

BLUE FOLDER ITEM

Blue folder items are additional back up material to administrative reports and/or public comments received after the printing and distribution of the agenda packet for receive and file.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING September 1, 2020

H.9 ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. O-3204-20, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 4, CHAPTER 35 OF THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW DOGS IN SPECIFIED PARKS UNDER IMPOSED CONDITIONS. FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION.

CONTACT: JOHN LAROCK, COMMUNITY SERVICES
DIRECTOR

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette



ATTN: Email is from an external source; **Stop, Look, and Think** before opening attachments or links.

with gratitude,

Christian Horvath
Council Member, District 3
City of Redondo Beach

415 Diamond St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Tel: 310.372.1171, x-2767

Cell: 424.262.4471

Fax: 310.379.9268

Web: <http://christiananthonyhorvath.com>

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wendy G." [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette
Date: August 30, 2020 at 1:10:36 PM PDT
To: Horvath.RBD3@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Wendy G. [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 1:06 PM
Subject: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette
To: christian.horvath@redondo.org <christian.horvath@redondo.org>
Cc: <bill.brand@redondo.org>

Mr. Hovath,

A neighbor just told me the City Council is planning on approving dogs in the Parkettes at a meeting on Sept. 1. While I think it may be OK for dogs to be allowed in the regular parks, I think it's a bad idea for the dogs to be allowed in the Parkettes. Why? I have several reasons for this opinion.

I live across from the McNeill/Jaycee Parkette. I see people bring their dogs into the Parkette all of the time. We point out the signs and the dog owners say they don't feel like going the few blocks to the dog park. Then the dog owners get aggressive. Some neighbors have even had to call the police on a few dog owners. It wasn't pretty.

One might not think this is a problem, but it is one. Many of the dog owners DO NOT clean up the dog poop. I have stepped in it myself in our parkette. The nanny next-door stepped in piles of it on two separate days last week and one the previous week. I know other neighbors have stepped in it and I've seen nannies cleaning it off the children's shoes and clothes. It is not OK. The parkette isn't a public restroom for dogs and their owners who don't want to clean it up.

The Council can say the dog owners will clean up after their dogs, but we have seen just the opposite. We see it happening all of the time.

We have always had children playing in the McNeill/Jaycee Parkette. It has the only grass and trees in the neighborhood. The kids love it. Since Covid 19 struck, there has been a dramatic increase of nannies/ children in the park. We have seen lots of new children of all ages playing in the parkette. It's fine. They enjoy it. It's a safe place for them to play. Imagine them crawling in poop covered grass. Yes, it's true. We have seen the nannies have to clean the poop off babies' knees. If poop is a problem now with dogs not currently being allowed in the parkettes, how is it going to be when dogs are allowed?

Will the City come to the Parkette every day and clean up the poop? I don't think so. So how will it get cleaned up? Who will take care of the smell that permeates from the garbage cans on hot days? Who will provide the doggie bags? Who will provide the wipes for the children to wipe the poop off of them? What about the houses that surround the Parkette. Do you think they want to smell dog poop all day?

Did the Council send anyone to talk to the people who live next to the Parkettes? No. Did they research what is going on the parkettes right now with the current rules and all of the piles of dog poop? I don't think so. No one from our block was approached about it.

I know dogs need a place to run. They can run at the dog park or the larger parks. Letting them in the parkettes is a bad idea, especially at the McNeill/Jaycee Parkette. Our parkette, unlike some of the

others, has the houses right next to the wall of the parkette. There isn't a driveway or yard as a buffer to the smells.

I'll be honest, I like dogs. I grew up with dogs. Many dog owners are fine. But I don't like the dog owners who refuse to clean up after their dogs. And believe me, we have seen plenty of them in the McNeill/Jaycee Parkette.

Most important of all, the children deserve a clean safe environment to play. They deserve to have a patch of grass without poop all over. The children should come before the dogs any day, especially during this pandemic when the children have NO WHERE else to go.

