ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 58-23-26 of the Executive Director of the Public Works Department

REOPENING A PORTION OF WASHINGTON-JEFFERSON PARK; TEMPORARILY CLOSING A PORTION OF WASHINGTON-JEFFERSON PARK; AND REPEALING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 58-22-16.

The Executive Director of the Public Works Department finds that:

- **A.** Pursuant to the authority of Administrative Order No. 21-03-12 issued by the City Manager, the Executive Director of the Public Works Department is authorized to regulate City parks and to protect park visitors and the park environment.
- **B.** Section 1.003 of the Parks and Open Space Rules authorizes the temporary closure of all or any portion of a park, open space, or facility "upon finding that conditions that threaten the welfare or safety of nearby residents exist, and the need to preserve their welfare and safety outweighs the public's right of access to the park."
- C. By Administrative Order 58-22-16, signed on March 10, 2022, I temporarily closed a portion of Washington-Jefferson Park because it had potentially been contaminated by hazardous substances including, but not limited to, human feces, vomit and hypodermic needles, posing a safety risk. This risk was increased by the fact that some such hazards would not be readily visible due to the excessive mud on the site. Administrative Order 58-22-16 stated that the closure would remain in effect "until further administrative action is taken to reopen the Park."
- **D.** City staff have taken the steps necessary to remediate the hazards described in Administrative Order 58-22-16 and have restored most of the Park area closed by 58-22-16 for immediate public use.
- E. A portion of the Park that was closed by 58-22-16, identified on Exhibit A to this Order as "W-J section 3 closure area," is currently under renovation and construction for a future dog park, including but not limited to: installation of permanent fencing and gate(s), excavation, and irrigation realignment. To protect and preserve the welfare and safety of residents living nearby, this portion of the Park should temporally remain closed to reduce the public's exposure to the construction work and construction debris which increases fall and trip hazards. The need for public safety outweighs the public's right of access to this portion of Washington-Jefferson Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings, which are hereby adopted:

The Executive Director of the Public Works Department orders and directs that:

- 1. Administrative Order 58-22-16 is hereby repealed and, except as provided in Section 2, the portions of Washington-Jefferson Park closed by that Order may be re-opened for public use.
- 2. The portion of Washington-Jefferson Park outlined and hashed in red on Exhibit A attached to this Administrative Order is hereby closed to entry by all persons other than law enforcement personnel, authorized City employees and contractors, and persons with written authorization from the Public Works Director or the Parks Division Manager. This closure is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until 7: 00 A.M on December 1, 2023.
- 3. In addition to any other measures that may be implemented to restrict entry into the closed portion of Washington-Jefferson Park, the City shall install temporary fencing and shall post clearly visible signs at the Park's entry points and on the fencing to advise the public that, pursuant to

Administrative Order of the Public Works Executive Director, the subject portion of Washington-Jefferson Park is closed and unauthorized entry into the closed area of the Park is prohibited.

Dated and effective this 2 day of June, 2023

Matthew Rodrigues

Executive Director Public Works Department

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Exhibit A: WJ section 3 closure area

