

File No. 100633

Committee Item No. 1

Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Rules Date July 8, 2010

Board of Supervisors Meeting Date _____

Cmte Board

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OTHER

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Completed by: Alisa Somera Date July 2, 2010

Completed by: Department/Agency Cover Letter Date July 2, 2010

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document can be found in the file.

[Split appointments to the Recreation and Park Commission; Recreation and Park Department and Commission denials of Entertainment-related permits appealable to the Board of Appeals.]

CHARTER AMENDMENT

PROPOSITION _____

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by amending Sections 4.106 and 4.113, to split the power to make appointments to the Recreation and Park Commission between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, and to make Recreation and Park Department and Commission decisions regarding denials of Entertainment-related permits appealable to the Board of Appeals.

The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 2, 2010, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by amending Sections 4.106 and 4.113 to read as follows:

NOTE: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman~~.

SEC. 4.106. BOARD OF APPEALS.

(a) The Board of Appeals shall consist of five members nominated and appointed pursuant to this section. Three of the members shall be nominated by the Mayor, and two of the members shall be appointed by the President of the Board of Supervisors. Charter Section 4.101 shall apply to these appointments. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing officer.

Each nomination of the Mayor and the President of the Board of Supervisors is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors, and shall be the subject of a public hearing and vote within 60 days. If the Board fails to act on the nomination within 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the nominee shall be deemed approved. The appointment shall become effective on the date the Board adopts a motion

approving the nomination or after 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Members may be removed by the appointing officer only pursuant to Section 15.105.

In order to stagger the terms, three members shall initially serve two-year terms, and two members shall initially service four-year terms. The initial two and four-year terms of office shall be instituted as follows:

1. The respective terms of office of members of the Board of Appeals who hold office on the first day of July, 2002, shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on that date, and the three members appointed by the Mayor and the two members appointed by the President of the Board of Supervisors shall succeed to said offices at that time.

2. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall determine by lot which two of the three Mayoral appointees shall serve an initial two-year term, and which one of the two appointees of the President of the Board of Supervisors shall serve an initial two-year term. The remaining appointees shall serve four-year terms. All subsequent terms shall be four years.

The Board shall appoint and may remove an executive secretary, who shall serve as department head.

(b) The Board shall hear and determine appeals with respect to any person who has been denied a permit or license, or whose permit or license has been suspended, revoked or withdrawn, or who believes that his or her interest or the public interest will be adversely affected by the grant, denial, suspension or revocation of a license or permit, except for a permit or license under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission or Department, or the Port Commission, or a building or demolition permit for a project that has received a permit or license pursuant to a conditional use authorization.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Board shall hear and determine appeals from a denial of a license or permit under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission or Department, if the license or permit is an entertainment-related permit. "Entertainment-related"

permits and "Entertainment-related" licenses shall be defined by ordinance. A permit or license applicant is not required to submit an appeal to the Board pursuant to this subsection in order to seek judicial review of the decision of the Recreation and Park Commission or Department. The filing of an appeal pursuant to this subsection shall not stay the decision of the Recreation and Park Commission or Department. No rehearing of such appeals shall be allowed.

(d) The Board of Appeals shall hear and determine appeals:

1. Where it is alleged there is error or abuse of discretion in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Zoning Administrator in the enforcement of the provisions of any ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors creating zoning districts or regulating the use of property in the City and County; or

2. From the rulings, decisions and determinations of the Zoning Administrator granting or denying applications for variances from any rule, regulation, restriction or requirement of the zoning or set-back ordinances, or any section thereof. Upon the hearing of such appeals, the Board may affirm, change, or modify the ruling, decision or determination appealed from, or, in lieu thereof, make such other additional determinations as it shall deem proper in the premises, subject to the same limitations as are placed upon the Zoning Administrator by this Charter or by ordinance.

(e) After a hearing and any necessary investigation, the Board may concur in the action of the department involved, or by the affirmative vote of four members (or if a vacancy exists, by a vote of three members) overrule the action of the Department.

Where the Board exercises its authority to modify or overrule the action of a department, the Board shall state in summary its reasons in writing.

SEC. 4.113. RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION.

~~The Recreation and Park Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor, pursuant to Section 3.100, for four year terms. Members may be removed by the Mayor only pursuant to Section 15.105.~~

The Recreation and Park Commission shall consist of seven members, who shall each serve a four-year term. The Mayor shall nominate three members, not subject to the approval or rejection by the Board of Supervisors; the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors, or any successor committee thereto, shall nominate three members subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors; and the Mayor and the President of the Board of Supervisors shall jointly nominate one member. If the Board fails to act on the nomination within 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the nominee shall be deemed approved. The appointment shall become effective on the date the Board adopts a motion approving the nomination or after 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Members may be removed by the appointing authority pursuant to Section 15.105.