What can we do to have the Parkettes removed from this possible new rule?

Thank You,

Wendy Gayner-Ongun

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Dogs Permitted in Parkette - Final Reading this Tuesday 9/1



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with gratitude,

Christian Horvath
Council Member, District 3
City of Redondo Beach

415 Diamond St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Ingrid Safraneck [REDACTED]
Subject: Dogs Permitted in Parkette - Final Reading this Tuesday 9/1
Date: August 31, 2020 at 3:02:41 PM PDT
To: horvath.rbd3@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Horvath,

I write to you as I'm just learning about this new ordinance (which seems to have only come back to the public light last minute without much time to get input from actual constituents before it's instituted).

As you may have probably heard from many of your constituents, the small parkettes on some streets are used for children to have an outdoor space to play, especially now in light of COVID-19 which limits the children from going anywhere else to socialize.

I personally live by the McNeil/Jaycee Parkette and know first hand how many small children frequent this parkette.

I feel that allowing dogs in the small parkettes could bring the City many a law-suit if, God forbid, a loose dog bites a child, or a child gets sick due to exposure to dog feces, fleas, ticks, etc.

Given the opportunity, I would vote unequivocally to NOT allow dogs in the small parkettes, however, since I don't get the privilege to vote, and for what I hear the council seems to be of the opinion that this is a "done deal", I would suggest that, in the absolute least, there be a completely separate and gated area for the dogs with crews stopping by daily to make sure it remains clean stocked with dog waste bags.

The questions I would like to ask are as follows:

- What committee or group brought this proposal to the table?
- Was input requested from constituents in the affected areas? Was their opinion considered as part of this process or was this done at the Council level without regard to how it would affect the constituents?
- Was any consideration given to the fact that there are storm drains right by these parkettes that will drain feces-infected water into the ocean?
- Who will be responsible for the cleanup and maintenance and how frequently would it happen?
- Was there a cost study done for this project?
- What amount is being budgeted for this project?

I would urge you to vote to NOT allow dogs in the small parkettes. If the City wants to do a test run they should be done in the larger parks first.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you consider all the input you're getting from your constituents and allow our voices to be heard at the meeting before this gets any further.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Safranek
Morgan Ln.

Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette



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Begin forwarded message:

From: R Ongun <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette
Date: August 31, 2020 at 1:58:47 PM PDT
To: Horvath.RBD3@gmail.com

Resending to your gmail email address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: R Ongun <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 1:54 PM
Subject: Dogs and McNeill/Jaycee Parkette
To: <christian.horvath@redondo.org>, <bill.brand@redondo.org>

Mr Hovath,

I am assuming that you are our district leader as councilman and representing the interest of the residents in Redondo Beach within the respective district.

Lately I have come to know that the City of RB will start allowing dogs in parkettes. I live across one and I know how it is being used today. Trust me when I say that parkettes and dog parks do not mix together well. The parkettes are used very differently in the neighborhood than what dog owners and other city people might think.

Parkettes have become a source of community meeting places in the age of Covid. Even prior to that, people used and continue to use it as a gathering place for special occasions--birthday parties, movies, etc.

I wish that you and others would go out and discuss this with the residents before you make such a drastic decision. We have a dog park in RB and it is a good one. People can easily use that. We need more places for people and not take away from people and give it to dogs.

I see major liabilities for the city if this decision moves forward:

- 1) People do not pick up after their dogs at parks. This is a well-known fact. Contamination as a result of left-behind poops is a major concern especially for West Nile disease.
- 2) Parkettes are used by mothers and nannies with little children. If parkettes are not well protected, the children will certainly be at risk.
- 3) Kids and dogs don't mix in well. What happens if a dog bites a child? Will the city assume the liability since this is happening on the City Property? What happens when kids step on a poop, fall and break a body part? will the City have the liability coverage for this?
- 4) Who will clean and maintain the grounds? Can we say "additional labor cost"?
- 5) It makes no sense period. You guys should go out in the neighborhood and just talk to the residents. I can assure you no one will think this is a good idea.

