Ordinance amending the Park Code by adding Section 6.12 to adopt disability access standards and authorized vehicular traffic use for the Sunday closure of John F. Kennedy Drive and related roads in Golden Gate Park and making environmental findings.

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are strikethrough italics Times New Roman. Board amendment additions are double underlined. Board amendment deletions are strikethrough normal.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this Ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. _060701_ and is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The San Francisco Park Code is hereby amended by adding Section 6.12 to read as follows:

SEC. 6.12. DISABILITY ACCESS STANDARDS AND AUTHORIZED VEHICULAR TRAFFIC USE FOR GOLDEN GATE PARK DURING SUNDAY ROAD CLOSURES.

(a) Findings and Purpose. (i) Golden Gate Park was created more than 100 years ago to provide a sanctuary from the pressures of urban life. Golden Gate Park remains an irreplaceable resource of open space for visitors to and residents of San Francisco, especially those families for whom it is difficult to travel out of the City for recreation.

(ii) For more than 30 years, Sunday and holiday closure to motor vehicles of a portion of John F. Kennedy Drive, approximately 1.5 miles in length, between Kezar Drive and Transverse Drive, and...
closure of portions of adjacent roads connecting with that portion of John F. Kennedy Drive, has been one of the most popular attractions in Golden Gate Park, attracting hundreds of thousands of people each year from every neighborhood, racial/ethnic group, age category, and income level.

(iii) Proposition J, the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998, adopted by San Francisco voters on June 2, 1998, has as one of its primary purposes to take steps to reduce the impact of automobiles in Golden Gate Park while still providing long-term assurance of safe, reliable, and convenient access for visitors to the Park. This goal remains of paramount importance in ensuring that Golden Gate Park is scenically beautiful, environmentally sensitive, culturally diverse, and accessible to all.

(iv) Concerns about ensuring automobile access to the cultural institutions in the Golden Gate Park Concourse area, including the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum and the California Academy of Sciences ("CAS"), have been addressed by the construction of an underground parking garage in the Concourse area pursuant to the aforementioned Proposition J.

(b) Disability Access Standards. The following disability access standards shall apply to the Sunday and holiday road closures of John K. Kennedy Drive and related roads.

(i) Disability access to Golden Gate Park shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998.

(ii) All vehicular access points to the areas of closure shall contain directional signage that describes all access points and accessible surface parking areas for people with disabilities and provides directions to the underground parking facility in the Music Concourse. Signage also shall include telephone and TTY/TDD contact numbers where callers can obtain information on disability access during the road closure periods.

(iii) The Department, in consultation with the Department of Parking and Traffic, Fine Arts Museums, Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, and Mayor’s Office on Disability, shall explore and adopt disability access measures. Such measures may include, but are not limited to:
(A) The provision of eight (8) accessible parking spaces on 8th Avenue between Fulton Street and John F. Kennedy Drive during the closure period.

(B) An additional ten (10) accessible parking spaces to assist with access to the road closure areas.

(C) A signed drop-off zone for people with disabilities on Bowling Green Drive as close as practicable to its intersection with John F. Kennedy Drive.

(D) An authorized intra-park transit shuttle that is accessible and operates frequently on the closed sections of John F. Kennedy Drive, additional accessible parking spaces and additional signed drop-off zones for people with disabilities outside of the area of closure.

(c) Exempt Motor Vehicles. The following motor vehicles are exempt from the Sunday road closures:

(i) emergency vehicles, including but not limited to police and fire vehicles;

(ii) official City, state, or federal vehicles, or any other authorized vehicle, being used to perform official City, state, or federal business pertaining to Golden Gate Park or any property or facility therein, including but not limited to vehicles of the Recreation and Park Department and construction vehicles authorized by the Recreation and Park Department; and

(iii) authorized intra-park transit shuttle buses or similar authorized vehicles used to transport persons within Golden Gate Park.

(d) Emergency Authority. The General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department shall have the authority to allow traffic on roads that would otherwise be closed in accordance with this section in circumstances which in the General Manager's judgment constitute an emergency such that the benefit to the public from the street closure is outweighed by traffic burden or public safety hazard created by the emergency circumstances.

Section 3. This Section is uncodified. Departmental Reports. (a) The Recreation and Park Department, in consultation with such other departments as it deems appropriate, shall
conduct a study of the impact of the Sunday road closure on use of Golden Gate Park,
including particularly disability access and recreational and other use of the roads closed to
motor vehicle traffic. By no later than February 1, 2007, the Recreation and Park Department
shall transmit to the Board of Supervisors a written report detailing the results of its study,
including any recommendations it deems appropriate.

(b) The Department of Parking and Traffic, in consultation with such other departments
as it deems appropriate, shall conduct a study of the impact of the Sunday road closure on
parking and traffic patterns in neighborhoods adjacent to Golden Gate Park and on patterns of
cross-traffic in the Park. By no later than February 1, 2007, the Department of Parking and
Traffic shall transmit to the Board of Supervisors a written report detailing the results of its
study, including any recommendations it deems appropriate.

(c) The Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority shall cooperate with the Recreation
and Park Department and the Department of Parking and Traffic in connection with the
studies mandated in subsections (a) and (b), by sharing data and reports of its own that are
relevant to those respective studies.

(d) Board of Supervisors Hearing. The Board of Supervisors or a committee thereof
shall conduct a hearing on disability access in relation to the Sunday road closure within two
months of receiving the departmental reports specified above.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: 
John D. Malamut
Deputy City Attorney
Ordinance amending the Park Code by adding Section 6.12 to adopt disability access standards and authorized vehicular traffic use for the Sunday closure of John F. Kennedy Drive and related roads in Golden Gate Park and making environmental findings.

August 15, 2006  Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING
   Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Eisbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick,
   Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
   Excused: 1 - Alioto-Pier

September 12, 2006  Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on September 12, 2006 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom