

1 [Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Collaborate with Departments  
2 and Develop an Activated Public Spaces Program]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Recreation and**  
4 **Park Department, Planning Department, Office of Economic and Workforce**  
5 **Development, Public Works, and Department of Real Estate to collaborate and identify**  
6 **opportunities where San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency properties may**  
7 **be used to provide public spaces; engage with neighboring homeowners and**  
8 **neighborhood organizations, and systemically implement an “Activated Public Spaces”**  
9 **program and provide existing community spaces such as Lakeside Landing and Unity**  
10 **Plaza with waivers of fees and fines; encouraging long-term sustainable management**  
11 **plans.**

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13 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been an inviting place for imaginative ways to  
14 repurpose public spaces through programs such as Groundplay, which is a multi-agency  
15 initiative that launched parklets, play streets, and interactive plazas all over the city; and

16 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) owns  
17 certain real property that includes parking lots and bus loops that have been converted to  
18 public play spaces, gardens, and recreation areas that have benefited individuals and groups  
19 as a whole and converting these publicly owned spaces formerly used for parking into parks  
20 and activated public spaces are imperative to the increase in quality of life of residents; and

21 WHEREAS, The Real Estate Division (RED) with the Office of Economic and  
22 Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) launched the  
23 SF Plaza Program, where the goals of the program included strengthening San Francisco’s  
24 vibrant communities by creating systemic processes making it easier for communities to  
25 activate their local plazas and craft long-term sustainable management plans; and

1           WHEREAS, SFMTA, as a partner with Groundplay and other initiatives, has been  
2 instrumental in offering spaces for re-imagined uses; and

3           WHEREAS, In reconfiguring the bus loop for City College on Frida Kahlo Way, SFMTA  
4 took the opportunity to work with various departments to create Unity Plaza, which is now a  
5 landscaped, fully-accessible public open space that is used for community events and as a  
6 pedestrian walkway that features seating, an artistic pavement, and a domed play structure;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, In 2019, with a concept initiated by the District 7 Supervisor’s office,  
9 SFMTA partnered with the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, and local  
10 neighbors to repurpose a parking lot at Junipero Serra and Ocean Avenue into Lakeside  
11 Landing, an interactive play space, garden, and public plaza for children and families that  
12 revitalized a quiet commercial corridor, especially during the pandemic shutdown; and

13           WHEREAS, While Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza are prime examples of the  
14 positive transformation of SFMTA land, there remain opportunities to establish a more long-  
15 lasting formal program to ensure the maintenance, stewardship, and operations for future  
16 public use; and

17           WHEREAS, The SFMTA as a multi-modal transportation agency does not have in its  
18 primary mission land management or the technical expertise in the operations or maintenance  
19 of landscaped areas of active public and open spaces and traditionally charges permit fees  
20 and rent for the usage of their properties regardless if it is for private or public entities; and

21           WHEREAS, SFMTA has been a collaborative partner as part of Groundplay and other  
22 initiatives but requires more support and formal arrangements for sites like Unity Plaza and  
23 Lakeside Landing and it is in the best interest of San Francisco to continue to serve families  
24 with children, people with limited mobility, seniors, and neighbors by extending the use of  
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1 activated publicly accessible open spaces for them to enjoy the benefits of outdoor gathering,  
2 recreational activities, healthy habits, and exercise long-term; and

3 WHEREAS, Community members have taken proactive measures to act as stewards  
4 of both Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza by organizing clean-ups, which has been helpful in  
5 alleviating the burden on SFMTA and other city agencies for requests; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Municipal  
7 Transportation Agency’s Board of Directors to establish a program in collaboration with the  
8 Planning Department, Department of Real Estate, Office of Economic Workforce  
9 Development, Recreation and Parks Department, and Department of Public Works to  
10 collaborate and to identify opportunities where SFMTA properties may be used to provide  
11 interactive play areas, recreational spaces, and sustainable operations and maintenance  
12 system for their upkeep, as well as, establish other amenities to the public and engage with  
13 neighboring homeowners and neighborhood organizations, and systemically implement an  
14 “Activated Public Spaces” program to encourage long-term sustainable management plans;  
15 and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco  
17 Municipal Transportation Agency to continue providing existing community spaces such as  
18 Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza with waivers of fees (not inclusive of permitting for large  
19 special events) and fines and urging the SFMTA to enter into a lease agreement or  
20 Memorandum of Understanding to have another Department or organization maintain the land  
21 in exchange for not collecting fees on parcels that are currently activated public spaces like  
22 Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza.

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