



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications, 415-554-6131

***** STATEMENT *****

MAYOR LEE'S STATEMENT ON OCCUPY SAN FRANCISCO PROTEST

Mayor Edwin M. Lee today issued the following statement on the Occupy San Francisco protest:

“San Francisco is a city that embraces free speech and freedom to assemble like no other city. I understand and sympathize with the anxiety and frustration caused by the lingering recession, economic disparity and joblessness in the country that prompted the Occupy movement that has now spanned the world over.

I continue to fully support the spirit of the movement that calls for peaceful assembly and protest to bring about social change.

From the beginning of the current Occupy SF encampment, I have made it clear to protesters that overnight camping at Justin Herman Plaza and on Market Street is not a sustainable or safe environment for protesters, the general public or City staff.

In San Francisco, we took a measured and balanced approach and negotiated with Occupy leadership in good faith to disassemble the camp at Justin Herman Plaza. The City made a site available to the group, but unfortunately, communication with the liaison team designated by Occupy SF deteriorated to a point where it was clear that no progress could be made.

In order to maintain public health, public safety and return the plaza for everyone's use, City agencies peacefully and orderly ended the encampment at Justin Herman Plaza.

We expect people to continue their Occupy protest movement and the City will continue to respect and facilitate everyone's fundamental right to peacefully assemble and protest.”

###