

RESOLUTION NO. 22-62

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER

- WHEREAS**, the Mack E. Mickelson Therapy Pool ("Mickelson") is an ADA-accessible warm water therapy pool located in San Mateo, California at Mills Health Center, which is operated by Sutter Health; and
- WHEREAS**, Mickelson was constructed over 25 years ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County; and
- WHEREAS**, for over 25 years, thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffered, and many who continue to suffer, from health issues including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, used Mickelson to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and
- WHEREAS**, both intervention and prevention are equally critical components of an equitable and effective healthcare system; and
- WHEREAS**, Mickelson's ability to provide both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo community suffering from health issues makes it an asset to the community at large and even more so to elderly residents and residents with mobility impairments; and
- WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, Sutter Health, its subsidiaries, and its employees receive significant financial benefits for providing healthcare services in San Mateo County from both public and private contracts; and
- WHEREAS**, in January 2020, Sutter Health substantially decreased the hours during which Mickelson was accessible to community members who relied upon its availability to maintain their health; and
- WHEREAS**, in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sutter Health ceased operating Mickelson; and
- WHEREAS**, in June 2021, Sutter Health publicly announced its intent to permanently close Mickelson; and
- WHEREAS**, as a direct result of Sutter Health's decision to close Mickelson, residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson to treat and prevent significant health issues; and
- WHEREAS**, over 4,600 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen Mickelson to increase the health, independence,

and dignity of those residents who rely upon it; and

WHEREAS, there is also an apparent and growing need for the Mickelson therapy pool and the services it provides due to San Mateo County's rapidly increasing number of elderly residents who are highly likely to suffer from the health issues noted above, among others; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no plan to construct an adequate and accessible replacement warm water therapy pool in San Mateo County, and any plan to do so would require significant financing as well as several years of design, planning, permitting, and construction; and

WHEREAS, estimates provided by Sutter Health suggest that reopening Mickelson with any required repairs or upgrades would cost approximately \$250,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the benefit of Mickelson to the community and the scarcity of a similar resource.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the Town of Hillsborough hereby urges Sutter Health to work collaboratively with the pool users advocacy group and Peninsula Health Care District to explore possible solutions and to take advantage of the Peninsula Health Care District's generous offer to fully fund any necessary repairs, remodeling, and operational costs of the Mickelson therapy pool until a new facility becomes available in the area.



Attest: City Clerk



Mayor of the Town of Hillsborough

This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the Town of Hillsborough at its regular meeting held on the 8th day of August 2022, by the following vote of the members thereof:

AYES:	Councilmembers	<u>Royse, Krolik, Chuang, Cole</u>
NOES:	Councilmembers	<u>May</u>
ABSENT:	Councilmembers	<u>None</u>
ABSTAIN:	Councilmembers	<u>None</u>