

1 [Closing specified streets in Golden Gate Park on Saturdays on a trial basis for six months  
2 beginning May 5, 2007.]

3 **Ordinance adding Section 6.12 to the San Francisco Park Code to prohibit, on a trial**  
4 **basis from Saturday May 5, 2007 and continuing for six months to Saturday November**  
5 **3, 2007, motor vehicle traffic on Saturdays in Golden Gate Park on John F. Kennedy**  
6 **Drive between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive; Arguello Boulevard; Conservatory**  
7 **Drive East and Conservatory Drive West; 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Bowling Green Drive between**  
8 **John F. Kennedy Drive and Middle Drive East; and Stow Lake Drive between Stow Lake**  
9 **Drive East and John F. Kennedy Drive; to require reports from the Recreation and Park**  
10 **Department and Department of Parking and Traffic pertaining to the Saturday road**  
11 **closures; to require the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority to share its own data**  
12 **and reports that are relevant to the Saturday road closures with the aforementioned**  
13 **departments; to require a hearing on the Saturday road closures before the Board of**  
14 **Supervisors or a Board committee; and making environmental findings.**

15 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
16 deletions are *~~strikethrough italics Times New Roman~~*.  
17 Board amendment additions are double underlined.  
18 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

18 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

19 Section 1. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in  
20 this Ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California  
21 Public Resources Code sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of  
22 the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein by  
23 reference.

24 Section 2. In 2006, Mayor Newsom and Supervisor McGoldrick jointly commissioned a  
25 study of the weekend access conditions to and around Golden Gate Park in light of the long-

1 standing Sunday road closure of John F. Kennedy Drive and the vehicular access to this area  
2 that is allowed on Saturdays. In response to this request, the San Francisco County  
3 Transportation Authority, in consultation with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation  
4 Agency, prepared and published the Golden Gate Park Transportation Access Study, Report  
5 on Weekend Access Conditions Summer 2006 (February 2007). This report is on file with the  
6 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein by  
7 reference. Based on the findings of this report, the Board has determined that a six-month  
8 trial closure of John F. Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park on Saturdays is warranted in order  
9 to generate additional data and information as well as to provide for expanded opportunities  
10 for healthy recreational activity and enjoyment of the Park on Saturdays. For purposes of this  
11 legislation, the Board hereby acknowledges and adopts the findings of this report as its own.

12 Section 3. The San Francisco Park Code is hereby amended by adding Section 6.12  
13 to read as follows:

14 SEC. 6.12. PROHIBITION ON MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK ON  
15 SATURDAYS.

16 (a) Findings and Purpose. (i) Golden Gate Park was created more than 100 years ago to  
17 provide a sanctuary from the pressures of urban life. Golden Gate Park remains an irreplaceable  
18 resource of open space for visitors to and residents of San Francisco, especially those families for  
19 whom it is difficult to travel out of the City for recreation.

20 (ii) For more than 30 years, Sunday and holiday closure to motor vehicles of a portion of John  
21 F. Kennedy Drive, approximately 1.5 miles in length, between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive, and  
22 closure of portions of adjacent roads connecting with that portion of John F. Kennedy Drive, has been  
23 one of the most popular attractions in Golden Gate Park, attracting hundreds of thousands of people  
24 each year from every neighborhood, racial/ethnic group, age category, and income level.

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1           (iii) Proposition J, the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998, adopted by San Francisco  
2 voters on June 2, 1998, has as one of its primary purposes to take steps to reduce the impact of  
3 automobiles in Golden Gate Park while still providing long-term assurance of safe, reliable, and  
4 convenient access for visitors to the Park. This goal remains of paramount importance in ensuring that  
5 Golden Gate Park is scenically beautiful, environmentally sensitive, culturally diverse, and accessible  
6 to all.

7           (iv) Concerns about ensuring automobile access to the cultural institutions in the Golden Gate  
8 Park Concourse area, including the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum and the California Academy of  
9 Sciences ("CAS"), are being addressed by the addition of an underground parking garage in the  
10 Concourse area pursuant to the aforementioned Proposition J.

11           (v) The public interest will be served by Saturday closure, on a trial basis, of John F. Kennedy  
12 Drive, between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive, and closures of portions of adjacent roads  
13 connecting with that portion of John F. Kennedy Drive. The limited vehicular access to the Golden  
14 Gate Park Concourse area and the CAS provide an opportunity to extend to Saturdays the popular  
15 Sunday and holiday road closures in Golden Gate Park on a trial basis. This coincides with the CAS'  
16 closure, and thus has no possible negative impact on the CAS. This trial period of Saturday road  
17 closures will expand the possibilities for recreational and other uses of Golden Gate Park during the  
18 six-month period of the road closures, and will provide useful information to aid the City in making  
19 future decisions about Saturday road closures in the Park.

20           (vi) This trial period of Saturday road closures is necessary for the safety and protection of  
21 persons who would use these roads during the temporary closures.

22           (b) Saturday Road Closures. The following roads in Golden Gate Park shall be closed to  
23 motor vehicle traffic on Saturdays, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time and 6:00 a.m. to  
24 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, regardless of weather conditions: John F. Kennedy Drive between  
25 Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive; Arguello Boulevard; Conservatory Drive East and Conservatory

1 Drive West; 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Bowling Green Drive between John F. Kennedy Drive and Middle Drive East;  
2 and Stow Lake Drive between Stow Lake Drive East and John F. Kennedy Drive. The Recreation and  
3 Park Department, with the assistance, as needed, of other City departments, shall arrange for  
4 appropriate barriers to motor vehicles to be placed at entrances to Golden Gate Park and within  
5 Golden Gate Park so as to effectuate the aforementioned street closures. The Saturday road closures  
6 mandated in this subsection (b) shall be in effect beginning Saturday May 5, 2007 and continuing for  
7 six (6) months thereafter until Saturday November 3, 2007.

