THE

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003

110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, CA 94104



March 25, 1980

Lt. Vince Senatore
San Francisco Police Department
Company K
Hall of Justice
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Lt. Senatore:

As we discussed this morning in the offices of Peter J. Nardoza, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, the American Hiking Society and the U.S. Department of the Interior are jointly sponsoring a transcontinental hike from San Francisco to Washington, DC. The opening weekend ceremonies of this hike, called the HikaNation, will be the April 12th and 13th here in San Francisco. The weekend will be in two events: The Kickoff Celebration at the Polo Grounds in Golden Gate Park and the insuing hike around the northern coastline of San Francisco to the Ferry Building on the 12th, and the hike across the top deck of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on the 13th. to the fact that an event of this nature has never been held before (much less the top deck of the Bay Bridge being opened to hikers), it is difficult to come up with accurate numbers of participants. In order not to be caught unprepared on the days of the events, the organizing committee is planning for extremely large numbers of people although expecting far fewer. The largest estimate of participants hiking from Golden Gate Park to the Ferry Building is 8,000, however realistically we can expect about 2 to 3,000. For the Bridge Crossing at 6:00 a.m., Sunday morning, we are estimating 25,000, however it could realistically be closer to 10,000.

Lt. Vince Senatore March 25, 1980 Page Two

We will have trained monitors in the form of Explorer Scouts from the Daly City Police Department Explorer Post 817, the San Mateo Sheriffs Office Explorer Post and the National Guard. These scouts will be used strictly for crowd control and not for directing traffic. For that, and for the large numbers of Bridge crossers on Sunday morning gathering in the area of Fremont Street between Folsom and Howard, we would like to have support from the San Francisco Police Department.

The hike from the Polo Grounds to the Ferry Building will for the most part be on Golden Gate National Recreation Area land. We will plan on staying on sidewalks throughout all the other areas. At no time during the Saturday event do we ask for a street to be closed. The main traffic and pedestrian problem on Saturday as we see it will be the crossing of the Great Highway from Golden Gate Park over to Ocean Beach. At that point the group will be fairly compact having just left the Polo Grounds a quarter of a mile away. form of traffic control there will be necessary. Further on during the hike, the participants will begin to string out and, if still in groups, should be in groups averaging twenty or so. By the time the hike approaches the Marina Green it is conceivable that the line of hikers will be several miles long. Also, due to the fact of the length of the hike (11 miles), many people will drop out long before Fisherman's Wharf is reached.

The major problems will be on the following day when we expect a far larger number of people to join the event for the first walk ever across the top deck of the Bay Bridge. CalTrans and the individual leasors have given us permission to camp overnight in the parking lots immediately under the Bay Bridge on Fremont Street between Folsom and Howard in the immediate vacinity of the Fremont Street off ramp which we will use as an on ramp to the Bridge. At 6:00 a.m., when the Bridge opens to us, we will move tables onto the ramp blocking off access and allowing only six small one person openings between the tables. This gives us a means of not only controlling the number of people entering the ramp at any given time, but also to take tickets from those moving through the blockades. The parking lots will be used as holding areas for the participants, but even then we may have more people than can fit into these areas. At this point we may have to lead the lines out onto the sidewalk and around the block. We also will have registration booths

Lt. Vince Senatore March 25, 1980 Page Three

(simply to accept money and issue tickets) which we feel would be better placed across Fremont Street from our on-ramp. Perhaps, due to the fact of the large numbers of people expected in the area and the early Sunday morning hours involved, consideration should be given to closing off just that single block of Fremont Street between the hours of 5:00 and 8:00.

This, briefly, is a summation of our discussion this morning. I am sure you will have far more questions to ask me as our mutual plans continue to be made. Please contact me at any time at my business phone, 981-0970. I am enclosing a map of San Francisco showing our route outlined in red, and the form you gave me filled out.

Thank you for your help,

Sincerely yours,

Mike McReynolds

Chairman,

Bay Area Committee

MM/ Enclosures

cc: Mr. Peter J. Nardoza

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