The respective terms of office of members of the Recreation and Park Commission who hold office on February 1, 2011, shall expire at noon on that date, and the members appointed pursuant to the amendments to this Section approved at the November 2010 election shall succeed to said office at that time. To stagger the terms of the seven members, of the three members nominated by the Mayor, one member shall serve a term of two years, one member shall serve a term of three years, and one member shall serve a term of four years; of the three members nominated by the Rules Committee, one member shall serve a term of two years, one member shall serve a term of three years, and one member shall serve a term of four years; and the member nominated jointly by the Mayor and the President of the Board of Supervisors shall serve a term of four years. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall designate such initial terms by lot. All subsequent appointments to the Commission shall be for four-year terms.

Pursuant to the policies and directives set by the Commission and under the direction and supervision of the General Manager, the Recreation and Park Department shall manage and direct all parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and all other recreation facilities, avenues and grounds under the Commission's control or placed under its jurisdiction thereafter, unless otherwise specifically provided in this Charter.

The Department shall promote and foster a program providing for organized public recreation of the highest standard.

The Department shall issue permits for the use of all property under the Commission's control, pursuant to the policies established by the Commission.

As directed by the Commission, the Department shall administer the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund pursuant to Section 16.107 of this Charter.

The Department shall have the power to construct new parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, recreation facilities, squares and grounds, and to erect and maintain buildings and structures on parks, playgrounds, square, avenues and grounds, except as follows:

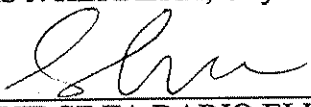
1. No building or structure, except for nurseries, equipment storage facilities and comfort stations, shall be erected, enlarged or expanded in Golden Gate Park or Union Square Park unless such action has been approved by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Supervisors;

2. No park land may be sold or leased for non-recreational purposes, nor shall any structure on park property be built, maintained or used for non-recreational purposes, unless approved by a vote of the electors. However, with permission of the Commission and approval by the Board of Supervisors, subsurface space under any public park, square or playground may be used for the operation of a public automobile parking station under the authority of the Department of Parking and Traffic, provided that the Commission determines that such a use would not be, in any material respect or degree, detrimental to the original purpose for which a park, square or playground was dedicated or in contravention of the conditions of any grant under which a park, square or playground might have been received. The revenues derived from

any such use, less the expenses incurred by the Department of Parking and Traffic in operating these facilities, shall be credited to Recreation and Park Department funds.

3. The Commission shall have the power to lease or rent any stadium or recreation field under its jurisdiction for athletic contests, exhibitions and other special events and may permit the lessee to charge an admission fee.

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

By: 
for VIRGINIA DARIO ELIZONDO
Deputy City Attorney

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST (REVISED)

[Split appointments to the Recreation and Park Commission; Recreation and Park Department and Commission denials of Entertainment-related permits appealable to the Board of Appeals.]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by amending Sections 4.106 and 4.113, to split the power to make appointments to the Recreation and Park Commission between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, and to make Recreation and Park Department and Commission decisions regarding denials of Entertainment-related permits appealable to the Board of Appeals.

Existing Law

Currently, the Mayor makes all seven appointments to the Recreation and Park Commission.

The Board of Appeals lacks jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals of permits or licenses granted or denied by the Recreation and Park Department or the Recreation and Park Commission. If the Recreation and Park Commission denies a permit, the applicant must ask the Commission to reconsider its decision, or the applicant can file a lawsuit asking the court to overturn the Commission's decision.

Amendments to Current Law

This Charter Amendment would split the authority for appointing Recreation and Park Commissioners between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The Mayor would nominate three (3) Commissioners, which will not be subject to approval or disapproval of the Board of Supervisors. The Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors would nominate three (3) Commissioners, which would be subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors; and the Mayor and the President would jointly nominate one (1) member. If the Board fails to act on nominees forwarded to the Clerk of the Board by the Mayor or by the Rules Committee within 60 days, the nominees would be deemed approved.

This Charter Amendment would authorize the Board of Appeals to hear appeals of denials of entertainment related permits or licenses by the Recreation and Park Commission or Department. "Entertainment-related" permits and "Entertainment-related" licenses include, for example, concerts and plays. "Entertainment-related" permits and licenses shall be more specifically defined by ordinance.

