

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1303-10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 591-20

Dear Governor Newsom:

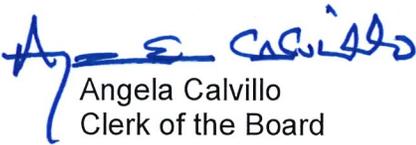
On December 15, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 591-20 (Urging State Officials to Reconsider the Closure of Outdoor Public Playgrounds), which was enacted on December 23, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

- One copy of Resolution No. 591-20 (File No. 201369)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

jw:ll:ams

c: Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Matt Haney, Hillary Ronen, Rafael Mandelman, Gordon Mar, Shamann Walton
Sophia Kittler, Mayor's Liaison to the Board of Supervisors
Eddie McCaffrey, Mayor's Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director
Rebecca Peacock, Mayor's Office

1 [Urging State Officials to Reconsider the Closure of Outdoor Public Playgrounds]

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3 **Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom, California Department of Health Acting**
4 **Director Sandra Shewry, and Acting State Health Officer Dr. Erica S. Pan to reconsider**
5 **the closure of outdoor public playgrounds as part of the December 3, 2020, Regional**
6 **Stay at Home Order in response to rising rates of COVID-19 infection.**

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8 WHEREAS, Due to an unprecedented 112% rise in the rates of daily COVID-19
9 infection, as well as the recent doubling of hospital admissions rates due to the spread of the
10 coronavirus and the concern that without intervention, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in the
11 State of California would be at capacity by mid-December, aggressive action was taken and
12 the Acting State Public Health Officer issued a statewide Stay at Home Order starting on
13 December 5, 2020, that will last at least three weeks; and

14 WHEREAS, The recent Stay at Home Order includes the closure of outdoor public
15 playgrounds while allowing other activities and venues such as shopping at in-door malls; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the most updated reports from the World Health Organization
17 (WHO), current research indicates that COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through respiratory
18 droplets that are spread when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, or talks; and

19 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that shared
20 or public surfaces are not the main way that COVID-19 is transmitted; and

21 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that COVID-19 is spread less easily outdoors, and
22 outdoor activity is considered low-risk provided that certain safety precautions such as
23 wearing a mask and social distancing are observed; and

24 WHEREAS, Experts including Harvard Medical School physician Doctor Abraar Karan
25 agree that allowing children to access playgrounds is a low-risk activity when certain

1 precautions are observed including avoiding overcrowding, regularly cleaning high-touch
2 areas, and making sure hands are sanitized when play is over; and

3 WHEREAS, Out of the tens of thousands of research papers published on COVID-19,
4 not one of them has found playgrounds to be a significant source of transmission; and

5 WHEREAS, Playground play is beneficial for the mental health of children and their
6 parents; and

7 WHEREAS, The mental health of children and their parents has been heavily impacted
8 by blanket stay at home orders that (1) restrict children to indoor activities; (2) limit their ability
9 to play and exercise their growing bodies; and (3) manage the stress and anxiety brought on
10 by the pandemic; and

11 WHEREAS, Children in low-income families, particularly children in dense, urban areas
12 that live in apartment buildings without access to private yards, suffer the most from
13 playgrounds being shut down; and

14 WHEREAS, The Tenderloin is one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the
15 city and is the neighborhood with the highest concentration of children in all of San Francisco,
16 and it is also the neighborhood with the least amount of open space, which has left the many
17 children of the Tenderloin trapped in small apartments for almost a year; and

18 WHEREAS, Access to playgrounds like those at Father Alfred E. Boeddeker
19 Park, Sergeant John Macaulay Park, Turk and Hyde Mini Park, the Helen Diller Civic Center
20 Playground, and Victoria Manalo Draves Park can be stewarded and maintained to help
21 maintain safety protocols, provide vital opportunities for exercise and recreation, and keep our
22 children and families safe; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges Governor Gavin Newsom, Director
24 Sandra Shewry, and Dr. Erica S. Pan to reconsider the closure of outdoor public playgrounds
25 as part of the most recent Regional Stay at Home Order; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
2 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the offices of California Governor Gavin Newsom,
3 California Department of Health Acting Director Sandra Shewry, and Acting State Health
4 Officer Dr. Erica S. Pan; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
6 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the San Francisco Mayor’s Office, Department of
7 Public Health Director Dr. Grant Colfax, and the San Francisco Public Health Officer Dr.
8 Tomás Aragón.



City and County of San Francisco

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Tails
Resolution

File Number: 201369

Date Passed: December 15, 2020

Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom, California Department of Health Acting Director Sandra Shewry, and Acting State Health Officer Dr. Erica S. Pan to reconsider the closure of outdoor public playgrounds as part of the December 3, 2020, Regional Stay at Home Order in response to rising rates of COVID-19 infection.

December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 201369

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

12/23/2020

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

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12/23/2020

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January 13, 2021

Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH
Acting State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 591-20

Dear Dr. Pan:

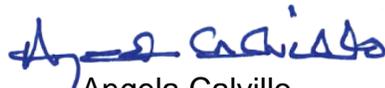
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Mayor

12/23/2020

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Interim Director
California Department of Public Health
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Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

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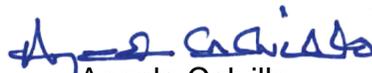
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