

RESOLUTION NO. 24-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PARKS AND RECREATION RULES AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 19-32 of the Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances, the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board (“Parks Board”) has the authority to recommend to the City Commission for its consideration and approval certain amendments to the rules and regulations for the operation of City parks, playgrounds and public recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on February 28, 2024, the Parks Board considered the existing Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations and approved certain recommended amendments to the same to preserve the public’s overall safety, recreation, and enjoyment of the City’s parks; and

WHEREAS, staff for the Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the Parks Board’s proposed amendments to the current Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations and is recommending the City Commission approves the proposed revisions; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds the Parks Board’s proposed amendments to the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations serve a legitimate municipal purpose and wish to approve the amendments, as recommended by the Parks Board;

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

SECTION 1. That the section of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations titled “Intent” is hereby amended as follows:

It is the Parks and Recreation Department's goal to provide citizens with a safe environment in which recreational opportunity can be maximized. Due to the wide variety of patron needs and use of City property, it is necessary to establish the following rules and regulations. These Rules and Regulations apply to all City parks and recreation facilities, including any City property that is zoned “P” for parks, recreation and open space.

SECTION 2. That Section 1.0 of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations is hereby amended as follows:

1.0 HOURS OF OPERATION

- 1.1 Parks and recreation facilities will be open as posted on buildings or entrance areas.
- 1.2 No person shall remain in any park or facility after the park or facility is closed, except in an area authorized by the City or specifically designated by the City as an area where persons may remain after the park or facility is closed to the public. Any section or part of any park or facility may be closed to the public or limited to certain ~~users~~ uses at any time, at the sole discretion of the City to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

SECTION 3. That Section 4.0 of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations is hereby amended as follows:

4.0 NUISANCES

- 4.1 ~~Pets. No person shall bring into, permit, have, or keep in any park or City facility any dog, cat, pet of any kind or other animal.~~ Dogs are permitted in parks on a maximum of six-foot leash or less under the control of a responsible adult. However, it is strictly prohibited to bring dogs or any other pets on or into any athletic fields, courts, playgrounds or water splash pads, swimming areas, beaches, or any body of water unless permitted by law or authorized under this section. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of any waste created by their dogs. All dogs must have current vaccinations and a license, pursuant to Sections 6-31 and 6-32 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as amended. Owner or Handler must be responsible for their pet. Aggressive dogs may be removed at the City’s discretion. Dogs shall not create a nuisance by causing any form of disturbance such as excessive barking or any similar conduct.

Exceptions:

- (a) ~~Service a~~Animals:

- (1) The term “Service Animal” shall mean an animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability (as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 45 U.S.C. Section 12102), as amended, including without limitation, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. Additionally, “service animal” shall mean an animal used for medical reasons, including without limitation, cancer, diabetes, and seizure detection, and any animal used for emotional support pursuant to a doctor’s prescription.

- (12) ~~All dogs must have current rabies vaccination and license. This information must be presented by person responsible for dog, upon request.~~ The service animal must be under the control of its handler and must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable, because of a disability, to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control by means of voice control, signals, or other effective means.
- (3) To determine the difference between a service animal and a pet, City may inquire whether the animal is a service animal because of a disability and what work or tasks the animal has been trained to perform.
- (b) ~~Dogs on Riverwalk are subject to the following requirements:~~
 - (1) ~~Dogs shall be on a leash, maximum of six feet in length, at all times.~~
 - (2) ~~All dogs must have current rabies vaccination and license. This information must be presented by person responsible for dog, upon request.~~
 - (3) ~~Owner or Handler must be responsible for their pet. Aggressive dogs may be removed at the City's discretion.~~
 - (4) ~~A person bringing a dog upon the Riverwalk shall be responsible for disposing of all fecal matter deposited by their dog.~~
 - (5) ~~Dogs shall not create a nuisance by causing any form of disturbance such as excessive barking or any similar conduct.~~
- (eb) Dogs on the Beach, are subject to the following requirements:
 - (1) Dogs are only permitted beginning at lifeguard tower 16 to a point 100-yards north of Sunrise Blvd. This section is posted as a Canine Beach. Dogs shall be on a leash, maximum of six feet in length, at all times. Maximum of three dogs per Owner or Handler.
 - (2) ~~All dogs must have current vaccination and license. This information must be presented by person responsible for dog, upon request.~~
 - (3) ~~Owner or handler must be responsible for their pet. Aggressive dogs may be removed at the City's discretion.~~
 - (4) ~~A person bringing a dog upon the Beach shall be responsible for disposing of all fecal matter deposited by their dog.~~
 - (5) ~~Dogs shall not create a nuisance by causing any form of disturbance such as excessive barking or any similar conduct.~~
- (dc) Dogs in designated dog park areas, are subject to the following requirements:
 - (1) Designated dog park areas shall be posted by the City as permitting dogs unleashed within the confines of such areas. Maximum of three dogs per owner or handler.

