

Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of June 24, 2008

Subject: Resolution No. 85-13A1

Walking and Pedaling Toward Safer Schools, Healthier Communities, and Higher Academic Achievement – In Support of the *Fix Masonic Campaign* and School-Based Efforts to Install Bike Racks and Support Alternatives to Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels

- Commissioners Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: The Precautionary Principle has been adopted by San Francisco and a growing number of cities and school districts as a proactive approach to promote the safest, lowest risk way to protect people's health, the environment, and property; and

WHEREAS: The Thunderhead Alliance's Biking and Walking in the US Benchmarking Report 2007 which compared San Francisco and the 50 largest cities concluded that "investing in walking and bicycling is a wise public health investment toward encouraging active lifestyles and reversing this nation's obesity epidemic"; and

WHEREAS: Nationally, 40% of all pedestrian fatalities are either elderly folks or children under 16 years of age; and San Francisco's pedestrian fatality count doubled last year; and

WHEREAS: Compared with other large cities, San Francisco has an extremely high rate of pedestrian fatalities; and

WHEREAS: Masonic Avenue is the street that connects 10 schools, including Wallenberg Academic High School, New Traditions Elementary School, the John Adams Campus of City College and the temporary John Adams deAvilla campus at Haight near Masonic; and

WHEREAS: In addition to these school district and city college facilities, there are a number of other public and private schools located on Masonic Avenue from Haight Street to Geary Boulevard, including preschool, elementary, high school, and university campuses whose students, parents, faculty and staff also use Masonic Avenue and need safe routes to school, and

WHEREAS: People walking or cycling between these school facilities must cross the intersection of Masonic Avenue and Fell Street, which is rated among the top five location for bicycle/automobile collisions in the City; and

WHEREAS: Masonic Avenue from Haight Street to Geary Boulevard poses commuter challenges to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists using the street - including double right turn lanes and wide intersections like the Fell-Masonic intersection, and traffic lanes that end and/or merge; and

WHEREAS: The current Masonic Avenue configuration encourages speeding and traffic violations as evidenced by the fact the Masonic-Turk intersection which is 2 blocks from Wallenberg Academic High School is rated #3 in the city for red-light running; and Masonic Avenue's multiple lane change configurations and peak period tow-away parking zones create dangerous conditions for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists, and

Walking and Pedaling Toward Safer Schools, Healthier Communities, and Higher Academic Achievement – In Support of the Fix Masonic Campaign and School-Based Efforts to Install Bike Racks and Support Alternatives to Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels - Commissioners Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: Masonic Avenue is part of the citywide bicycle route network, designated as Bicycle Route 55; and high traffic speeds and lack of bicycle facilities cause cyclists to use the sidewalk in lieu of traveling legally in the roadway; and

WHEREAS: Supporters of a Masonic Avenue planning process include local educational institutions and schools, neighborhood groups such as North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA) and Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC), as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety advocacy groups including Senior Action Network, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Livable City, Walk SF, Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, and others; and

WHEREAS: This grassroots coalition has also mobilized over 500 students, teachers, staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders to request that the Municipal Transportation Agency [MTA] immediately make traffic calming and other improvements for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in the Masonic area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District supports efforts to make our communities better places to walk and bike in the interest of creating the healthiest and safest school and community environments so that all our students have the best opportunities to learn, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports and commends FIX MASONIC and all students, staff and neighborhood residents, merchants, schools and education institutions that have signed the MTA petition requesting traffic calming and pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Masonic and other similar areas of the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education urges the MTA to develop a comprehensive planning process to address the concerns of students, staff and other stakeholders, on Masonic Avenue from Geary Boulevard to Haight Street to improve all modes of transportation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education urges the MTA to reach out to the surrounding communities and to work with the SFUSD, City College, and other schools in the vicinity to ensure that the safety needs of the students, staff and communities are treated as a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, in the interest of fighting childhood obesity, promoting healthier student and staff lifestyles, and supporting stronger academic achievement for all, hereby supports all school site efforts to install bicycle racks at Alamo, Lafayette, Flynn Elementary Schools, Lowell High School and all other schools that are seeking them; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the District to implement this resolution.

5/13/08

6/24/08

Please Note:

- Referred on 5/13/08 by order of the Chair to the Buildings, Grounds, and Services Committee.
- Taken up by the Buildings, Grounds, and Services Committee on 6/23/08.
- Adopted on 6/24/08