

City & County of San Francisco
London N. Breed, Mayor



Office of the City Administrator
Carmen Chu, City Administrator
Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

Barbara Swan-Chami
Manager of Policy and Public Affairs
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

July 2, 2024

Dear Ms. Swan-Chami,

Joanna Fraguli was a 'mover and a shaker' as a disability advocate starting at an early age of 5 years old. She was the first person with a physical disability to attend public school in her native Greece. This influenced her framework around equality and social change for persons with disabilities.

Joanna Fraguli joined the Mayor's Office of Disability (MOD) in 2006, as the Deputy Director for Programmatic access, for the City and County of San Francisco. She played a pivotal role in civil rights legislation Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She ensured that the implementation of the (ADA) was consistent with the City's ideals. Throughout her 13 years of employment working for the city, her dedication and commitment showed through her work, on social justice issues such as equality and equal access to programs and services for persons with disabilities. She was an educator and trainer on various issues and concerns that impacted the disability community. She developed the City's first ADA Coordinator's Training Academy. Her passion was around such topic items as: employment, programmatic/physical access, transportation, disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities.

Her on-going training sessions addressed a variety of topics such as: effective communication methods for interacting and collaborating with all persons with disabilities, ADA compliance in assistive technology. These accomplishments mentioned are only a glimpse of the work she had done for the disability community and the city.

AccessSFUSD and The Arc are recommending that the new public park located at 11th and Natoma in San Francisco that was going to be built adjoining to their programs named after Joanna Fraguli.

These programs serve students and adult clients with intellectual and developmental disabilities ranging from moderate to severe. The proposal for the name is in collaboration with the communities: AccessSFUSD, The Arc, SOMA West, The Leather District, and the Filipino Heritage District. The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) strongly supports and recommends the proposal brought forward by the communities to name the new public park located at 11th and Natoma in San Francisco after Joanna Fraguli.

There is no other location close by, and access to the park for these community-based organizations, their clients', and staff to have lunch, relax and interact with one another, would be a positive environment by enabling access for everyone.

What a beacon and honor to have the park located at 11th and Natoma represent the disability culture by being a symbol in promoting inclusion and access for all.

This would be Joanna Fraguli's legacy. The park would be a tribute in her name as she fought for the rights for the disability community, and the most vulnerable populations. Her spirit embodies the power and pride of the disability community.

We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Denise Senhaux, Member
Mayor's Disability Council (MDC)

CC: Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director, Mayor's Office on Disability
Recreation and Park Commission
Lucas Tobin, ADA Coordinator for Programmatic Access RPD
Heidi Seretan, Special Education Department Head, SFUSD