8 (c) Exempt Motor Vehicles. The following motor vehicles are exempt from the Saturday road  
9 closures mandated in subsection (b): (i) emergency vehicles, including but not limited to police and  
10 fire vehicles; (ii) official City, state, or federal vehicles, or any other authorized vehicle, being used to  
11 perform official City, state, or federal business pertaining to Golden Gate Park or any property or  
12 facility therein, including but not limited to vehicles of the Recreation and Park Department and  
13 construction vehicles authorized by the Recreation and Park Department; and (iii) authorized intra-  
14 park transit shuttle buses or similar authorized vehicles used to transport persons within Golden Gate  
15 Park.

16 (d) Disability Access Standards. The following or similar disability access standards shall  
17 apply to the Saturday, Sunday, and holiday road closures of John K. Kennedy Drive and related roads.

18 (i) Disability access to Golden Gate Park shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act  
19 and the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998.

20 (ii) All vehicular access points to the areas of closure shall contain directional signage that  
21 describes all access points and accessible surface parking areas for people with disabilities and  
22 provides directions to the underground parking facility in the Music Concourse. Signage also shall  
23 include telephone and TTY/TDD contact numbers where callers can obtain information on disability  
24 access during the road closure periods.

1           (iii) The Department, in consultation with the Department of Parking and Traffic, Fine Arts  
2 Museums, Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, and Mayor's Office on Disability, shall explore and  
3 adopt disability access measures. Such measures may include, but are not limited to:

4           (A) The provision of eight (8) accessible parking spaces on 8th Avenue between Fulton  
5 Street and John F. Kennedy Drive during the closure period.

6           (B) An additional ten (10) accessible parking spaces to assist with access to the road  
7 closure areas.

8           (C) A signed drop-off zone for people with disabilities on Bowling Green Drive as close  
9 as practicable to its intersection with John F. Kennedy Drive.

10           (D) An authorized intra-park transit shuttle that is accessible and operates frequently  
11 on the closed sections of John F. Kennedy Drive, additional accessible parking spaces and additional  
12 signed drop-off zones for people with disabilities outside of the area of closure.

13           (e) Departmental Reports. (i) The Recreation and Park Department, in consultation with such  
14 other departments as it deems appropriate, shall conduct a study of the impact of the Saturday road  
15 closures on use of Golden Gate Park, including particularly disability access and recreational and  
16 other use of the roads closed to motor vehicle traffic. By no later than December 15, 2007, the  
17 Recreation and Park Department shall transmit to the Board of Supervisors a written report detailing  
18 the results of its study, including any recommendations it deems appropriate.

19           (ii) The Department of Parking and Traffic, in consultation with such other departments as it  
20 deems appropriate, shall conduct a study of the impact of the Saturday road closures on parking and  
21 traffic patterns in neighborhoods adjacent to Golden Gate Park and on patterns of cross-traffic in the  
22 Park. By no later than December 15, 2007, the Department of Parking and Traffic shall transmit to the  
23 Board of Supervisors a written report detailing the results of its study, including any recommendations  
24 it deems appropriate.

1           (iii) Within two (2) weeks after the initial three (3) months of the Saturday closure, the  
2           Department of Park and Recreation and the Department of Parking and Traffic shall submit to the  
3           Board preliminary reports addressing the issues identified in subsections (e)(1) and (e)(ii) above. The  
4           reports also shall describe problems observed during this initial closure period and any actions taken  
5           to abate such problems.

6           (iv) The Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority shall cooperate with the Recreation and Park  
7           Department and the Department of Parking and Traffic in connection with the studies mandated in  
8           subsections (e)(i)-(iii), by sharing data and reports of its own that are relevant to those respective  
9           studies.

10           (f) Board of Supervisors Hearing. The Board of Supervisors or a committee thereof shall  
11           conduct a hearing on the Saturday road closures within one month of receiving the reports required by  
12           subsections (e)(i) and (e)(ii).

13           (g) Effect on Sunday and Holiday Road Closures. Except as provided in subsection (d), this  
14           section is not intended to have any effect on street closures in Golden Gate Park on Sundays and  
15           holidays, or to limit the authority of the Recreation and Park Commission to expand road closures in  
16           Golden Gate Park on Sundays and holidays beyond their present scope or to extend road closures in  
17           Golden Gate Park to other days.

18           (h) Emergency Authority. The General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department shall  
19           have the authority to allow traffic on roads that would otherwise be closed in accordance with this  
20           section in circumstances which in the General Manager's judgment constitute an emergency such that  
21           the benefit to the public from the street closure is outweighed by traffic burden or public safety hazard  
22           created by the emergency circumstances.

23           (i) Conflict With Other Provisions of Law. If any provision of this section conflicts with an  
24           earlier enacted provision of this Article or of any other earlier enacted provision of law, and the  
25           conflict cannot be reasonably reconciled, the provision of this section shall govern.

1           (j) Severability. If any provision, sentence, clause, or other part of this section is held to be  
2 invalid or unlawful, such a holding shall not limit or abrogate other parts of this section that can be  
3 given effect independently of the invalid or unlawful provision, sentence, clause, or part. If the  
4 application of a provision, sentence, clause, or other part of this section to a person or class of persons,  
5 or to a specific circumstance, is held to be invalid or unlawful, such a holding shall not limit or  
6 abrogate other applications of the same provision, sentence, clause, or part that can be given effect  
7 independently of the invalid or unlawful application.

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

10 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
11 John D. Malamut  
12 Deputy City Attorney

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