

City of Culver City, California  
**City Council Agenda Item Report**

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| Meeting Date: 8/14/06                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  | Item Number: <u>A-2</u>                                                                           |  |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM: Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(A), and Adding Subchapter 9.10.600, of the Culver City Municipal Code Relating to Allowing Dogs on Leashes on Designated Dog Paths in Certain City Parks; and Adoption of a Resolution Designating Certain Pathways or Walkways of Certain Public Parks as “Pooch Paths.”</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Contact Person/Dept.: William La Pointe and Heather Iker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Phone Number: (310) 253-6655                                                                      |  |
| Fiscal Impact: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | General Fund: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>                 |  |
| Public Hearing: <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | Action Item: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Public Notification: Master Notification List on 8/10/06; all businesses and residents within a 300-foot radius of Culver West Park were notified via postcard (8/4/06).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| Department Approval:<br>Bill La Pointe (08/03/06)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (08/09/2006)                                              |  |
| City Controller Approval:<br>Marlee Chang (08/09/2006)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                                   |  |
| <p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b></p> <p>Staff recommends the City Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Introduce an Ordinance (Attachment 1) amending sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(a), and adding subchapter 9.10.600, of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to allowing dogs on leashes on designated dog paths in certain City Parks; and,</li><li>2) Adopt a Resolution (Attachment 2) designating certain pathways or walkways of certain public parks as “Pooch Paths.”</li></ol> <p><b><u>BACKGROUND:</u></b></p> <p>In the recent past there has been community discussion regarding whether or not to allow dogs in parks within Culver City so long as they are leashed. At the Parks and Recreation Commission’s request, staff brought a proposed pilot program to allow dogs on leashes in Culver West Park for a period of ninety days before the City Council at their July 25, 2005 meeting (Attachment 3). During the public comment portion of the meeting, Culver West Park Neighborhood residents expressed their concerns about having to go out of their way and walk long distances in order to get to the streets and roadways on the other sides of the park in order to avoid crossing the park while walking their dogs. In response to citizens’ concerns, an alternative motion was brought forward by Council and Council directed staff to come back with</p> |  |                                                                                                   |  |

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a plan to allow dogs to pass through Culver West Park when leashed and under the control of a responsible party and so long as the dogs remained on concrete walks and not in the grass (5-0).

On August 17 2005, a site visit to Culver West Park was made by Parks and Recreation Commissioner (now Chair) Vicki Daly Redholtz, PRCS Director William La Pointe, Deputy City Attorney Heather Iker, Scott Malsin (now Council member), acting as the representative of the Culver West Park Neighborhood Association, and Patricia Mooney, PRCS Senior Management Analyst. During that visit, various options for the location for the "Pooch Path" were discussed. The consensus of the group was that the best way to allow dogs to pass through the park would be to give community members who are out walking dogs access to the other streets and walkways along those streets via the sidewalk from Mc Connell Boulevard through the pass through easement to the park to the north of the tot lot and on to Wade and Moore Streets (Attachment 4).

The advantages of having the path in this location were discussed at the October 4, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting (Attachment 5). These advantages were as follows:

1. Convenience – The sidewalk leads directly from the McConnell Boulevard walkway on the east of the Park to the Wade Street easement on the north. The Wade Street easement is easily accessed by those in the surrounding neighborhood, either by car or on foot.
2. Appropriate surface – Council indicated that concrete should be required for the "Pooch Path."
3. Relatively inexpensive signage – In addition to the appropriate standard signage citing the associated Ordinance, paw prints painted on the sidewalk will be the only other cost associated with marking the path for the public.

At that meeting Commissioner Deen asked about the additional cost if a fence were to be constructed along the playground to protect children in the playground area from the dogs passing by with their owners. It was subsequently determined by staff that such a fence could be included as part of the grant-funded Culver West Alexander Park Improvement Project (P-835). Updates on the status of legal issues related to the "Pooch Path" were given to the Parks and Recreation Commission by Deputy City Attorney Heather Iker at its January 3 and February 7, 2006 meetings.

## **DISCUSSION**

It was recommended by the City Attorney's Office that the most appropriate way to designate a "Pooch Path" at a specific park within Culver City (in this case, Culver

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West Alexander Park), would be to amend the Culver City Municipal Code to exempt the use of a “Pooch Path” from the prohibition against dogs in parks, and to adopt a Resolution designating certain pathways or walkways of certain public parks as “Pooch Paths.” Designating a “Pooch Path” at Culver West Alexander Park by Resolution, as opposed to amending the Municipal Code to specifically designate such “Pooch Path”, gives the Council the flexibility to designate “Pooch Paths” in other parks within Culver City should they desire to do so.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

Costs associated with designating the route as a “Pooch Path” are expected to be approximately \$500.00 for sign, paint and stencils (PRCS Parks Account 10133100.514100 – Departmental Special Supplies). Staff time devoted to the project will be approximately five hours (PRCS Parks Account 10133100.411100).

The cost of a fence between the “Pooch Path” and the children’s playground at Culver West Alexander Park has yet to be determined. This fence is still under consideration, with any expenses being included in the Culver West Park Improvement Project (42300835.730100 – Improvements Other Than Building).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Ordinance
2. Proposed Resolution
3. Excerpt of the minutes of the July 25, 2005 City Council Meeting
4. Map of proposed Culver West Park “Pooch Path”
5. Excerpt of the minutes of the October 4, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

**MOTION:**

That the City Council:

1. Introduce an Ordinance amending sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(a), and adding subchapter 9.10.600, of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to allowing dogs on leashes on designated dog paths in certain City Parks; and,
2. Adopt a Resolution designating certain pathways or walkways of certain public parks as “Pooch Paths.”

OR

3. Discuss the item and provide further direction to staff.