



# MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matti H. Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 28, 2009

SUBJECT: **Referral To The Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee To Discuss the Issue Of Dogs Off Leash In City Parks and Other Public Properties In General.**

The Administration requests the matter of dogs off leash in City parks and other public properties in general be referred to the Neighborhoods/ Community Affairs Committee for discussion.

The City presently manages four (4) bark parks at Washington Avenue Park, Belle Isle Park, Flamingo Park and Pine tree Park. Although the bark parks are well used, unfortunately, a large number of dog owners fail to follow the City's regulations and permit their dogs to run off leash in City parks, golf courses, and public areas. This has created a challenge for the City to maintain the parks, ensure the safety of the park patrons (both with and without dogs), and to enforce particular sections of the City Code relating to animals (e.g. Section 10-10 - prohibits animals in public parks and on beaches; Section 10-11 - prohibits the owners or person in control of any animal to permit the animal to run at large; Section 10-12 – Committing nuisances prohibited; and Section 10-13 – Removal of animal defecation).

Additionally, at the time South Pointe Park closed for construction, a large section of the park was being used, unofficially, by many dog owners as an off leash area. At the time the park closed for renovations, the dog owners were moved to a section of Washington Avenue Park where a new dog park was constructed. With the impending reopening of South Pointe Park, there may be an expectation by dog owners that South Pointe will once again become an off leash dog park. It should be noted that there is no designated dog park included in the new South Pointe Park, nor would that use be permitted by current City code.

In light of the City's current City Code and the on-going issues with dog off leash in the City's parks and other public areas, and in light of previous discussions about other options for recreational spaces for dogs, a discussion and direction from the Commission is requested.

JMG/HMF/RCM/KS

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Agenda Item C4I  
Date 1-28-09

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