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San Francisco Unified School District • 555 Franklin Street • San Francisco, California 94102

July 25, 2008

John Arntz, Director of Elections
Department of Elections
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4634

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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Dear Mr. Arntz:

I am writing in response to your July 9, 2008 letter requesting an impact analysis of a proposed initiative measure that will be on the November ballot, entitled "San Francisco Public High School Students' Participation in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps." In particular, you have requested an analysis of the effect that the proposed measure would have on the current law and practices of the San Francisco Unified School District ("SFUSD").

If passed, the proposed initiative would not have a direct impact on the law or practice of SFUSD. The City and County of San Francisco does not have jurisdiction to control the policy or programs of the SFUSD. SFUSD is a state agency that is governed by the San Francisco Board of Education. If passed, this Initiative would merely be advisory and would have no legally binding effect on the policies or programs of SFUSD.

While the proposed ballot measure will have no legally binding impact, I would like to provide the Ballot Simplification Committee with additional information to address some statements identified in the proposed ballot text:

Description of the Program

The proposed ballot text describes JROTC as "a 90 year old leadership program in the San Francisco Unified School District that teaches students discipline, leadership skills and the importance of civic responsibility." To provide voters with an accurate description of this program, it may be helpful to acknowledge that JROTC is a program that is established and maintained by the United States Armed Forces and partially funded by the Department of Defense. (See 10 U.S.C.S. 2031). There are a total of 7 JROTC units operated in San Francisco public high schools. Six of the programs are maintained by the Army and one is maintained by the Navy.

Board Policy

The proposed ballot text states that "In November 2006, a narrow majority of San Francisco school board members voted to phase out JROTC over a three year period. Recently, the board voted to delay this phase out for at least a year." This statement is inaccurate. The Board of Education voted on

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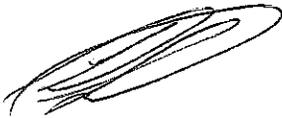
November 14, 2006 to phase out JROTC programs over a two year period (2006-2007 and 2007-2008), resulting in no JROTC programs in 2008-2009. On December 11, 2007 the Board extended the phase out to allow the provision of JROTC classes for an additional year (2008-2009) in order to allow sufficient time to develop and implement an alternative program. (See Resolution No. 65-23A1 "Phasing Out the JROTC Program" (11/14/06) and "Amendment to Resolution No. 65-23A1 to Extend JROTC as an Elective Course for the 2008-2009 School Year" (12/11/07).¹

Students Enrolled in JROTC

The proposed ballot text states the following: "[JROTC] serves over 1600 students, the great majority of whom are from racial minority groups." However, District records show that 1,172 students were enrolled in JROTC/Naval Science in fall 2007. It is correct that the great majority of students enrolled in JROTC are from racial minority groups. Notably, the great majority of students enrolled in SFUSD in general are from racial minority groups. In fall 2007, only 4.8% of JROTC students were classified in District records as "Other White;" and only 9.6% of students in SFUSD as a whole were classified as "Other White".²

I hope that this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Carlos A. Garcia, Superintendent

cc: Mark Sanchez, President, Board of Education

¹ Both of these Resolutions are located on the SFUSD website under "Superintendent and Board Members Resolutions."
[See <http://portal.sfusd.edu/template/default.cfm?page=board>].

² SFUSD's overall student population by race/ethnicity in fall 2007 was as follows: 12.4% African American; .6% American Indian; 31.9% Chinese; 5.9% Filipino; 1% Japanese; .8% Korean; 22.9% Latino; 10.2% Other Non White; 9.6% Other White; 4.8% Didn't Say. [See <http://orb.sfusd.edu/profile/prfl-100.htm>].