

1 [Recreation and Park Department—Resolution requesting Suspension of conversion of
2 natural fields to artificial surfaces.]

3 **Resolution requesting that the Recreation and Park Department temporarily suspend**
4 **the program of converting natural turf playing fields to artificial surfaces pending**
5 **release of a report by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment**
6 **on the health and environmental impacts of synthetic turf fields.**

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8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has proposed to
9 change their sports fields and possibly others from a natural grass park into a multi-use day
10 and night athletic facility with “FieldTurf,” a synthetic product that does not biodegrade and
11 has crumbled used tires as infill; and

12 WHEREAS, Natural neighborhood sports fields provide fresh air, serve to sequester
13 carbon dioxide and help restore the carbon footprint for cars, busses and trucks equivalent
14 to 1,860 trees; and

15 WHEREAS, there are several scientific studies pointing out toxic substances including
16 heavy metals and volatile airborne corrosives associated with these synthetic turfs, the
17 ingestion of only ten grams of which is considered seriously, irrevocably carcinogenic; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment is due
19 to complete its study on the health and environmental impacts of synthetic turf fields in
20 September of 2010; and,

21 WHEREAS, the Recreation and Parks Synthetic Fields Task Force in their July, 2008
22 report to the Department identified 11 environmental and health issues of public concern; and,

23 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco adopted the “Precautionary
24 Principle” as a fundamental tenet of environmental protection in ordinance 171-03 on file with
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1 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 030422, which is hereby declared to be a
2 part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

3 WHEREAS, Applying the precautionary principle to the installation of artificial turf given
4 the unquantified health and environmental impacts is a reasonable basis for delaying further
5 such installations; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 hereby requests that the Recreation and Parks Department temporarily suspend the
8 installation of artificial turf fields until such time as the California Office of Environmental
9 Health Hazard Assessment issues its study on the health and environmental impacts of
10 synthetic turf fields in; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Recreation and Parks Department, after holding a
12 hearing to consider said report, inform the Board of Supervisors what measures might be
13 implemented to mitigate said health and environmental impacts and to what extent they could
14 be ameliorated.

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