

1 [Findings of Fiscal Feasibility - Proposed Portsmouth Square Improvements]

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3 **Resolution finding that the proposed Portsmouth Square Improvements project is**
4 **fiscally feasible and responsible under Administrative Code, Chapter 29.**

5

6 WHEREAS, Chapter 29 of the Administrative Code requires the Board of Supervisors
7 to determine whether a City department's plan for undertaking and implementing a covered
8 project is fiscally feasible and responsible; and

9 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Department operates and manages Portsmouth
10 Square, located at Clay Street and Kearny Street and is considering a proposal to construct
11 improvements at the site (the "proposed Project"); and

12 WHEREAS, Portsmouth Square is a culturally significant civic space; originally a civic
13 plaza for the Yerba Buena settlement, it was renamed after the USS Portsmouth in 1846, and
14 has served as a backdrop to some of the most important moments in city and state history:
15 the site of the first City Hall and California's first public school; the rise and fall of the Gold
16 Rush; a staging ground and place of refuge after the 1906 earthquake; and countless
17 festivals, parades, and other affirmations of civic pride; and

18 WHEREAS, Portsmouth Square has special significance for Asian Americans
19 throughout Northern California, located in the Chinatown neighborhood, which is one of the
20 densest urban neighborhoods in the City with over 10,000 residents; more than a
21 neighborhood park, Portsmouth Square is a central hub during Asian American cultural events
22 and gatherings, while providing accessible open space for a majority of Asian Americans that
23 reside in apartments and single-room occupancy hotels with no backyards; and

24

25

1 WHEREAS, Currently, the site is terraced with several hardscape plazas, two
2 children’s play areas, a clubhouse, an underground parking structure, various historical
3 markers, a restroom building, and a pedestrian bridge extending over Kearny Street; and

4 WHEREAS, From 1960’s, 1970’s and 1990’s, Portsmouth Square went through a
5 number of partial renovations which spurred a grassroots effort from Chinatown leaders that
6 began advocating for an overhaul redesign of the park that would allow a more unified park for
7 the community; and

8 WHEREAS, During the outreach and conceptual design phase for the proposed
9 Project, the Recreation and Park Department conducted a comprehensive community and
10 stakeholder outreach process that included five community workshops, numerous stakeholder
11 interviews, surveys and meetings, and community members attended these workshops and
12 participated in record numbers; and

13 WHEREAS, Community members have been engaged and organized in their
14 passionate support for investment in the future of Portsmouth Square not just for its current
15 users but for future generations to come; and

16 WHEREAS, The proposed Project that resulted from the community outreach has an
17 estimated cost of \$65,000,000; the Recreation and Park Department presently anticipates
18 being able to obtain \$9,000,000 in funding from Transit Center Impact fees and the Transbay
19 Transit Center Community Facilities District, and is also seeking other funding sources, and
20 completing environmental review will provide the Department more opportunities to secure
21 philanthropic and additional funding for the proposed Project; and

22 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to further evaluate and perform environmental review on
23 the proposed Project, given the civic and cultural significance of Portsmouth Square, and the
24 need to preserve its history for future generations; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The proposed Project is intended to provide a safer, more sustainable
2 park with a longer useful life, and improved facilities to better serve the general public; and

3 WHEREAS, The proposed Project will support job creation, as infrastructure
4 investment is a known and tested job stimulus with a strong multiplier effect, estimated at 5.93
5 jobs per every \$1 million in construction spending according to the REMI Policy Insight model;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Direct and indirect financial benefits will include increased property values
8 for surrounding businesses and residential buildings, increase in commerce for local
9 merchants, decrease in health spending by having accessible open space that leads to
10 improved physical and mental health, decreased operations and maintenance costs through
11 updated facilities and infrastructure with clear sight lines and activated edges; and

12 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Department desires to promptly complete
13 environmental review; and

14 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 29.3, the Recreation and Park
15 Department has submitted to the Board a general description of the Program, the general
16 purpose of the Program, and a fiscal plan; and

17 WHEREAS, The Board has reviewed and considered the general description and
18 purpose of the proposed Project and other information submitted to it and has considered the
19 direct and indirect financial benefits to the City; now therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors finds that the Recreation and Park
21 Department's plan for implementing the proposed Project at Portsmouth Square is fiscally
22 feasible and responsible in accordance with Administrative Code, Chapter 29; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 29,
24 the Planning Department may undertake environmental review of the proposed Project as
25 required by Administrative Code, Chapter 31 and CEQA.



City and County of San Francisco

Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 200589

Date Passed: June 09, 2020

Resolution finding that the proposed Portsmouth Square Improvements project is fiscally feasible and responsible under Administrative Code, Chapter 29.

June 09, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

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

File No. 200589

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/9/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

06/19/20

Date Approved