

February 13, 2023

For Immediate Release

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**Community Feedback Sought for Signage at Sharp Park
Acknowledging the Location's Detention Camp History**

Proposed Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6pm (virtual)

Link: https://sfrpd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i2Rlu5nbSTSRyYjiZgO-Lg

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6pm (virtual)

Link: https://sfrpd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_liWxzv7fRUySXRQGoWi5Hw

Pacifica, Calif.—The San Francisco Department of Recreation and Park, and Nihonmachi Community Coalition (NCC)* are seeking community feedback to for an interpretive panel marking the site of a former World War II detention center camp at what is now Sharp Park Golf Course.

On September 13, 2022, San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin introduced a resolution to urge Rec and Park to develop and install appropriate interpretive signage at Sharp Park. The resolution was voted and approved by the entire SF Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor on September 23, 2022.

Sharp Park is owned by the City and County of San Francisco, although it is located in San Mateo County. In 1942, it served as a holding facility known as "Camp Sharp Park" to incarcerate individuals of Japanese, Italian, German and ancestry, as well as

non-citizens of Japanese descent from Peru. Those incarcerated were alleged by the U.S. to be dangerous to the safety of the country.

The facility had a capacity of holding up to 2,500 inmates. Records indicate that 193 individuals of Japanese descent were sent to the facility for a brief period before they were transferred to larger concentration camps throughout desolate parts of the U.S.

However, little to no knowledge or information about this dark period of history is available at the park, or known to the general public.

The Department of Recreation and Park, in cooperation with the Nihonmachi Community Coalition will therefore be initiating meetings to ask for community feedback on the creation, language, and permanent placement of an interpretive panel at Sharp Park.

The first two meetings will be virtual to gain a wide and diverse audience. Subsequent meetings will take place at Sharp Park and through in-person and virtual meetings.

We encourage public participation to make sure that this nadir period of history is never repeated again.

*The Nihonmachi Community Coalition (NCC) is composed of nonprofit organizations located in San Francisco's Japantown. The Coalition was formed to promote and initiate policies and practices to prevent further instances of Asian hate.