- ~~(2) All dogs must have current vaccination and license. This information must be presented by person responsible for dog, upon request.~~
 - ~~(3) Each dog owner or handler shall keep his or her dog(s) on a leash, maximum of six feet in length, from the parking lot until inside posted area.~~
 - ~~(4) Each dog owner or handler shall be responsible for disposing of all fecal matter deposited by his or her dog(s) within the posted area.~~
- 4.2 Trash Disposal. Park patrons are responsible at all times for proper disposal of their trash. Any trash generated outside park and recreation facilities may not be disposed of inside the park.
- 4.3 Soliciting and Vending. No person shall expose or offer for sale any article, service, or thing nor shall he station or place any stand, cart or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or merchandise within the limits or adjacent roadways of any park, without securing a permit or license from the City. Exception is made to regularly licensed concessionaires acting by and under the authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Any publicity, posted signs or announcement placed in or on park property must have the prior approval of the Parks and Recreation Department. It shall be unlawful for any solicitor, peddler, itinerant merchant or transient vendor of merchandise or services to solicit orders for the sale of foods, wares, merchandise or services or to try to attempt to dispose of goods, wares, merchandise or services by barter and sale in any private dwelling, apartment or other place of residence without having obtained a permit to do so from the chief license inspector of the city.
- 4.4 Interference with Authorized Activities. No person or group shall interfere with any recreational activities or event authorized by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Beach patrons shall not interfere with the clear and safe passage of any City tractors or City-authorized maintenance vehicles within the seaweed line of the public beach.
- 4.5 Loud Noise. No person or group shall play or operate any sound amplification device including radios, television sets, turn tables, tape decks, public address systems, amplified musical instruments, portable generators, or any other loud noise generating device which disturbs other persons.
- 4.6 Sleeping. Sleeping or reclining in a horizontal position is specifically prohibited in the following: building, pavilion, rest room, trash receptacle, bench, picnic table, as well as recreational activity areas (such as athletic courts and fields, dug outs, and playgrounds), pedestrian or vehicular traffic ways (such as roads, sidewalks, bike paths, and jogging paths), and landscaped areas (such as flower gardens, hedges, and planters).
- 4.7 Intoxicants. Consumption, possession or sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited within City parks except during and within the specified area of a Special Event authorized by the City or premises licensed for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- 4.8 Disorderly Intoxication. No person shall be intoxicated in a City park or upon a City beach and endanger the safety of another person or property, and no person shall be intoxicated

or drink any alcoholic beverage in a City park or upon a City beach and cause a public disturbance.

- 4.9 Personal Property. Personal property shall not be stored in any park or facility except in a facility or area specifically authorized by the City for such storage.
- 4.10 Disorderly Conduct. Any person that acts in a disorderly manner, corrupts public morals, outrages public decency, disturbs the peace and quiet of others, starts a fight, or acts in a way that breaches the peace may be subject to a revocation of the privilege of using any Parks & Recreation facilities or participating in any activities or programs at any park or recreation facility.
- 4.11 Abusive Conduct. Any person acting inappropriately or disrespectfully may be subject to a revocation of the privilege of using the Parks & Recreation facilities or participating in activities or programs at any park or recreation facility.
- 4.12 Balloon Releases. No person shall intentionally release or organize the release of balloons or sky lanterns into the atmosphere at any park or recreation facilities, or otherwise risk any potential impacts to the wildlife and the environment.

SECTION 4. That Section 7.0 of the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations is hereby amended as follows:

7.0 BEACH REGULATIONS

- 7.1 Swimming at public beach areas is prohibited under the following conditions:
 - (a) If the beach is closed due to lightning or other dangerous conditions.
 - (b) If swimmers are wearing long pants or shoes.
 - (c) Beyond 50 yards from shore.
 - (d) If children are not properly supervised by adults (proper supervision is one adult minimum per ten children).
- 7.2 Skin and scuba diving shall be permitted from the Fort Lauderdale Beach under the following regulations:
 - (a) All divers must be accompanied by at least one other diver.
 - (b) Each diver is equipped with a buoyancy compensator.
 - (c) Divers must have an approved diver's down flag displayed in accordance with Statutes of the State of Florida.
 - (d) Scuba divers must remain a minimum of 100 yards offshore, except when entering or leaving the water. All scuba divers must remain on the surface of the water until they reach 100 yards offshore. At that time they are no longer under the supervision of the beach patrol and are permitted to go under the surface.
 - (e) Snorkelers using mask, snorkel, and fins within 50 yards are permitted and are considered bathers. If snorkelers desire to go beyond 50 yards, then all other

requirements of Rule 7.2 applicable to scuba divers must be met.