Changes from First Draft

The Second Draft of this proposed Charter Amendment:

- Makes the Mayor's appointments to the Commission, unilateral, in other words, there will be no review of the Mayor's appointments by the Board of Supervisors.
- Eliminates the appeal of "special event" permits or licenses to the Board of Appeals.

Background Information

Until the 1996 Charter revision, the Recreation and Park Commission had "complete and exclusive" authority over the parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities under its jurisdiction. When the Board of Appeals section was revised in 1996, now Charter Section 4.106, Recreation and Park Department and Commission licenses and permits were specifically excluded from Board of Appeals jurisdiction. The 1996 Charter revision also eliminated the Recreation and Park Commission's "complete and exclusive" authority over park property. Currently, final decisions of the Recreation and Commission regarding permits on park property can only be appealed to court.

A number of the Commissions established in the City Charter have all of their members nominated by the Mayor. But in recent years, voters approved a number of reorganizations of Charter Commissions to split the appointments between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, and several newly created Commissions have split appointments. Commissions where both the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make appointments include the Police Commission, the Planning Commission, the Board of Appeals, the Entertainment Commission, the Building Inspection Commission, and the Youth Commission.



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

orig: Rules Clerk Bas-U
COB, CA, Leg Dep

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Monique Zmuda
Deputy Controller

2010 JUN 17 AM 10:01

BY RC

June 17, 2010

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: File 100633 – Charter amendment dividing the power to nominate members of the Recreation and Park Commission between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, making Recreation and Park Department event permits and licenses subject to appeal

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, there would be a minimal impact on the cost of government.

The proposed amendment would specify that certain special event permits and licenses issued by the Recreation and Park Department could be appealed to the Board of Appeals. Currently, the decisions of the Recreation and Park Commission on event permits and licenses are final. Typically the City's costs for hearings and other appeal processes are covered in part by fees and surcharges collected from applicants. The Recreation and Parks Departments issues approximately 5,800 significant permits annually for special events that range widely in size, complexity, cost, revenue and impacts. The Department also has approximately 60 licenses for operator concessions and other functions. The types of permits and licenses to be affected by the proposed amendment would be defined later by ordinance.

The Recreation and Park Commission currently consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor. The amendment would provide instead that three members of the Commission be appointed by the Mayor, three by the Board of Supervisors, and one jointly by the Mayor and Board President, with all members subject to certain qualification requirements and to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Cynthia G. Goldstein
Executive Director

June 30, 2010

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94012

Re: File No. 100633; Proposed Charter Amendment

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

These comments are submitted in response to the revised proposal to amend Charter Section 4.106 (File No. 100633, revision date 6/21/10). This proposal would give the Board of Appeals jurisdiction to hear appeals of "Entertainment-related" permits or licenses *denied* by the Recreation and Park Commission or Department, and further, would require that "Entertainment-related" permits and licenses be defined by ordinance.

We appreciate that the proposal calls for companion legislation to define "Entertainment-related" permits and licenses. We urge you to craft this legislation with specificity so as to avoid establishing a system where the Board of Appeals would be called upon to make a case-by-case determination of whether a particular permit or license qualifies as "entertainment-related" within the meaning of the ordinance. Such case-by-case determinations would not only be administratively burdensome for Board staff, it could lead to lengthy delays in the appeals process. Would-be appellants whose appeal requests are rejected by Board staff on the basis that the permit is not "entertainment-related" would then be able to submit Jurisdiction Requests that must be heard by the full Board of Appeals. These delays could render moot the entire appeal process in situations where the opportunity to hold an "entertainment-related" event passes before the Board is able to hear and decide the appeal on the merits.

Accordingly, we suggest this companion legislation establish a category of Recreation and Park permits and licenses that, *by definition*, includes only those permits and licenses subject to Board of Appeals review. Thus, all Recreation and Park permits and licenses that may be appealed to the Board of Appeals would be labeled as "Entertainment-related," and those permits and licenses that are not subject to appeal would be issued under a different label.

In addition to the above concerns, we note that the proposal is silent on whether an appellant must first exhaust appeal opportunities available within the Recreation and Park Department and Commission before looking to the Board of Appeals for relief. It is common for departmental determinations to go through the full internal review process before being appealable to the Board of Appeals, but it is not always mandated. Clarification of this point would help the Board understand when a Recreation and Park decision is ripe for appeal.



