francisco; and Rodeo Beach, Muir Beach, and various trails in Marin, amounting to less than one percent of its land; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, GGNRA began conducting a planning process to determine the manner and extent of dog walking on their lands; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, GGNRA released its Draft Dog Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which severely restricted off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking and created large areas where dogs would not be allowed; and

WHEREAS, The DEIS received 4,700 responses and 8,000 substantive comments which overwhelmingly opposed the GGNRA plan; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, GGNRA released its Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), a second draft of the DEIS which included only minor changes to the original plan, and that still severely restricted off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking and created large areas where dogs would not be allowed at all; and

WHEREAS, In 2011 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 183-11, and in 2013 adopted Resolution No. 386-13, both opposing GGNRA's proposed off-leash policy outlined in the preferred alternative of the DEIS and SEIS and supporting the ongoing dialogue between GGNRA and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Both the San Mateo and Marin County Board of Supervisors have also unanimously opposed these proposed regulations; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, GGNRA began implementing modifications to its dog regulations when it created interim public use restrictions and permit requirements for commercial dog walkers, limiting them to no more than 6 dogs at any time, including a requirement that they must obtain a permit from NPS when walking four to six dogs at any one time; and

WHEREAS, These restrictions are in direct conflict with San Francisco's commercial dog walking policy that allows up to eight dogs at one time, and puts further pressure on our city parklands; and

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2016, GGNRA released its Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA, which is based on the Preferred Alternative described in the SEIS; and

WHEREAS, Despite overwhelming opposition to the Preferred Alternative from residents, community groups and elected representatives across several counties, the Proposed Rule contains only minor adjustments based on public feedback; and

WHEREAS, The Proposed Rule states that many Bay Area residents "view GGNRA lands as their backyards" and that dog walking is in direct conflict with those that expect a visitor experience "free from dogs;" and

WHEREAS, The Proposed Rule would designate specific areas where dogs would be required to stay on leash, areas were dogs may be off-leash but under voice and sight control, and areas where dog walking would be prohibited; and

WHEREAS, Under the Proposed Rule, only 2.7 of the 8.7 miles of beaches (31%) would be available for dog walkers, and only 2.3 miles (26%) would be available for off-leash use; and

WHEREAS, Large portions of Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Lands End, Sutro Heights Park, and Ft. Funston will now have restrictions that limit access for both on

and off-leash dog use, and will also have large areas where dogs are no longer allowed at all; and

WHEREAS, The Proposed Rule also allows for additional closures or restrictions to be placed on areas or portions thereof which are open to on-leash or off-leash dog walking on a temporary or permanent basis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco opposes GGNRA's Proposed Rule for Dog Management and urges GGNRA to modify these regulations to allow for greater access to recreational opportunities such as dog walking; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco reiterates its belief that the GGNRA is an urban recreation area and not a remote national park and that the GGNRA should be managed to best serve residents and visitors; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this legislation be sent to GGNRA Superintendent Christine Lehnertz, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, San Francisco Recreation and Park Director Phil Ginsburg, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission, San Francisco Animal Care and Control Director Virginia Donohue, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Chairman of the U.S. House Subcomittee on Federal Lands, Tom McClintock, Ranking Minority Member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Niki Tsongas, Chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Rob Bishop, and Ranking Minority Member of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Raul Grijalva.

City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 160205 **Date Passed:** March 15, 2016

Resolution opposing Golden Gate National Recreation Area's proposed rule regulating on- and off-leash dog walking in urban parklands throughout San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

March 08, 2016 Board of Supervisors - CONTINUED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

March 15, 2016 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Noes: 1 - Mar

File No. 160205

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/15/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned
Mayor

3/25/16
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Reggy Nevin
for Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3/25/16
Date