

## **D6 Cherelle Jackson**

November 2022 Election

### **What park in your district do you use the most, and what do you love about it?**

First thank you for providing a wonderful program, and platform for the Board of Supervisors District 6 candidacy race. I like going to the park to read a book sometimes. Before the pandemic I would spend time there to wonder a bit, go for a nice jog, or to just spend it hanging with friends. I would sometimes even catch a yoga or Zumba in the park class every once in a while. I love nature, and the small animals you occasionally see waddling about in the area. It's a peaceful place, a humbling place, it helps reset the mind, and unwind from the busy week. It's a place where picnics, and BBQs, and special memories are stored. I think just writing this I might go this weekend come to think of it. Either way, it's a joyous place to be.

### **Are there any parks in your district that you feel need help? If so, which one do you feel needs the most help and what do you propose?**

I would like to expand resources for parks. Invest in environmentally friendly tools to maintain parks. I would like to help support a Waterfront park near the pier, close to the Chase Center. That would be a great place to invest in a dynamic park space. For existing parks I want to ensure that resources are directed towards those who keep our parks beautiful, while also supporting community initiatives. In addition, I will also support small mini children's parks, water parks, amusement parks, and mini pet parks. Ensure that funding remains to support recreational parks that have outdoor sport activities. I am also in support of efforts such as "Arts in the Park" , as well as supporting "Farmers Markets in the parks initiatives", The Blue Greenway. These will support the economy via tourism, but also local residents, and create more jobs. One thing I think would be nice to see is a small space for a community farm. We could grow fresh fruits, and vegetables. It would be a healthy way to build fellowship for the community, as well as an environmentally friendly way to support the community in having access to fresh fruits, and vegetables as well. There's definitely room for growth, and continued support of our parks.

### **What do you see as the biggest challenge facing SF parks in the next 4 years? How do you intend to address this?**

The biggest challenge is ensuring someone keeps someone on top of keeping SF Parks a priority as well as ensuring the parks programs, and alliances are fully supported. If you have someone that emphasizes that the park life should be supported then we will maintain ample support. Through economic hardships such as affordable housing, community safety, and

supporting homelessness initiatives we also need to ensure that we maintain the upkeep of our beautiful parks.

**What were some of the successes and failures of COVID- era public space programs in your district? Be specific.**

Success is the parks are still beautiful places to hang out. I don't really see failure, but space and room for progress. So the way we should think is what areas can we progress in. That's collectively ensuring that parks remain accessible, programs that support the community remain accessible. People feel a sense of community, connectedness, and fellowship when they enjoy themselves in our lovely parks. During the pandemic there were different circumstances. I think many were scared to come to parks, and spend time with their families. Slowly as people started going to parks again. So right now there's room for so much growth, and advancement, and ideas that could really drive a unique vision into place.

**How do you plan to move forward with COVID-era changes made to parks and public spaces in your district?**

Continue to closely monitor the pandemic, ensure social distancing when needed as well as maintain safe spaces by keeping them clean. In addition, to making the hard decisions of closing down if it becomes an extreme hazardous area. We don't want to repeat history so ensuring people continue to create safe spaces for our vulnerable neighbors is also important. For example, seniors, veterans, and disabled need to feel just as supported so we need to make sure we are inclusive about making safe, clean parks, that also accommodate to those who may have a disability or more susceptible to catching COVID. Small things like ensuring parks are regular cleaned as well as places where people sit often are cleaned are useful. Leaving a safety wipe box in the park so that visitors can do a quick clean of the space is also a helpful way to support clean spaces.

**What involvement do you have with volunteer community groups in your district?**

Member of SEIU 1021, Co-Chair of Workers With Disabilities Committee, Second Secretary of COPE, Member of AFRAM, Social Economic Justice Committee, Vice Chair of Communications Veterans Caucus, Director of Communications Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Committee, Womens Committee, Lavender Committee, Founder of Ladies of Grace Committee that helps lower income women, Madam President of Black Voices of Allies Leadership Committee.

**We've heard from our partners that they believe the city permitting process is the greatest hurdle to serving public spaces. If you believe any changes need to be made, what would your proposals be?**

Make it a quicker process, with less questions, make it less confusing, and I would like to see grants, and other incentives to support residents from the community who might have ideas, but wouldn't have access to traditional funding that others may have access to implement their ideas. For example, someone might have the idea to host a community event, but because the fees, hurdles, and other barriers in place it becomes overwhelmingly difficult. So I will try to help remove those barriers.

**According to the SF Recreation and Parks Department, they currently have about \$1.5 billion in deferred maintenance. How do you plan to tackle this?**

I haven't formally taken a position on this. One thing I will say is that there should be a meeting that formally discusses these concerns. Invest in hiring more help, and providing some insight as to different ways to manage moving forward so that we don't get into such predicaments.