

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department

FROM: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: June 14, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Kim on May 24, 2016, and re-referred to Committee on June 7, 2016:

File No. 160600

Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Department to discontinue permanently the pilot program whereby individuals can reserve open space at Mission Dolores Park and urging the Recreation and Parks Department to discontinue any such rental program for any grass plot throughout San Francisco public parks.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

cc:
Sarah Madland, Recreation and Parks Department

1 [Opposing the System of Renting Grass at Any San Francisco Public Park]

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3 **Resolution urging the Recreation and Parks Department to discontinue permanently**
4 **the pilot program whereby individuals can reserve open space at Mission Dolores Park**
5 **and urging the Recreation and Parks Department to discontinue any such rental**
6 **program for any grass plot throughout San Francisco public parks.**

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8 WHEREAS, Mission Dolores Park has been a San Francisco public space since its
9 establishment in 1906; and

10 WHEREAS, The Park is among the most well-known and popular of San Francisco's
11 parks and hosts numerous festivals, events and informal gatherings every year; and

12 WHEREAS, On a sunny weekend, the Park can host 7,000 to 10,000 visitors; and

13 WHEREAS, Mission Dolores Park only just recently fully re-opened after a multi-year
14 renovation; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has recently begun
16 a pilot program to allow residents to reserve plots of grass at the Park for at least seven hours
17 at a time; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco already suffers from a widening gap between the very
19 wealthy and everyone else; and

20 WHEREAS, Our public parks have been one area that is open to residents regardless
21 of income; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco has a \$9,000,000,000 budget that supports parks and park
23 services; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Parks Department mission is to “provide enriching
2 recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-
3 being of our diverse community;” and

4 WHEREAS, Allowing small grassy portions of our publicly financed parks to be rented
5 to groups and individuals based on their ability to pay the fee(s) goes against that mission
6 statement and against efforts to expand access to open spaces to all members of our
7 community; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors moves to disapprove of this program to
9 limit access to public spaces; and, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and Parks
11 Department to immediately and permanently end the rental pilot program at Mission Dolores
12 Park; and, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and Parks
14 Department to immediately and permanently end any such similar grassy plot rental programs
15 currently in existence throughout San Francisco’s public park system; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Recreation and
17 Parks Department to ensure that there is an open dialogue and process of engagement with
18 the public prior to implementing any future program to rent grass plots in any of the San
19 Francisco public parks.