- (f) The use or possession of spear guns or similar weapons is prohibited on the beach. Such weapons must be transported a minimum distance of 100 yards offshore. During such transportation, weapons must be handled safely in an unarmed condition.
 - (g) Scuba instruction by private enterprise is prohibited.
- 7.3 Use of boats and watercraft are subject to the following regulations:
- (a) Designated Boat Launching Area – located
 - (i) 600 South Atlantic Boulevard on the beach and
 - (ii) 1000 North Atlantic Boulevard at the end of Sunrise Boulevard and the beach.
 - (b) Watercraft permitted to launch in Designated Boat Launching Area:
 - (i) Manually powered watercraft (e.g. kayak, stand-up paddleboard, inflatables, outrigger canoes, etc., but not including surfboard activity area).
 - (ii) Sail powered watercraft (e.g. Sunfish, catamaran sailboats, kite surfing, windsurfing, etc.).
 - (iii) Watercraft are permitted to launch or return pursuant to the conditions of City Code § 8- 173.
 - (iv) The Designated Boat Launching Areas and channels are for launching and returning watercraft only. Watercraft may not anchor or interfere with the use of the channel area within the Designated Boat Launching Area.
 - (c) Designated Activity Area – located between Lifeguard Tower 16 and Lifeguard Tower 20 (N.E. 18th Street)
 - (d) Watercraft activities permitted in Designated Activity Area:
 - (i) Manually powered watercraft (e.g. surfing, surfboards, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, inflatables, outrigger canoes, etc.)
 - (ii) Wave powered watercraft (surfboards, paddleboards, etc.)
 - (iii) Sail powered watercraft (kite surfing, windsurfing, etc.).
 - (e) No watercraft may be kept on the beach overnight, except those properly registered with the City to stay in designated areas.
- 7.4 The following beach regulations are intended to reduce safety hazards which may cause injury to beach patrons:
- (a) Playing ball, Frisbee, flying kites, or any other game that may endanger patrons on the beach or in the water, is limited to designated times and areas as posted or as determined by City officials.
 - (b) Fishing or netting of fish is permitted on the sandy part of the public beach located between N.E. 18th Street and N.E. 23rd Street only during the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and national holidays, and must be conducted in a safe manner.

All debris, bait, fish line and hooks, and other fishing equipment or tackle must be removed from the beach after fishing has been conducted. Fishing or netting of fish is prohibited from or under any bridge in the city, or from any pier, dock, wharf, or other waterfront facility at Port Everglades.

- (c) Dogs and pets are prohibited on the sandy portion of the beach, except for service animals and the area that is designated as Canine Beach. ~~(see 4.1 c).~~
- (d) Surfing is allowed in designated surfing area only.
- (e) Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the beach, except during such times and within certain locations of the beach permitted or licensed by the city.
- (f) Glass bottles and glass containers are prohibited on the beach.
- (g) Digging holes or erecting tents and fencing is prohibited. Canopies of any type may be prohibited as well during special events at the discretion of Police or Ocean Rescue.
- (h) Unauthorized use of lifeguard towers is prohibited.
- (i) Anyone requested to do so must move out of the way of Police, Beach Patrol, Park Ranger, or other Government Service vehicles.
- (j) No person shall interfere with Police, Lifeguards or Park Rangers or Park Personnel in the performance of their lawful duties.
- (k) Directives given by the lifeguards must be adhered to.
- (l) Use of any grill or generator is not permitted without a city approval or a permit.
- (m) No all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), golf carts, go carts, moped, or motorized vehicles are permitted on the sand. Only authorized city personnel are permitted use of the aforementioned.

7.5 The following regulations are intended to eliminate nuisance activity on the beach and provide patrons with a pleasant environment in which to recreate:

- (a) Loud Noise. No person or group shall play or operate any sound amplification device including radios, television sets, turn tables, tape decks, public address systems, amplified musical instruments or any other loud noise generation device which disturbs other persons.
- (b) All commercial photography and filming is prohibited unless prior written permission has been obtained from the City Manager's Office.
- (c) Soliciting, begging or panhandling is prohibited. This includes tips or payment for any service, performance or instruction.
- (d) Removing trash and debris from waste receptacles requires a written permit from the Parks and Recreation Department. Such a permit shall be issued under specific criteria determined by that Department.
- (e) Use of picnic tables for other than picnic purposes is prohibited. Proper use of tables for picnicking is on a first come, first serve basis. Holding tables for patrons who have not arrived is prohibited.

- (f) Drying clothes by hanging them on trees, bushes, tables or in or around rest rooms is prohibited.
- (g) Beach sea oat and dune plantings are protected, and no person shall cut, damage, or remove such plants from the beach.
- (h) No person shall discharge any fireworks on any portion of the City Beach unless done as part of a special event authorized by the City. Fireworks shall mean any combustible or explosive composition or substance or combination of substance or any article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, including sparklers.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

 Mayor
 DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

 City Clerk
 DAVID R. SOLOMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:

 City Attorney
 THOMAS J. ANSBRO

Dean J. Trantalis _____
 John C. Herbst _____
 Steven Glassman _____
 Pamela Beasley-Pittman _____
 Warren Sturman _____