

APPROVED
JUN 04 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-163

DATE June 4, 2008

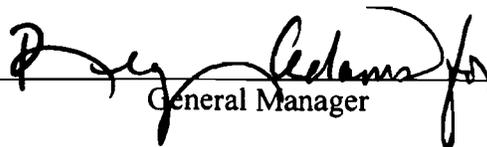
**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 63.44 B (14)(A) TO ALLOW PARK FACILITIES TO REMAIN OPEN FOR OPERATION AT PARK DIRECTORS' DISCRETION FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER THE NORMAL 10:30 P.M. CLOSING TIME (UNTIL MIDNIGHT) TO ACCOMMODATE DEPARTMENTALLY APPROVED EVENTS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS, SUCH AS FOR THE 2008 SUMMER NIGHT LIGHTS PROGRAM

R. Adams _____	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
* V. Israel _____	M. Shull _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board request the City Attorney to prepare and submit forthwith to the City Council an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44 B (14)(a) to provide discretion to the Directors of Recreation Centers within the Department of Recreation and Parks to keep a facility open for operation for up to an additional one and one-half hour after normal closing time (10:30 p.m.) until midnight, to accommodate any Departmentally approved event on an as-needed basis, such as for the 2008 Summer Night Lights Program.

SUMMARY:

Current City ordinance within the Los Angeles Municipal Code's Section 63.44 B (14)(a) requires City parks to be closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., while allowing Recreation Directors the discretion to keep parks open for an extra hour until 11:30 p.m. to accommodate any Departmentally approved event. However, on occasion, the Department requires the flexibility to extend park operations until midnight to provide enhanced public service for Department approved events, as in the case of the upcoming "Summer Nights Lights (SNL)" program.

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SNL is a new youth development program that the Department is offering to assist the City in meeting challenges related to reducing gang activity in the eight Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Zones identified in the Mayor's Gang Reduction Plan. SNL will operate from July 4 through September 1, 2008 as an eight week program designed to reach and engage at-risk youth ages 10 – 15 years in troubled areas by extending late evening sports programming during summer nights. SNL is modeled after the success of the summer 2007 "At the Park after Dark" program held at Glassell Recreation Center in Council District 13. For summer 2008, SNL will build upon current RAP resources within its youth development program, CLASS Parks (Clean and Safe Spaces) at the following locations within the eight Gang Zones: Cypress Recreation Center, Msgr. Ramon Garcia Recreation Center, Ramona Gardens Recreation Center, Glassell Park Recreation Center, Hubert H. Humphrey Recreation Center, Ross Snyder Recreation Center, Mount Carmel Recreation Center, and Jim Gilliam Recreation Center. Funding for the SNL programs at these facilities is being provided by non-profit organizations. In addition, Council District 13 recently notified the Department that it will provide funding for extended hours during the summer at Lemon Grove Recreation Center for similar additional programming for youth.

The SNL program is designed to build upon the assets, linkages and partnerships of various community based organizations that are working together toward the common goal of preventing gang violence by providing alternative activities for at-risk youth during evening hours. To that end, RAP is working with community based organizations and other City agencies to develop sports program components for SNL, including basketball and soccer leagues and clinics, and tennis instruction. An amendment to the ordinance would enable the Recreation Directors to legally operate their facilities on an event-by-event basis until 12:00 midnight, which will enable the Department to offer at-risk youth with positive activities during hours when many are most vulnerable to negative influences. Without an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44 B (14)(a) approved by City Council, the Department's impact on supporting the Mayor's Gang Reduction Plan will be minimized.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44 B (14)(a) will have no impact on the Department's General Fund for the 2008 Summer Night Lights Program. Potential future impacts will be determined on an event-by-event basis.

This report was prepared by Mary McFadden, Management Analyst II, CLASS Parks Program.