

February 22, 2024

Mr. Andy Field
Director
Parks and Recreation
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego CA 92101

RE: Garfield Elementary Joint-Use Field Adjustment to District Use Hours

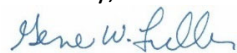
Garfield Elementary Principal Mechale Murphy has expressed serious concerns regarding the health and safety of students and staff as they are subjected to off-leash dog activities at Garfield Elementary Joint Use Field. Some parents will not allow their children on the field due to the reputation built over the years related to fecal waste and other parents must bring fresh clothes for kids who slip and fall on waste. Consequently, effective immediately the Joint Use Field at Garfield Elementary will be closed to public use on school days. Public use will continue when school is not in session on holidays, school breaks and weekends.

We request signage be installed by Parks and Recreation on the exterior of the joint use indicating the park is temporarily closed due to off-leash dog activities and the location of the authorized off-leash dog parks at Normal Street and North Park Community Park. Litter control in the joint use area during school days will be the responsibility of the site and not Parks and Recreation.

We also expect the site to be free from fecal matter when students return to school after weekends and breaks.

The issue of off-leash dogs on joint use fields and the conditions created for our students and staff has been a long-time topic of conversations between our organizations. Efforts of the San Diego Humane Society are not effective in enforcing the municipal code violations that continue to occur. San Diego Unified is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our school children. We know Parks and Recreation shares our concerns and we look forward to continuing our collaboration to find solutions that ensure the safe use of our fields for both our students and the public.

Sincerely,



Gene Fuller

c: G. Dulay
S. Scoggins
G. Bordson
L. Dulgeroff
M. Murphy