This decision should be simply abandoned and taken off the list of new initiatives for good.

I tried to keep this email short, but I can give you countless reasons why this is a bad idea.

Also, can you please let me know how many signatures needed from the RB residents on a petition not to move forward with this decision?

I welcome a civil conversation if one is required for additional info sharing. My contact info is below.

Refik Ongun



Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Dogs in parkettes ordinance



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with gratitude,

Christian Horvath
Council Member, District 3
City of Redondo Beach

415 Diamond St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Amy Luthra [REDACTED]
Subject: Dogs in parkettes ordinance
Date: August 31, 2020 at 10:18:11 PM PDT
To: horvath.rbd3@gmail.com, christian.horvath@redondo.org
Cc: bill.brand@redondo.org

Hi Christian,

I am not sure if I missed something but I heard you guys are signing an ordinance to allow dogs in parkettes in Redondo Beach?

I am not sure if this is true so please ignore my response if it is. However if it is true, please see below my absolute disagreement with this ordinance:

1) First off, I am concerned that no information or voting has been allowed on this issue. It is ridiculous that there has been discussion on this without asking the residents. Am I the only one who missed the memo on this? We never voted on this matter.

2) I am shocked that we are even considering this. I almost stepped in dog poop on my walk this evening. I have found dog poop in nearby parkettes on a few occasions. The responsible dog owners take their dogs for walks and keep bags with them to pick up after them. Yet there have been numerous times when dog and cat poop has been in our driveway. Are we really thinking it is a good idea for our kids to play in parkettes with dog poop?

3) This is a public health issue. We are in the middle of a pandemic. I do not think bringing dog poop where children play is a good idea. Plus, the parkettes are small and dogs could be aggressive. There should be designated green space for dogs where there are no kids.

4) There is already not much green space for kids in Redondo. The kids have not had access to a play structure since March due to the pandemic. I would like to not further crowd the little green space they have with dogs and dog poop.

5) Which parks or parkettes would this apply to? No information has been communicated.

6) I am concerned that we as a community are thinking more about dogs needs than our kids safety.

7) Given the fact that many dog owners even right now do not leash their dogs, are unable to control them and there is dog poop found all over the city, is there a reason we think they will all of a sudden become responsible in parkettes?

I can attach a picture of a dog caught pooping on my driveway if you would like. There was no owner around. I am certain lots of neighbors have such footage recorded on their security cameras. I know, these are rich people problems. But I grew up with poop everywhere in a third world country, and I have worked very hard to be able to provide a better community for my kids.

As a side note, it might surprise you to know, I am a huge animal lover and have devoted the last two decades to animal causes. And yet, I still do not think this ordinance is the responsible thing to do for our children. And as a reminder again, yes I nearly stepped in dog poop on my evening walk today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy

Sent from my iPhone

Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Automatic reply: My 2 Cents Worth



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with gratitude,

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Vickie Guillen [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: My 2 Cents Worth
Date: September 1, 2020 at 2:15:13 PM PDT
To: City - Gmail <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>

Hi Christian

Just voicing my opinion on allowing dogs in the parkettes.

I think dogs should be allowed in all Redondo Beach parks. Homeowners pay taxes on those parks to help fund them and maintain them. We should be allowed to have dogs in any park.

If someone does not have a leash on the dog or doesn't pick up after dog they should be ticketed and fined.

In the bigger parks if you do not want dogs around the children's playground area then

there should be signs showing the boundary lines. Homeowners who pay their taxes should be able to walk their leashed dogs in a park.

Right now we put the dogs into a car and drive to Torrance parks to walk them around.

If they do decide to allow them in a parkette, what will the dog owner do? Walk them around the perimeter of parkette X number of times to get 1 mile of exercise in. That's boring and ridiculous. It should be the other way around. Allow children in parkette so they can play ball, run around with their friends and allow everyone (dogs included) access to the parks.

Why can't we do like other cities? Access to everyone and dogs allowed while on a leash!

This is my 2 cents worth.

Vickie Guillen

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 1, 2020, at 1:27 PM, City - Gmail <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Vickie,

There is no message attached?

With gratitude,

Christian Horvath

Council Member, District 3, City of Redondo Beach

415 Diamond St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Tel: 310.372.1171, x-2767

Cell: 424.262.4471

Fax: 310.379.9268

Sent from iPhone - please excuse any autocorrect craziness.

On Sep 1, 2020, at 1:11 PM, Vickie Guillen
[REDACTED] wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christian Horvath
<Christian.Horvath@redondo.org>
Date: September 1, 2020 at 12:58:12 PM PDT
To: Vickie Guillen <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Automatic reply: My 2 Cents Worth

Thank you for sending your email. There is a good chance I did not receive it due to some technical issues. Please resend to Horvath.RBD3@gmail.com to ensure I get your email and can respond in a timely manner.

with gratitude,

Christian Horvath
Council Member, District 3 / Chair - South Bay Cities
Council of Governments

City of Redondo Beach
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Khatirah Nazif

From: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Eleanor Manzano; Vickie Kroneberger
Cc: John La Rock
Subject: Fwd: Dogs in McNeil/Jaycee Parkette



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Begin forwarded message:

From: kathy roberts <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Dogs in McNeil/Jaycee Parkette
Date: September 1, 2020 at 2:49:26 PM PDT
To: Christian Horvath <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>

Council Member Christian Horvath, District 3

Dear Mr. Horvath:

First of all, let us introduce ourselves. We have lived on Morgan Lane in Redondo Beach, adjacent to the McNeil/Jaycee Parkette, for 26 years. This has given us ample opportunity to observe what happens in this parkette, including the behavior of people who bring their dogs into this park (illegally).

We are writing in response to the Redondo Beach City Council's pending decision to allow dogs in the McNeil-Jaycee Parkette located on Morgan Lane. We are against that decision for the following reasons:

1. Our observation is that people do not pick up after their dogs. Period. They look around surreptitiously, and then quickly exit the parkette. Making it legal for dogs to be in the parkette is not going to change that behavior.
2. The dogs urinate—with all those attendant germs—in the parkette, and that cannot be picked up. This potentially harms the children using the parkette.
3. Dog owners will not keep their dogs on leashes. The very reason they are bringing their dogs to the parkette is to let them run around! We have seen many dogs running around in the parkette with their leashes trailing behind them—and very seldom seen an owner walking his or her dog around the parkette on a leash.
4. This parkette opens at 5:30 A.M. Given the facts Morgan Lane has 45 close together “tall and skinnies” on this street with a probable population density of 4 people per house (and that dog barking travels far), potentially 180 people will be disturbed early in the morning by these dogs barking. And let us be realistic. The owners will not keep these dogs on leash, but let them boisterously cavort and play in the parkette before the dogs are cooped up in the house all day while their owners go to work.

Note Bene: If this ordinance is passed, it is imperative that the parkette opening time be pushed back to 9 A.M. so as to not bother 180 or more sleeping neighbors.

5. What is the mechanism to ensure all dogs using the parkette are licensed and vaccinated? Who enforces this and how? Using valuable police resources? It is not a good idea to make rules that are difficult to enforce.
6. Additionally, we have observed many times dog owners opening the gate, letting their dogs loose, then shutting the gate with the owners on the outside of the parkette, and letting their dogs run around, urinate, and defecate at will. The only way to ensure this does not happen is to remove the gate. I recently retired as the corporate compliance officer for ICAN (California Abilities Network), an organization that works with developmentally and physically challenged adults. Our clients using wheelchairs and crutches would not be able to navigate opening and closing that gate, so I am thinking that gate is not ADA compliant and possibly not legal. I have noticed that Redondo Beach is doing a good job upgrading

other parkettes to be ADA compliant. In these litigious times, **please investigate this gate.**

Thank you very much for your hard work on behalf of the citizens of District 3. We greatly appreciate it.

Ric and Kathy Roberts

Morgan Lane

Khatirah Nazif

Subject: FW: Dog Ordinance

From: City - Gmail <horvath.rbd3@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 9:15 PM

To: Michele and Mark Oplatka [REDACTED]

Cc: Eleanor Manzano <Eleanor.Manzano@redondo.org>; Vickie Kroneberger <Vickie.Kroneberger@redondo.org>

Subject: Re: Dog Ordinance



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Michele,

I am forwarding to the city clerk for you as well. You will want to speak during the consent calendar if you can. If unable to - this email will get included in our blue folder items.

With gratitude,

Christian Horvath

Council Member, District 3, City of Redondo Beach

415 Diamond St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

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Sent from iPhone - please excuse any autocorrect craziness.

On Aug 31, 2020, at 8:48 PM, Michele and Mark Oplatka <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Christian,

I am planning to speak at the council meeting tomorrow night regarding dogs being permitted in the parkettes. I believe changing the trial period to be only for the large parks makes the most sense as the parkettes have direct, daily impact on the neighbors living nearby. A year is a long time to decide whether this was a good or bad decision.

I am sending my proposed speech in case technology issues prevent me from connecting to the Zoom meeting. If I not able to join the meeting, I would appreciate you sharing my thoughts.

Thanks! Michele Oplatka

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about the proposed rule change for dogs in parks and parkettes. I am in favor of permitting dogs in the larger parks where spacing allows children who are not comfortable with dogs to be able to play along with families and children who want their dog to be able to come to the park.

I do not think dogs in parkettes is a good decision for several reasons. First, parkettes are not very large. I live next to the McNeill/Jaycee parkette. The total area is maybe 3,000 square feet. It works well for one group of kids playing a game together. Spacing for a family with a dog and a family with a child not comfortable with a dog is not feasible to end up with 2 happy groups of people.

Another issue with the small size is that the grass is not likely to survive dogs using the parkette. Dog pee and grass are not compatible. This parkette typically has areas where the grass struggles to grow in a good rain year, in a drought year, half the grass is dead. Currently the number of visitors to the parkette is much higher than usual. I estimate an average of 30 – 40 people a day use the parkette, the majority are families with children under age 5.

Which brings me to quality of life issues. The parkette has a gate so once the gate is closed, the parkette is enclosed. This is why the parkette is popular with families with small children –children can explore without parents worrying about their child running into the street. This is also why it is popular with dog owners. The majority of dog owners follow the current rules and walk right past the parkette. The majority of dog owners who currently enter the parkette use it as their personal dog run – enter the parkette, close the gate, let their dog off leash. I know the rule change the City is proposing requires dogs to be on a leash. Who will be enforcing this rule? I expect it will certainly continue to be an issue since the current rule is ignored.

Noise is a concern especially in this parkette. It is surrounded on two sides by tall and skinny 2 story houses within 3 feet of the park walls, and a 2 story high cement retaining wall in the back because the street behind is higher than our street– it is basically an echo chamber. All 3 of the bedrooms in my house overlook the park. My neighbor across the parkette's master bedroom overlooks the parkette. I had to call the police at 1 am a few Saturday nights ago when I woke up to noise in the parkette. It also woke my neighbor.

Dog poop in the parkette is frequent with the current rule prohibiting dogs. It is unpleasant and a sanitation issue for people using the park, and unpleasant for those of us living next door to smell in our houses. How will the city address this issue? Will the city staff be coming by frequently to clean up and empty the trash can for those who do follow the rules? Currently trash is picked up when the lawn is mowed –every few weeks.

I ask the council to please reconsider the parkette portion of this rule change. The safety and use by children should be the first priority. Thank you.