**From:** Leslie Hilford
**To:** Schaaf, Libby
**Subject:** dog parks
**Date:** Monday, February 17, 2014 7:57:08 PM

---

hi!

my name is leslie hilford and we were in touch last summer when my little neighborhood was dealing with the squatters at the property on laguna at harold. it was a wonderful day when OPD finally dealt with them and sent them packing. it was a huge relief to all of us.

i am writing to you now as a pet owner. i have one dog and i foster other dogs through Muttville Senior Dog Rescue in SF. (www.muttville.org) i only got a dog once i bought my own little house, but before this i lived on merritt avenue at the top of the cleveland cascade. i really wanted to get a dog when i lived there but other than walking on a leash on city streets, there was really no dedicated place for dogs to run around and play. i would find it amazing that all the parks in the area had small wooden signs posted that said "no dogs allowed". what's a park for if not for a dog to stretch his legs? (click the link for a cute picture of petey when we walked with the oakland urban pathway folks on jan 11. this is at kenwyn and mckinley)

https://plus.google.com/photos/+GeneAnderson/albums/5968935842752186705/5968940985219219858?banner=pwa&pid=5968940985219219858&oid=108860713344732311264

i understand that soon there will be a city council mtg for a decision to be made to bring the dog park policies in oakland more up to date. i urge you as a pet owner (sorry, i saw your family's cute post on the oakland animal services website!) to please vote in favor of updating the policies. the unfriendly dog policies in oakland make me so sad and probably keep many people who would benefit from the companionship of having a pet from actually getting one. hey, maybe your kids could have easily wanted a dog instead of cat? :)

please please please vote in favor of the recommendations so that dogs will be able to enjoy our wonderful green spaces, too

regards,

leslie hilford
...petey and chloe

"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever"