



CITY OF INGLEWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



DATE: March 23, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending Inglewood Municipal Code (I.M.C.) Section 5-67

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Mayor and Council Members introduce an ordinance amending Inglewood Municipal Code (I.M.C.) Section 5-67 (Unauthorized Use of Park Facilities Prohibited) to: define the terms “camp or lodge,” expand hours when people are prohibited from being in City Parks, and update job titles.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is entrusted with the care and oversight of the City’s parks and recreation centers. This includes, but is not limited to, ten parks, four recreation centers, a swim complex, playhouse, and amphitheater. The Department is guided by City ordinances, policies, and procedures designed to promote health, safety, and efficiency in the operation of City parks and facilities, and delivery of quality programs and services.

Recently, there have been increased incidents of individuals pitching tents, loitering, and sleeping in City parks during the day and overnight. The individuals use the parks as living accommodations, typically storing personal belongings such as bed rolls, luggage, cookware, shopping baskets, and other items. The presence of these individuals has resulted in fires, break-ins, and other threats to public health and safety at the parks and facilities and requires constant use of City resources to investigate incidents and remove trash and debris.

DISCUSSION:

Following a review of Inglewood Municipal Code Section 5-67, staff determined it necessary to define the terms “camp or lodge” and limit the hours when people can be in City Parks. Currently, I.M.C. Section 5-67(b) prohibits persons from camping in the park without the written permission of the City, but does not fully define what it means to “camp or lodge therein.” Under the proposed amendment, “camp or lodge” means to erect, maintain, or occupy a camp facility for the purpose of living accommodations. “Camp facility” means one or more of the following: tents, huts, other temporary physical shelters, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks or bedrolls.

Section 5-67(k) of the I.M.C. sets the hours of access to City’s parks. It currently states that with the exception of Siminski Park, it is against the law for any persons to enter, remain, stay, or loiter in any public park from 11:00 p.m. until one hour before sunrise the following day without written permission from the City.

The proposed amendment to I.M.C. section 5-67(k) will change the closing time of City parks from 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. City programming and rentals at the City’s larger parks – Darby

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Park, Edward Vincent Jr. Park, and Rogers Park - are typically concluded by 8 p.m. The one hour grace period allows sufficient time for patrons to clear the park.

Currently by ordinance, Siminski Park, a small neighborhood park intimately nestled between two rows of homes, closes to the public at sunset and opens one hour before sunrise the following day. These hours were put in place years ago to mitigate neighborhood noise, traffic, and undesirable behavior.

The proposed amendment to I.M.C. section 5-67(k) further expands the list of neighborhood parks that close to the public at sunset and open one hour before sunrise to include Ash Park, Center Park, Circle Park, Grevillea Park, North Park, and Queen Park. Currently, under section 5-67(k), individuals can remain in these parks until 11 p.m. This measure is meant to mitigate neighborhood noise, traffic, and potential undesirable behavior at these sites.

Finally, the amendment changes the Recreation, Parks and Community Services Department Director title to Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director in the I.M.C. Section 5-67 to reflect the Department's current structure.

FINANCIAL/FUNDING ISSUES AND SOURCES:

Revenue may be realized from citations issued for violations.

LEGAL REVIEW VERIFICATION: YAD

Administrative staff has verified the legal documents accompanying this report have been reviewed and approved by the Office of the City Attorney.

FINANCE REVIEW VERIFICATION: YAD

Administrative staff has verified that this report, in its entirety, has been submitted to, reviewed, and approved by the Finance Department.

BUDGET REVIEW VERIFICATION: YAD

Administrative staff has verified that this report, in its entirety, has been submitted to, reviewed, and approved by the Budget Division.

DESCRIPTION OF ANY ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1 - Ordinance

PREPARED BY:

Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

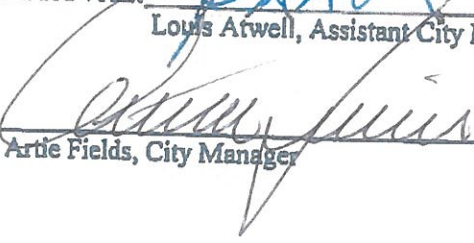
COUNCIL PRESENTER:

Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: 
Sabrina Barnes, Parks, Rec, & Comm Svcs. Director

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: 
Louis Arwell, Assistant City Manager

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: 
Artie Fields, City Manager

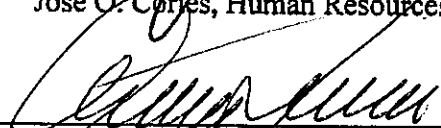
APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL:



Jose O. Cortes, Human Resources Director

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:



Artie Fields, City Manager

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

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ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
AMENDING INGLEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5-67 TO
DEFINE THE TERM “CAMP OR LODGE,” EXPAND THE HOURS
WHEN PEOPLE ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING IN CITY
PARKS, AND UPDATE JOB TITLES**

WHEREAS, Article 3, section 4 of the City Charter gives the City the right and power to acquire, construct, complete, conduct, operate and maintain parks; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that authority the City has enacted various ordinances regulating city parks, codified in Inglewood Municipal Code (IMC) Chapter 5, Article 3. Park Regulations; and

WHEREAS, IMC section 5-67(b) provides that it is unlawful for any person to camp or lodge in a public park without written permission from the City; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to define the term “camp or lodge;” and

WHEREAS, unregulated camping and lodging in public parks creates unnecessary, excessive and blighted activity, which is detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety and contrary to public interest, harms nearby residents, and diminishes the public’s enjoyment and use of City parks for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, IMC section 5-67(k) provides that it is unlawful for any person to enter, remain, stay or loiter in any public park commencing at eleven p.m. on any day and ending one hour before sunrise of the following day without written permission from the City; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to expand the hours set forth in IMC 5-67(k) from eleven p.m. to nine p.m.; and

