

Honorable Willie Brown and SF Rec & Park to Raise American Flag in Honor of U.S. Olympians

SF Rec and Park to launch Olympic Viewing Party at Civic Center Plaza

SAN FRANCISCO –San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD), Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, and Chief of Mayor’s Protocol Office Charlotte Shultz hosted a ceremony on steps of City Hall to raise the American Flag in honor of U.S. Olympians and announced SF Rec and Park’s Olympic Viewing Parties at Civic Center Plaza on August 7 and 11 with event sponsors including **NBC Bay Area, Visa, and Coca Cola**. Three U.S. Olympians from Past Olympic Games, **Marilyn King, Ted Murphy, and Sean Nolan** spoke with SF Rec and Park Athletic Camp kids about their experience as Olympians. In addition, British Consul General **Priya Guha** and Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) Board members **George Broder** were present to make remarks.

“We want to bring San Franciscans together to celebrate the excitement of the Olympics and to cheer on Team USA,” said Mayor **Ed Lee**. “Athletes from the San Francisco Bay Area are among the top athletes in the world competing for gold and we will be with them in spirit.”

“Today, we are bring celebrating our U.S. Olympians, some of the world’s best athletes,” said **Charlotte Shultz**, Chief of Mayor’s Protocol Office. “We also want to highlight San Francisco’s diversity and its commitment to healthy, athletic lifestyles.”

“We’re so proud to take this opportunity to share in the Olympic celebration with the City of San Francisco and pay tribute the long-standing relationship between the UK and the Bay Area.” said, British Consul General **Priya Guha**.

SF Rec and Park will be hosting public viewing parties for the London 2012 Summer Olympics broadcast on the big screen at Civic Center Plaza. Thousands of viewers will gather to watch the world’s best athletes go for the gold in some of the most highly anticipated match-ups of the games.

“The viewing parties will celebrate the Olympic Games and inspire our communities, especially our kids, to engage in sports,” said **Phil Ginsburg**, SF Rec and Park General Manager. “We are also excited to have the U.S. Olympians among us to share their life lessons learned from healthy competition.”

“We are delighted to support San Francisco's free Olympic Viewing Parties; as BASOC’s ultimate mission is to bring the Games to the San Francisco Bay Area someday in the future. Many Olympians competing in London today watched the Olympic Games when they were younger, inspiring them to choose a sport, work hard and never give up. We know watching the Games will inspire a whole new generation of Olympians from San Francisco”, remarked BASOC’s Board member, **George Broder**.

In addition to the large viewing screen, there will be a range of food options and family friendly activities. SF Rec and Park will emphasize the fun of sport and exercise through Olympic-

themed activities such as mini volleyball games, running races and gymnastics on the Civic Center lawn.

“As a proud sponsor of the Olympic Games, Coca-Cola is excited to come together with the city of San Francisco in honoring U.S Olympic athletes and in promoting healthy, active living,” said **Rene Hom**, vice president of Product Supply Systems for Coca-Cola Refreshments. “This event truly showcases the best in sports, and celebrates the youths in our communities.”

“As an Official Sponsor of the Olympic Games for over 25 years, Visa is thrilled to be able to promote Olympic spirit and highlight the importance of healthy, active lifestyles by supporting the Recreation and Park Department’s free Olympic Viewing parties in Civic Center Plaza.” said, **Nathan Nayman**, Head of State and Local Relations – California for Visa.