

FILE NO. 250991

RESOLUTION NO.

[Prioritize Public Safety Response to Drug Activity Near Parks, Playgrounds, and Schools]

Resolution urging the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to develop and implement a comprehensive enforcement and intervention plan to address drug use or suspected drug activity especially within 250 feet of parks, playgrounds, schools, and youth centers including issuing citations, conducting assessments, and removing individuals for processing or detoxification services.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all residents - especially children, families, and vulnerable populations who frequent parks, playgrounds, and schools; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing public health crisis involving the open use and trafficking of illicit drugs in public spaces has raised significant concern among residents, educators, parents, and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Police Department officers are dedicated to keeping San Francisco residents and visitors safe; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco residents and visitors regularly express frustration and confusion about which City service to contact in response to illegal or unsafe activity in their neighborhoods, often receiving conflicting or inconsistent guidance about whether to call 3-1-1, San Francisco Police Department's non-emergency number, or 9-1-1, particularly in situations involving public drug use, open-air dealing, or other ongoing street-level offenses; and

WHEREAS, This lack of clarity undermines residents' confidence in the City's public safety response, delays timely reporting, and places both community members and

1 emergency dispatchers in difficult positions when they are forced to guess which number to
2 call in situations that are urgent but not always life-threatening; and

3 WHEREAS, Parks, playgrounds, schools, and youth centers are essential public
4 spaces that provide opportunities for recreation, education, and healthy development, and
5 must be protected as safe and drug-free zones; and

6 WHEREAS, Numerous incidents of drug use and drug-related activity have been
7 reported near playgrounds and schools, in some cases resulting in life-threatening situations
8 involving children; and

9 WHEREAS, Exposure to drug use or paraphernalia poses serious risks to the physical
10 and emotional health of children and undermines the safety and integrity of surrounding
11 neighborhoods; and

12 WHEREAS, Repeated drug activity in close proximity to these sensitive community
13 sites threatens public safety and the livability of neighborhoods throughout San Francisco;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, A coordinated public safety and public health response is necessary to
16 ensure that drug activity near parks, playgrounds, and schools is addressed promptly and
17 appropriately, balancing the need for enforcement with compassion and access to treatment;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors
20 support police officers enforcing the laws of the City and County of San Francisco and the
21 State of California regarding the sale and public consumption of illicit drugs; now, therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
24 urges the San Francisco Police Department, the Department of Emergency Management, and
25 the Department of Public Health to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to respond

1 to drug use, visible narcotics activity, or suspected drug trafficking occurring within 250 feet of
2 any park, playground, or school, which shall include but not be limited to: Issuing citations to
3 individuals engaged in unlawful drug activity in these areas, conducting on-site assessments
4 to evaluate individuals' health and needs and removing individuals from the vicinity for
5 processing and prioritizing intervention by referring and connecting individuals engaged in
6 unlawful drug activity to crisis stabilization, detoxification or treatment services, as
7 appropriate; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
9 Francisco urges the SFPD to adopt technology tools, pursuant to our city's technology
10 policies, including but not limited to: Chapter 19B, and 22J to reduce the time and increase
11 the accuracy of citation writing and incident reporting in all forms; and, be it

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this comprehensive plan be in pursuit of an immediate
13 future where San Francisco's sidewalks and public spaces are free of the sale and use of illicit
14 drugs; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution does not change existing laws or criminal
16 justice policies, but reaffirms the City's duty to ensure the safety of public spaces and to
17 provide coordinated interventions for individuals struggling with substance use; and, be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the San Francisco
19 Police Department to report back within 60 days of the passage of this Resolution with a
20 detailed plan for implementation, including timelines, resource needs, coordination with health
21 and emergency departments, and any anticipated challenges; and, be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall transmit
23 copies of this resolution to the San Francisco Police Department, the Department of
24 Emergency Management, and the Department of Public Health for their review, collaboration,
25 and immediate consideration.