

PSF-3.03 - Temporary Park Closures

TEMPORARY PARK CLOSURES

Administrative Rules Adopted by Police Bureau Pursuant to Rule-Making Authority

ARB-PSF-3.03

Section 1 - Policy

It shall be the policy of this Bureau that park closures will be instituted under this city ordinance only in those instances when the situation is beyond the control of available police resources to manage by arrest or exclusion of individuals. The situation must be serious and widespread before a park closure can occur.

Section 2 - Procedure

Members (as well as park officials) have the authority to close any city park, or any part thereof, if one or more of the following conditions exist in that park:

- a. Life or property appear to be endangered and other means cannot reasonable be utilized to eliminate the danger.
- b. The overcrowding of persons or vehicles has occurred so that necessary access for emergency assistance or emergency vehicles is unavailable.
- c. Park property or other property located near the park reasonably appears to be endangered.
- d. A hazardous or physically offensive state exists and is caused by sufficient numbers of persons so that other means of control cannot reasonably be utilized to eliminate the condition. Examples of these kinds of widespread behavior and conditions are:

1. Loud and unreasonable noise
2. Fighting
3. Violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior
4. Abusive, obscene language or gestures
5. Violation(s) of criminal offenses or ordinances

e. Other conditions which exist where the safety of persons or property cannot reasonably be assured.

When it has been determined that a park closure is necessary in the interests of public health, peace and safety, members shall relate the facts of the situation to a supervisor and obtain specific authorization to enforce a park closure. The supervisor who authorizes the closure shall notify the precinct commander of the closure.

The precinct commander shall then notify the Chief, through channels, of the closure and circumstances. The precinct commander shall also notify the Commissioner of the Park Bureau and the Supervisor of Parks that a decision has been made to close a park. Following closure, the supervisor who authorized the closure will write a Special Report. This report will detail the circumstances, which caused the decision to close the park. A copy of this report plus any appropriate attachments will be directed through channels to the Parks Bureau.

A park closure instituted under City Code 20.12.215 will remain in effect only for the length of time necessary to preserve the public health, peace and safety. In no event will a park closure extend beyond eighteen (18) hours without written approval of the Commissioners of the Police Bureau and the Parks Bureau. Such a request for an extension will be made by the involved precinct commander, through channels.

Section 3 - References

City Codes 20.12.215 and 20.12.210 Normal Park Hours and Exceptions

HISTORY

Submitted for inclusion in PPD March 6, 2002.

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