

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Memorandum # 16-2014

DATE: September 8, 2014
TO: Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members
FROM: John Pick, City Manager *JP*
Amanda J Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services *AJP*
SUBJECT: CB-1836 – Dogs-at-Large Special Events Exemption

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend approval of CB-1836 to amend section 14-2-6 of the municipal code to allow for special events during which dogs would be permitted to be off leash, in accordance with the regulations included within the proposed amendment.

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Code currently states that a dog is considered to be at large if the dog is

“...off the premises of the owner or keeper, other than at a City designated off leash dog park, and not within the effective control of that owner or keeper, his agent, servant, or competent member of his family, by means of a leash, cord or chain. A dog shall also be deemed to be running at large when it is on an unfenced portion of the premises of the owner or keeper and the owner or keeper is not physically present within eyesight of the dog. For purposes of this definition, the “premises of the owner or keeper” shall not include the common areas of condominiums, townhouses, and apartment buildings, or any public sidewalk, park, other than at a City designated off leash dog park or right of way, and any dog not in the effective control of its owner or keeper upon the common area of any condominium, townhouse, or apartment building, or any public area, shall be deemed to be running at large.”

Earlier this year, city staff was approached by a resident interested in dogs being allowed off leash and within voice or electronic control in the city. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed this request at the July meeting, and reviewed off leash regulations in other communities. The board did not support a change in the ordinance to allow dogs off leash in the city as a general rule; however, the board was interested in further discussing an exemption to the ordinance to allow for coordinated off-leash special events to take place on city property. These events are anticipated to include activities such as dog obedience classes, Frisbee dog exhibitions or agility course competitions. At the August Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to recommend to City Council the attached amendment to section 14-2-6 of the municipal code.

The board expressed a desire to consider safety of the dogs, their owners, event attendees and the general public at such events. If approved, the amendment would require any such event to have a permit from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The board members are committed to reviewing any such requests and evaluating those requests in accordance with the amendment prior to issuance of a permit.

STAFF REFERENCE

Please contact Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services at apeterson@northglenn.org or by phone at 303.450.8950 with any further questions.

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DOWNING

COUNCILMAN'S BILL

ORDINANCE NO.

No. CB-1836
Series of 2014

Series of 2014

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14-2-6, SUBSECTION (e) OF THE NORTHGLENN MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. Section 14-2-6, subsection (e) of the Northglenn Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

(e) A person, being the owner or keeper of a dog, shall be guilty of dog at large if such dog runs at large within the City. A dog shall be deemed to be running at large when it is off the premises of the owner or keeper, ~~other than at a City-designated off-leash dog park~~, and not within the effective control of that owner or keeper, his agent, servant, or competent member of his family, by means of a leash, cord or chain. A dog shall also be deemed to be running at large when it is on an unfenced portion of the premises of the owner or keeper and the owner or keeper is not physically present within eyesight of the dog. For purposes of this definition, the **“premises of the owner or keeper”** shall not include the common areas of condominiums, townhouses, and apartment buildings, or any public sidewalk, park, ~~other than a City-designated off-leash dog park~~, or right of way, and any dog not in the effective control of its owner or keeper upon the common area of any condominium, townhouse, or apartment building, or any public area, shall be deemed to be running at large. A DOG WILL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE RUNNING AT LARGE IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

(1) THE DOG IS AT A CITY-DESIGNATED OFF-LEASH DOG PARK;
OR

(2) THE DOG IS AT A CITY-APPROVED OFF-LEASH SPECIAL EVENT LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY. THESE EVENTS INCLUDE BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES, DOG AGILITY COMPETITIONS, AND FRISBEE DOG EXHIBITIONS. A DOG MAY BE OFF-LEASH AT SUCH AN EVENT SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE DOG MUST BE WITHIN VOICE AND SIGHT CONTROL OF THE OWNER OR KEEPER AT ALL TIMES IN SUCH A MANNER SO AS NOT TO ENDANGER PERSONS OR PROPERTY;

(B) THE ORGANIZER OF SUCH AN OFF-LEASH SPECIAL EVENT SHALL OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD. THE PERMIT WILL SPECIFY THE LOCATION OF THE EVENT, THE DATE AND TIME OF THE EVENT, AND THE AMOUNT OF HUMAN AND DOG PARTICIPANTS PERMITTED.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED POSTED this 8th day of September,
2014.


CAROL DODGE
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk


PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING this ____ day of _____,
2014.

JOYCE DOWNING
Mayor

ATTEST:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney