



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING TO FOCUS ON LETTER OF REQUEST TO CITY COMMISSION

CITY OF WINTER PARK

401 Park Avenue South

Winter Park, Florida

32789-4386

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award

winner (May 25, 2010) – On Wednesday, May 26, at 5 p.m., the city's Parks & Recreation Commission will discuss an agenda item regarding the possibility of sending a letter to the City Commission asking them to consider discouraging events that draw animals to Park Avenue or any street adjacent to Central Park.

The Parks & Recreation Commission's discussion will focus on whether or not to send a letter to the City Commission regarding this topic. No action will be taken related to revising the city's existing animal ordinance. The Parks & Recreation Commission is an advisory board to the City Commission, therefore, only recommendations/requests can be sent to the City Commission for consideration. No formal action can be taken by any non-quasi judicial city board.

The meeting will be held in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room located on the second floor of City Hall's West Wing at 401 Park Avenue South.

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CITY OF WINTER PARK

401 Park Avenue South

Winter Park, Florida

32789-4386

May 27, 2010

Mayor and City Commissioners
City of Winter Park
401 Park Avenue South
Winter Park, FL 32789

Re: Policies for Animal Centered Events

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The Parks and Recreation Commission is requesting that special events for animals be discouraged if they are held on Park Avenue or any street adjacent to Central Park. Special events held in the past which invited dogs into the downtown area have created numerous situations of non-compliance with the City's Animal Ordinance prohibiting animals within Central Park.

Two recent special events promoted by a local Park Avenue business have caused the issue to be a topic of discussion with the Parks and Recreation Commission members due to the large number of dogs violating the City Ordinance Number 2665-06;

“Animals are prohibited in all areas of Central Park. Dogs are prohibited on any street, right of way, or sidewalk adjacent to Central Park that is closed to vehicular traffic during any special event.”

The violations created in Central Park by the last event required enforcement of the ordinance by City staff and Police during and after the event.

Due to the situation created by this type of special event, the Parks and Recreation Commission is requesting that directives be issued to the City Code Enforcement Division that would prohibit the issuance of a “Special Event Permit” for any animal centered event on Park Avenue or street adjacent to Central Park.

We thank you for your consideration and assistance with this matter and hope that your directive will alleviate a serious violation of City Code.

Yours truly,

Parks and Recreation Commission

Cc: Randy Knight, City Manager
George Wiggins, Building Official
Sylvia Wellon, Chief of Code Enforcement