

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Park Code - Petitioning, Leafleting, Picketing, and Soliciting in City Parks]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Park Code, Section 7.08, to repeal Subsection (d), which prohibits persons from petitioning, leafletting, demonstrating, or soliciting in designated areas of certain City parks while another event is in progress for which a permit has been issued by the Recreation and Park Department.

Existing Law

Subsection (d) of Section 7.08 of the Park Code prohibits petitioning, leafletting, demonstrating and soliciting in certain areas of Stern Grove, Justin Herman Plaza, Portsmouth Square, Union Square, Mission Dolores Park, Civic Center, and the Music Concourse of Golden Gate Park while another event is in progress for which a permit has been issued by the Recreation and Park Department (“RPD”). It also designates “public assembly areas” in those parks in persons may engage in petitioning, leafletting, demonstrating and soliciting during RPD-permitted events.

Amendments to Current Law

The ordinance would repeal subsection (d) of Section 7.08 of the Park Code in its entirety.

Background Information

The Board of Supervisors adopted Section 7.08 of the Park Code in 1981. The Board has not amended Section 7.08 since then. Over the last thirty years, the City has renovated and reconfigured several of the parks that are the subject of Section 7.08(d). As a result, the designated public assembly areas and restricted areas identified in Section 7.08(d) no longer accurately reflect the configuration of many of these parks. By repealing this subsection, the ordinance would remove those outdated provisions, and allow the City to appropriately tailor any necessary time, place, and manner restrictions on public assemblies in the parks on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the U.S. and California Constitutions.