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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
June 30, 2010
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Finally, a technical clarification is recommended in the first line of proposed new paragraph (c). Currently, it reads "...the Board shall hear and determine appeals from a denial of a license or permit under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission or Department, if the license or permit is an entertainment-related permit." (Emphasis added.) Our recommendation is to revise the last clause of this sentence to read either "is an entertainment-related permit" or "is an entertainment-related permit or license." Either revision would more clearly articulate that both permits and licenses are contemplated.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Cynthia G. Goldstein
Executive Director

cc: Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi
Linda Wong, Clerk, Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
Phil Ginsberg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Cynthia G. Goldstein
Executive Director

*C: Deprts. Mirkarm, Campos, Ma-
Dales and Ov alos*

May 27, 2010

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94012

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2010 MAY 27 PM 1:16

BY _____
AK

Re: File No. 100633; Proposed Charter Amendment

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

Thank you for providing my office with an opportunity to comment on the draft proposal to revise Charter Section 4.106 to allow certain special event permits and licenses issued by the Recreation and Park Commission or Department to be appealed to the Board of Appeals.

Under the proposal, the Board of Appeals would have jurisdiction to hear these appeals "if the special event permit or license significantly impacts Recreation and Park property or the surrounding neighborhood." I am concerned that, as currently written, the proposed Charter language fails to define or provide any guidance as to the scope of "significant impact." Absent clarification, the Board of Appeals would be left to make a case-by-case determination of whether a particular permit would or would not have a "significant impact" on the surrounding neighborhood without any guiding standards.

I recognize that the proposal calls for separate legislation to define the terms "special event permit" and "special event license." Ideally, these definitions would be drafted so that it would not be necessary for the Board to make a determination of "significant impact;" in other words, that all special event permits and licenses, *by definition*, significantly impact Recreation and Park property or the surrounding neighborhood, and those permits and licenses that don't have a significant impact are given a different name. If that is what is envisioned, then I urge the Board of Supervisors to remove the "significant impact" language from this proposed Charter amendment.

In the alternative, if the intent is to give the Board of Appeals jurisdiction to decide when a permit or license has significant impact, it would be helpful for the Board, and the public, to be provided with establish parameters either in the Charter itself, or in the required ordinance. Currently, when a member of the public seeks to file an appeal, Board staff makes a determination as to whether or not the appeal falls within the Board's jurisdiction. If staff determines there is no jurisdiction, the would-be appellant may file a Jurisdiction Request, which elevates the question of jurisdiction to the appointed Board. The Jurisdiction Request then must be briefed, argued and decided. If the Board grants jurisdiction, only then may an appeal actually be filed. This process can take several weeks, if not months.

Without a bright-line demarcation of which special event permits and licenses have the requisite significant impact, the Board would likely be subjected to a deluge of Jurisdiction Requests from potential appellants whose requests to file an appeal are rejected by Board staff. This not only would



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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
May 27, 2010
Page 2.

consume the Board's limited resources, it would add delay to the Board's final determination in those cases warranting its review. Since the proposed Charter amendment doesn't suspend permits and licenses during the pendency of the appeal process, the contested event could take place before the Board was able to hear and decide the appeal, thereby rendering moot the appeal process.

In sum, leaving the determination of significant impact for the Board of Appeals to decide on a case by case basis, without providing guidance on the standards to apply in making this assessment, would not only make this new appeal process challenging to administer, but could jeopardize the very value of the appeal opportunity itself.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Cynthia G. Goldstein
Executive Director

cc: Linda Wong, Rules Committee Clerk
Phil Ginsberg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department



Mayor Gavin Newsom
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

June 18, 2010

Members, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

I oppose the Charter Amendment (File Number 100633) revising Charter Section 4.106 to alter the appointment structure for the Recreation and Parks Commission and to allow certain special event permits issued by the Commission or the Recreation and Park Department to be appealed to the Board of Appeals.

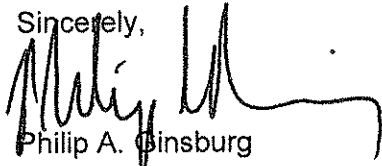
This year our Department was required to reduce its level of general fund support by \$12.4 million. These drastic cuts provided us with a choice: stop providing free and low cost public recreation, neglect the maintenance of our parks and recreation centers, or reinvent the way we work. I am proud that, in collaboration with SEIU 1021, the Laborers Local 261 and the Neighborhood Parks Council, we have crafted a budget that prioritizes revenue over service cuts. Seventy-five percent of our budget reduction is met by new revenue in the form of new amenities, concessions, events and philanthropy in our parks. We have survived this year's awful budget woes, but barely, and not without some impact on park users. We are already quite fearful of how to confront next year's projected \$700 million General Fund problem.

