



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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NO. LTC# **155-2013**

LETTER TO COMMISSION MAY 1 11:19 AM '13

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: May 1, 2013

SUBJECT: SOFNA (South Of Fifth Neighborhood Association) Correspondence and Motion Related to the South Pointe Park Dog Off-Leash Area

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide you a copy of a correspondence dated April 29, 2013, sent to the Administration by the SOFNA (South Of Fifth Neighborhood Association) Board of Directors. The correspondence was sent to clarify the association's motion related to the off leash dog area in South Pointe Park, at a location selected in consultation with professionals as well as the input of the community that was approved at their April 4, 2103, general meeting. As indicated in the correspondence SOFNA recognizes there is overwhelming community support and also supports an off-leash area in South Pointe Park. However, the association does not support the location of the triangular grass area where the lighthouse sculpture is located.

As instructed by the City Commission at the March 13, 2103 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Administration hosted a publically noticed community meeting on Monday, April 15, 2013, in South Pointe Park to discuss the relocated South Pointe Park Dog Off-leash Area. At the meeting, the Administration discussed the City Commission's directives given at its March 13, 2103, meeting. This included an explanation of the revised hours, a presentation of the draft landscape concept plan, and a discussion as to potential alternative locations in South Pointe Park for the Dog Off-leash Pilot Program Area. Following questions and comments by the residents in attendance, it was the majority opinion that the current location of the off-leash dog pilot program, in the triangular area south and west of the Washington Avenue entry plaza where the Lighthouse sculpture is located, was the location best suited for the South Pointe Park Dog Off-leash Pilot Program, and it should remain there. Attached for your information is a copy of the sign-in sheet for the April 15, 2013, South Pointe Park Pilot Dog Off-leash community meeting.

Also as instructed by the City Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department Administration has submitted the application for the Design Review Board's review of the landscape plan around perimeter of the relocated (lighthouse) dog off-leash area. At this time the application is scheduled to be heard at the June, 2013 Design Review Board meeting.

This Ordinance Amendment implementing the directives of the City Commission to relocate the dog off-leash area, revise the evening hours, and extend the pilot program through and including December 31, 2013, was presented and approved on first reading by the Mayor and City Commission at the April 17, 2013, Commission meeting and is presently included on the May 8th agenda for a second reading and public hearing. SOFNA has sent an email to its neighbors informing them of their position on the location of the dog area and inviting them to attend the May 8th Commission Meeting.

Please advise if you have questions, comments or concerns.

JLM/MASKS
Attachments

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SOFNA
SOUTH OF FIFTH
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 29, 2013

Via email

Kevin Smith
Director
Parks & Recreation/City of Miami Beach
2100 Washington Ave
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am in receipt of your April 17, 2013 email to Dr. Mandy, Mr. Diaz, and me, requesting a reaffirmation and/or clarification of the following unanimously approved SOFNA resolution:

SOFNA supports an off leash dog area in South Pointe Park, at a location selected in consultation with professionals as well as the input of the community.

There has evidently been some confusion about the wording of that resolution, and whether in fact it was passed with the express and explicit intent of putting on the record SOFNA's current opposition to the city's proposed relocation of the off-leash dog zone in South Pointe Park to the triangular grass area that is home to Tobias Rehberger's "obstinate lighthouse" sculpture.

Let there be no doubt that SOFNA is currently opposed to that relocation.

SOFNA recognizes there is overwhelming community support, however, for an off-leash dog area. We support that.

The issue that SOFNA tried to address in that April 4 resolution was our desire for a planned decision-making process that more actively sought and weighed input from the neighborhood as well as from professionals who specialized in the use of public spaces, parks, and design.

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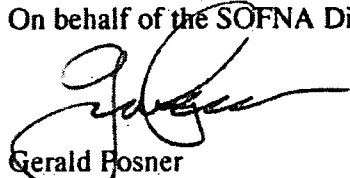
We do not have any reason to believe that such an inclusive and transparent process led to the City's decision to return the off-leash dog area to a prime and heavily trafficked location as opposed to a more isolated and less used portion of the Park. It seems rather to be a decision based largely on the fact that the off-leash dog area had at one time been at that location and some dog lovers wanted it returned there.

You will note that twice above, when referring to SOFNA's opposition to the proposed relocation of the off-leash dog area, I used the qualifier *current*. That is because we are ready to abide by a consensus reached as a result of a fair and comprehensive process that takes into account community input and the advice of professionals. If the end result of such a process were a decision to relocate the off-leash dog zone to the lighthouse area, we would support that.

What are the next steps? What can SOFNA do, together with the City, to move forward toward a process that will help comprehensively settle the question of where is best in South Pointe for an off-leash dog area?

We look forward to your guidance and to working with you on this important element of the Park.

Sincerely yours,
On behalf of the SOFNA Directors



Gerald Posner
Secretary
gerald@sofna.net



MIAMI BEACH

SOUTH POINTE PARK PILOT DOG OFF-LEASH COMMUNITY MEETING

South Pointe Park Community Room

April 15, 2013 - 6:00PM

NAME	SIGNATURE	PHONE NUMBER(S)	ADDRESS	EMAIL
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Stacey Kruder		305 439 1456	400 AUTONRA	sjkrudero7@gmail.com
Jerry Libbin		305 673 7166		
Brian Harris		845 359 6990 786 238 7224	1000 S. Pointe Dr #1002	bricarr@b-harris.com
Ravel Cohen				
Harry Martin Nicole Martin		786 216 7045	1000 S Pointe # 2302	