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Via E-Mail to publications@sfgov.org
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Ballot Simplification Committee – Request for Reconsideration
c/o Barbara Carr
Department of Elections
City Hall, Room 48
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Request for Reconsideration of “Golden Gate Park Athletic Fields” Digest

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to review this request for reconsideration regarding the “Golden Gate Park Athletics Fields” measure digest that was prepared on Friday, August 1, 2014.

I request that the following language be amended:

“This voter initiative opposes the artificial turf and nighttime lighting, stating that they negatively affect health, wildlife and the surrounding environment.”

The alternate language I recommend is:

“This voter initiative opposes the artificial turf and nighttime lighting.”

I believe that the current language may be viewed as an argument for, or could create prejudice in favor of, the measure. As you know, the government should not take sides in political campaigns. (Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal.3d 206.) Including portions of the petition’s “Findings and Declarations” section incorporates into the digest the proponents’ motivations in pursuing the initiative. Instead, these statements are best left to be made by the proponents during the course of the campaign.

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By simply removing the second clause of the sentence, the amended language would still demonstrate that the proponents object to this project, without including their arguments in the digest.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Hannan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Hannan