The Recreation and Park Department has now suffered from consecutive years of drastic budget cuts. By national standards our department is short over 200 gardeners, 60 custodians, and 30 park patrol officers. We have been forced to reengineer our recreation service delivery model in order to compensate for our shortage of recreation staff. We have over \$1 billion in unmet deferred maintenance needs in our system. Our three thousand dollar annual material and supply budget for each of our 25 recreation centers should be an embarrassment to all of us.



The Recreation and Park Department is in financial peril. We will not be able to continue to provide the level of service that San Franciscans need and expect without achieving a healthier degree of financial sustainability. Park supporters, led by our elected family, must work together between now and November 2011 to convince voters that more financial support for our parks is warranted. Please do not risk our parks' chances for a better tomorrow by picking a divisive and unnecessary political fight that will neither improve our parks nor fund them more adequately. I urge you to oppose this measure.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Ginsburg
General Manager

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco



BOS-11
COB
File 100633
Gavin Newsom
Leg Dep. CA

June 16, 2010

Members, Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94012

Dear Supervisors,

I oppose the Charter Amendment (File Number 100633) revising Charter Section 4.106 to alter the appointment structure for the Recreation and Park Commission and to allow certain special event permits issued by the Commission or the Recreation and Park Department to be appealed to the Board of Appeals.

At best, this proposal is a solution in search of a problem.

Currently, I make the appointments to the Recreation and Parks Department, and the Board has the authority – under the Charter – to reject those appointments. This structure is well balanced, which is supported by the fact that the Board has not rejected a single one of the 13 appointments and reappointments my administration has made over the last six years. In changing this structure, the Board is shifting the balance such that the Board will gain additional control over this process.

The Charter Amendment also proposes to change the appeals process for special events permits or licenses such that Department and Commission decisions are no longer binding, but can be appealed to the Board of Appeals. Currently, the General Manager holds open hours every month, and every biweekly Commission meeting includes at least 30 minutes of dedicated public comment time. When the community expresses an issue with a permitting decision, the Commission takes up a discussion and makes a final determination. Subjecting the Department's thousands of annual permits to full hearings would clog the process and prevent the Board of Appeals from performing its other critical functions. In addition, the Executive Director of the Board of Appeals has already stated her concern that the proposal gives too much discretion to the Board of Appeals without enough guidance on how it would determine what appeals should be heard. In summary, more complicated government is not better government.

The components of this proposal prompt me to ask if the Board of Supervisors believes that it does not have sufficient checks and balances over the Recreation and Park Department and Commission? In addition to the Board's ability to reject my Commission appointments, the Board has approval authority over the Department's budget, approves all fees under the Park Code, holds the power of inquiry, and has the ability to hold hearings. This year alone, the Department will present their budget to the Board at least five times.

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2010 JUN 16 PM 2:41

BY PC



This proposal also sends the message that the Board of Supervisors feels that the Recreation and Park Department and the Commission are not providing positive results for the citizens of San Francisco. This message is patently false. The Department has accelerated the construction timeline of the 2000 Neighborhood Parks Bond: since 2004, the projects completed include 23 playgrounds, two fields, four pools, eight recreation center, nine clubhouses, 25 parks, one acquisition, and three park master plans. In 2008, the Department worked hard to get the Parks Bond passed with 72% of voter support – yet another sign that public confidence in the agency is strong. In the past year, the Department has completed more than 160 capital projects and renovated seven soccer complexes through the CityFields partnership – adding 40,000 hours of play time to our system. This summer alone, the Department tripled summer offerings and worked with the Municipal Transportation Agency to provide 500 fast passes for children to travel to these programs, and provided \$100,000 worth of free programming to public housing families.

The Department recently initiated a complete restructuring of its budget and reorganization of its service delivery model. I am extremely proud of how well the Department has worked with organized labor, park advocates, and the philanthropic community in these difficult budget times. They have crafted a budget that prioritizes revenue over cuts, minimizes service cuts and maintains our capital investment in our parks and facilities. This is no small feat, given the budget challenges facing the City in this economy.

Additionally, I have recently taken steps to revitalize the Commission and help lead the Department toward financial sustainability by appointing Mark Buell, a committed citizen with deep ties to the both the park and philanthropic community in San Francisco. President Buell has 30 years of experience in government and is the President of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Board.

As this Charter Amendment lacks a compelling rationale for reform, I urge the Board of Supervisors to table this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Mayor