[A Garden in Every School]

Resolution urging the Mayor's Office to work with San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA) and San Francisco Unified School District to create a garden in every school.

WHEREAS, School gardens can enhance student learning in math, science, social studies, reading, writing, and nutrition\(^1\); and,

WHEREAS, Many school sites—with paved yards, fences, and block-like buildings—are unwelcoming and uninteresting play areas; and,

WHEREAS, Research shows that employing the environment as an integrating context for learning in K-12 education increases performance on standardized measures of academic achievement\(^2\); and,

WHEREAS, Students in outdoor classrooms exhibit improved behavior and interpersonal relationships\(^3\); and,

WHEREAS, In urban areas, well-designed school gardens may provide a child’s most formative, sometimes only, experience with the natural environment; and,

WHEREAS, School gardens provide students the opportunity for hands-on, inquiry based learning, which is essential to model environmental


stewardship and provide the skills and reinforcement that will bridge the gap
between environmental knowledge and action\textsuperscript{4}; and,

WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that when kids garden their attitudes
towards vegetables improve, as well as their preference for healthier fruit and
vegetable snacks\textsuperscript{5}; and,

WHEREAS, School gardens help filter dust and pollutants and provide shade,
thus lowering children's exposure to toxins\textsuperscript{6}; and,

WHEREAS, The presence of trees and gardens has been linked to the extent
to which residents feel satisfied with their community and where they live\textsuperscript{7}; and,

WHEREAS, Gardens enhance school grounds and provide additional green
space to communities; and,

WHEREAS, Many city departments and community groups are interested in
developing and maintaining green space, including gardens, in San Francisco;
and,

WHEREAS, On November 4, 2003, San Francisco voters approved
Proposition A: School Bond, which allocated $2.0 million of bond proceeds to the
greening of schoolyards at certain District schools \textsuperscript{8}; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA) is a
coalition of Bay Area civic organizations whose work supports schoolyard

\textsuperscript{4} Schoolyard Learning: The Impact of School Grounds, Education Development Center, Inc.,

\textsuperscript{5} Research Support for Kid's Gardening, National Gardening Association,

\textsuperscript{6} Nature Nurtures: Investigating the Potential of School Grounds, Evergreen, [http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/nurture-
en.pdf]

\textsuperscript{7} Nature Nurtures: Investigating the Potential of School Grounds, Evergreen, [http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/nurture-
en.pdf]

\textsuperscript{8} Voter Information Pamphlet, Department of Elections: City & County of San Francisco,
transformations from ordinary asphalt yards into ecologically rich green spaces
for learning; and,
WHEREAS, SFGSA provides technical assistance and resources to the thirty-plus schools that have schoolyard garden programs; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, The Commission on the Environment supports the efforts of the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance and urges the Mayor's Office to work with SFGSA and the San Francisco Unified School District to create a garden in every school.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its special meeting on December 5, 2005.

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

Vote: Approved (6-0) (1 Absent)
Ayes: Commissioners Crowder, Pelosi Jr., Desser, Mok, Rodriguez, and Wald
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner King