



United States Senate

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Norman Yee
President
Board of Supervisors
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Yee:

I write to express my concern regarding reports that the Board of Supervisors may act to compel the Recreation and Park Department to permit homeless encampments within Golden Gate Park, especially as there are available alternatives.

I certainly believe all city resources need to be on the table to protect the safety of the residents of San Francisco. Providing safe housing options for our homeless population, especially those living in group housing or shelters, has to be a priority.

San Francisco has numerous options to deal with the critical shortage of safe shelter: continuing the Mayor's hotel program, enforcing social distancing and healthy conduct in group housing and shelters, and expanding RV programs and temporary shelters. This could include tents on unused parking lots and closed schoolyards, as well as public facilities such as the Cow Palace and Port property. These locations are available, have utilities, and can be more easily restored to original uses than can Park lands.

We are all aware that our city, state, and country has a homeless crisis that has been intensified by COVID-19. However, encouraging tent encampments on the streets of the Tenderloin or in Golden Gate Park is not a viable solution.

Please be assured that, while I disagree with this proposed use of Golden Gate Park, I will continue my work in Congress to help the City acquire the federal resources necessary to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/jll