Briefing Paper
(Urban Experience)

Division & Department:	City Council / Parks
Subject:	Park Rules and Regulations Title 12 Amendments
Date:	09/14/2020
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City Council Sponsor:	Lori Kinnear
Executive Sponsor:	Garrett Jones
Committee(s) Impacted:	Urban Experience; Public Safety and Community Health
Type of Agenda item:	☐ Consent ☒ Discussion ☐ Strategic Initiative
Alignment: (link agenda item to guiding document – i.e., Master Plan, Budget , Comp Plan, Policy, Charter, Strategic Plan)	Strategic Plan
Strategic Initiative:	Safe and Healthy
Deadline:	11/30/2020
Outcome: (deliverables, delivery duties, milestones to meet)	Create safer City Parks by updating park rules and regulations

Background/History:

Three basic issues have caused the Parks Department to review and update the Park Rules:

1. Current park rules are silent with respect to events and other activities that commonly occur in city parks. Some activities are prohibited by law while others, including many events, require a permit. Regularly reported activity suggests that certain laws and rules may not be clear.

2. The Parks Department has a process for events that require park reservations and for those requiring special event permits, yet current park rules provide no mention of those processes.

3. City services are sometimes required to address the cleanup and other impacts of special events. Current park rules lack a framework for cost recovery for cleanup and make no reference to the cost recovery provisions of Chapter 10.39 SMC.

Executive Summary:

To address the aforementioned gaps, the ordinance makes important changes to the Park Rules, as summarized below.

1. Clarifies that the prohibition against the use and distribution of drug paraphernalia applies not only to parks, but also to their adjacent sidewalks and in parked vehicles next to a park. This new rule is consistent with current law and creates no new crime, but it specifies the scope of the restriction as related to public parks, closing an important gap on an illegal activity that has had a staggeringly negative impact on neighborhoods with nearby parks.

2. Adds the non-criminal penalty of park exclusion for violators who distribute drug paraphernalia in a park.

3. Adds a reference to special events that require a permit. Includes cross-references to the Parks Department procedures for special events and to the special event ordinance, Chapter

10.39 SMC, and also cross-references the food vendor permitting process under the Municipal Code (Chapter 10.51 SMC).

4. Acknowledges that events not requiring a special event permit may still require a park reservation. Clarifies that "there is no cost to submit reservation application for events that do not include the use of a shelter, but the application requires the submission of a clean-up plan and may be subject to cost recovery for the actual costs of clean-up by park employees."

5. Prohibits driving any motor vehicle in Riverfront Park without express permission from the director of the parks department. Lists certain sorts of motorized vehicles that are exempt.

Budget Impact:
Approved in current year budget? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
Annual/Reoccurring expenditure? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
If new, specify funding source:
Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)

Operations Impact:
Consistent with current operations/policy? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
Requires change in current operations/policy? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
Specify changes required:
Known challenges/barriers: