

ORDINANCE NO. C-25-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "PARKS AND RECREATION"; BY CREATING SECTION 19-8, ENTITLED "EXCLUSIVE CHILDREN PLAY AREA", TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS DESIGNATING EXCLUSIVE CHILDREN PLAY AREAS WITHIN CITY PARKS; AND PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND REPEAL, PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 166.021, Florida Statutes (2024), grants municipal governments broad powers to create regulations that serve a municipal purpose, such as protecting the health, safety, and welfare of their respective residents; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Fort Lauderdale sets forth regulations and guidelines relating to parks and other City recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City's play areas for children are intended to provide age-appropriate recreational play equipment and open space to accommodate the needs and behavior of children in the City who are supervised by parents, guardians, caretakers, or other appropriate adults; and

WHEREAS, the play areas for children are not intended to be used by adults, except for circumstances where adults are accompanying a child or children using an exclusive children play area; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined providing children with safe play areas in the City parks and maximizing children's use of a play area's equipment is a legitimate municipal purpose, and finds that it is necessary to establish regulations and guidelines that designate exclusive children play areas in City parks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

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SECTION 1. That Chapter 19 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances entitled “Parks and Recreation” is hereby amended by creating Section 19-8 entitled “Exclusive Children Play Area” as follows:

19-8. Exclusive Children Play Area.

(A) Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning.

ADULT. A person who has reached the age of 18 years.

CHILD. A person who has not reached the age of 18 years.

EXCLUSIVE CHILDREN PLAY AREA. The playground area within a city park bounded by signs that identify the designated area as an exclusive children play area pursuant to this section.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any adult to enter or remain in a designated exclusive children play area, where signage is posted to identify the area as an exclusive children play area, unless the adult is accompanying a child or children who is/are visiting or using the exclusive children play area.

(C) Violators of this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 1-6 of the Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2. At the direction of the City Attorney, the publisher of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is authorized to conform chapter, article, section, subsection, and clause numbers and letters, and capitalization, set forth in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and to correct any non-substantive scrivener’s errors in the codification of this Ordinance without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 3. That if any clause, section, or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same

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are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage on second reading.

PASSED FIRST READING this 3rd day of September, 2025.

PASSED SECOND READING this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

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