**PARK HOURS FACT SHEETS**

This legislation establishes clear and consistent park operating hours between 5am and 12am, which means parks will be closed between 12 am and 5 am, with certain exceptions.

* Exception for vehicles using the roads that cut through the parks and for pedestrians using sidewalks adjacent to roads for the purpose of traversing the park.
	+ Golden Gate Park, McLaren Park, Balboa Park, Lincoln Park
* Exception for bikes and pedestrians using pathways to traverse the Panhandle
* Exception for pedestrians using paved pathways to traverse Civic Center Plaza, Union Square, and Justin Herman Plaza
* Allows the Recreation and Park Commission to set different hours of operation based on operational requirements or neighborhood impacts.

Currently, the Park Code simply has a clause that says all posted signs must be obeyed (Section 3.02)

Some parks have signs posted declaring closure hours, but these are inconsistent across the City. Other parks have no closure hours at all.

Between 1993-1995, the Recreation and Parks Commission passed a series of resolutions establishing park hours for 60 of San Francisco’s 220 parks.

* Parks near each other have different hours (i.e. Duboce Park has closure hours, while Alamo Square and Buena Vista Park do not)
* Golden Gate Park has signs in some areas saying closed from midnight to 5 AM (Kezar Drive and MLK) and in others 10pm to 6 AM (Alvord Lake)

San Francisco is the largest city in the country without city-wide park hours

* 14th largest city in USA
* Other cities both larger and smaller have clear open/closed hours:
	+ Larger
		- New York (6:00am – 1:00am)
		- Austin (5:00am- 10:00pm)
	+ Smaller
		- Seattle (4:30am – 11:00pm)
		- Portland (5:00am-12:00am)

Metal theft and vandalism – almost all of which happens at night -- are a serious problem in our parks.

Recreation and Parks Department estimates that over $500,000 (vandalism) + $400,000 (illegal dumping) = Nearly $1,000,000 in needless annual expense due to park misuse during the hours of darkness.

A third to a half of Rec and Park maintenance work orders are dedicated to repairing vandalism

Recent examples of park vandalism:

* Portsmouth Square bench destroyed
* Rec and Park truck set on fire at 2:30 AM
* Just last week McLaren Lodge and Conservatory of Flowers severely vandalized over night

Regarding homeless issue – it’s already illegal to sleep or camp in the parks between the hours of 8:00pm and 8:00am (Section 3.13 of the Park Code)