WHEREAS, IMC section 5-67(l) provides that it is unlawful for any person to enter, remain, stay or loiter in Siminski Park commencing at sunset at any day and ending one hour before sunrise the following day without written permission from the City; and

1 WHEREAS, the City desires to amend IMC section 5-67(1) to include certain
2 neighborhood and pocket parks; and

3 WHEREAS, allowing people to enter, remain, stay or loiter in City parks in the
4 evening and after hours diminishes the peace and quiet of a neighborhood, harming
5 nearby residents, which is detrimental to public health, welfare and safety, and contrary
6 to public interest; and

7 WHERAS, certain job titles need to be updated;

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
9 **INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

10 **SECTION 1.** Inglewood Municipal Code section 5-67 is hereby amended as
11 follows:

12 **“Section 5-67. Unauthorized Use of Park Facilities Prohibited.**

13 It shall be unlawful for any person, without the written permission of the Parks,
14 ~~and Code Enforcement Director~~ and Recreation and Community Services Director
15 within any public park to:

16 (a) Make or kindle a fire except in picnic stoves or fireplaces provided for that
17 purpose;

18 (b) Camp or lodge therein. “Camp or lodge” means to erect, maintain or occupy a
19 camp facility for the purpose of living accommodations. “Camp facility” means one or
20 more of the following: tents, huts, other temporary physical shelters, cots, beds, sleeping
21 bags, hammocks or bedrolls;

22 (c) Cook, prepare, serve, picnic, or eat except in places designated therefor;

23 (d) Wash dishes, empty waste liquids in any place other than in sinks provided
24 therefor;

25 (e) Leave any garbage cans, bottles, papers or other refuse elsewhere than in
26 receptacles placed therefor;

27 (f) Play or engage in any baseball, softball, football, soccer-ball, volleyball or other
28 game excepting at such places as shall be especially designated or set apart for that

1 purpose; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as
2 requiring such written permission for such informal games as "Catch," "Toss Ball," or
3 other similar nonoffensive games when participated in by not to exceed four persons
4 when same are conducted in such a manner as not to disturb or annoy other persons
5 present in such public park;

6 (g) Indulge in riotous, boisterous, threatening, or indecent conduct, or abusive or
7 threatening language, or operate any radio, musical instrument, or sound equipment
8 which can be heard at a distance greater than twenty-five feet outside the boundary of
9 any park or which in any manner disturbs any picnic, meeting, service, concert, exercise
10 or exhibition;

11 (h) Operate or use any loud speaker or loud speaking sound amplifying device in
12 any public park; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed as
13 preventing the use of small portable radios when used for the purpose of receiving
14 programs broadcast from regularly authorized and licensed broadcasting stations;

15 (i) Make any speech or publicly address any group or gathering of persons unless
16 as an authorized part of a ceremony or program for which such a permit is held at the
17 time;

18 (j) Distribute any handbills or circulars, or post, place or erect any bills, notice,
19 paper, or advertising device or matter of any kind;

20 (k) Enter, remain, stay or loiter in any public park between the period commencing
21 at ~~eleven~~nine p.m. on any day and ending one hour before sunrise of the following day;

22 (l) Enter, remain, stay or loiter in Ash Park, Center Park, Circle Park, Grevillea
23 Park, North Park, Queen Park and Siminski Park ~~within this City~~ between the period
24 commencing at sunset on any day and ending one hour before sunrise of the following
25 day;

26 (m) Hold any meeting, service, concert, exercise or exhibition;

27 (n) Hold or take part in an organized meeting, assembly or parade involving more
28 than twenty-five people;

1 (o) Enter or use any restroom for women if a male person over eight years of age;

2 (p) Dress, undress, or change his or her clothes in any toilet or restroom in any
3 public park;

4 (q) Remove from any park equipment, any sign indicating that such equipment is
5 reserved;

6 (r) Use or attempt to use or interfere with the use of any table, space, or facility in
7 said park which at the time is reserved by written reservation then in effect issued to or
8 for any other person; provided, however, that all such reservations shall specify the
9 period covered by same and shall be subject to cancellation by the ~~Recreation, Parks,~~
10 Recreation and Community Services Director. Unless the actual use of the table, space
11 or ~~facility~~ referred to in any reservation is commenced within thirty minutes after the
12 period covered by such reservation begins, such reservation shall thereupon be void and
13 all rights under such reservation may be cancelled by the ~~Recreation, Parks, Recreation~~
14 and Community Services Director.

15 (s) Sell or offer for sale any merchandise or object whatsoever;

16 (t) Take into, possess or consume intoxicating liquor of any kind.

17 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "alcoholic beverage" shall mean any
18 spirituous, vinous, malt, or fermented liquor, liquid, compound, or mixture, whether
19 medicated, proprietary, patented or not, and by whatever name designated, containing
20 one-half of one percent of more of alcohol by volume and which is capable of being
21 used for beverage purposes.

22 (u) Ride, drive or propel into or upon any roadway, path or way, in any public park
23 or recreation ground within the City any vehicle, device or other equipment, including a
24 bicycle, when there shall be posted at the entrance to any such road, roadway, path or
25 way a notice or sign to the effect that the same is closed to vehicles, placed by the order
26 of the ~~Recreation, Parks, Recreation~~ and Community Services Director.

27 (v) To play any drum."

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SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or paragraphs of this ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance. The City of Inglewood hereby declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause and paragraph hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the foregoing sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be declared invalid or unenforceable.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the approval, passage and adoption of this Ordinance by the City Council and shall cause the same to be published in accordance with the City Charter; and thirty days from the final passage and adoption, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021

James T. Butts, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk