



LONDON N. BREED

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Board President London Breed and City Departments Unveil Plans to Address “4/20” Activities in Golden Gate Park and Haight-Ashbury

SAN FRANCISCO – Board President London Breed and City Officials today announced plans to mitigate potential issues related to festivities on April 20, 2016. Sup. Breed, who represents a portion Golden Gate Park and affected neighborhoods, issued the following statement:

It’s that time of year when nearly 15,000 visitors flood into Golden Gate Park and surrounding neighborhoods to celebrate the informal, unsanctioned “4/20” holiday.

Though we welcome celebrations and visitors all year round, some 4/20 festivities in the past have led to horrific traffic, overwhelmed residential streets, public urination, damage to public and private property, and strained police, Muni and park resources. And on the following day, 4/21, Recreation and Park staff and volunteers have had to laboriously collect over 10,000 pounds of litter left in the parks.

In 2013, I was determined to do something about these impacts to our neighborhoods, and every year since, have worked with City departments to create a comprehensive approach to dealing with these issues. As a result, we’ve seen decreased street congestion, increased services and an overall safer day. This is our third year putting together a plan and I am pleased to say we have collectively improved on this process year after year.

To be clear, there is no sponsor for “4/20”, and therefore no fiscal organizer to hold accountable. But as a City who welcomes visitors from all over the world, we need to do everything possible to ensure a safe, peaceful April 20th for both visitors and residents. Our goal is to ensure public safety, and as such, there will be no tolerance for visitors who are using 4/20 as an excuse to damage our parks and neighborhoods.

In attendance were Captain John Sanford of Park Police Station, Chief Mike Celeste of Recreation and Parks, Chief Probation Officer Allen Nance, Rachel Gordon of the Department of Public Works, Battalion Chief Victor Wyrsh of the Fire Department and Camron Samii and Ed Cobean from the Municipal Transportation Agency.

City departments worked together put the following measures in place for April 20, 2016:

- **Increased Police and Juvenile Probation Officer Presence:** There will be uniformed and plain clothes officers surrounding Golden Gate Park and surrounding neighborhoods. Park Rangers will also be in full force, ensuring safety within the park.
- **Traffic Control Officers and Parking Control Officers:** There will be Parking Control Officers ticketing and towing vehicles that are illegally parked in residential and commercial corridors (i.e. blocking driveways) and Traffic Control Officers enforcing street closures and facilitating the flow of traffic.
- **Zero Tolerance for Unpermitted Booths and Concessions:** Commercial, unpermitted concessions will not be allowed in Golden Gate Park or surrounding public spaces.
- **Litter abatement and bathroom facilities:** DPW will temporarily install portable bathroom facilities on Waller & Stanyan for public use. Recreation and Parks will put out temporary trash, recycling and compost receptacles throughout the park. Recreation and Parks staff and volunteers will do a sweep of the park in the late afternoon and the following morning. Neighborhood organizations like Taking it to the Streets have also signed to do clean up the following day.
- **Street Closures & Muni re-routes:**
 - San Francisco Police Department will enforce the following street closures beginning at 10 a.m.:
 - Haight, Page and Waller streets between Masonic and Stanyan streets
 - Stanyan Street between Frederick and Oak streets
 - Shrader Street between Beulah and Waller streets
 - Oak and Waller streets at Ashbury, Clayton, Shrader, Cole and Belvedere streets
 - Frederick Street at Shrader Street
 - Beulah Street at Shrader and Cole street
 - During the time of street closures, no traffic will be allowed with an exception of Muni buses. Personnel from SFPD may decide additional street closures as crowds grow for public safety.
 - Beginning at approximately 3 p.m., the following Muni lines and routes will be affected:
 - N Judah, NX N Express, 6 Parnassus, 7 Haight/Noriega, 7R Haight/Noriega Rapid, 33 Ashbury/18th, 37 Corbett, 43 Masonic

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