

RESOLUTION NO. 2190-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (OCPS), WHERE APPLICABLE, MAKE ITS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC OUTSIDE OF NORMAL OPERATING HOURS AND AT OTHER APPROPRIATE TIMES, IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES; MAKING FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH BENEFITS AND OTHER MATTERS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City finds that children and adults of all ages within the City, State, and Nation are faced with a serious health threat in the form of an epidemic of inactivity and childhood and adult obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness and the Council on School Health have stated in a joint policy statement, published in *Pediatrics*, Vol. 117, No. 5, May 2006 (the "Policy Statement"), that "the current epidemic of inactivity and the associated epidemic of obesity are being driven by multiple factors (societal, technological, industrial, commercial, financial) and must be addressed likewise on several fronts. Foremost among these are the expansion of school physical education, dissuading children from pursuing sedentary activities, providing suitable role models for physical activity, and making activity-promoting changes in the environment"; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Statement further states that "physical activity needs to be promoted at home, in the community, and at school, but school is perhaps the most encompassing way for all children to benefit"; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that exercise and the opportunity to participate in physical recreation are essential to the health and development of children and adults of all ages by promoting physical fitness, staving off and reducing obesity and substantially reducing other adverse health conditions, encouraging habits that contribute to a healthy long-term lifestyle, and by teaching lessons that contribute to a strong character; and

WHEREAS, the City's municipal recreational facilities are a tremendous resource for area residents, though much of the time they are reserved by different youth groups (e.g., soccer, lacrosse, football, etc...) for organized play; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City, especially the youth, would benefit in numerous ways from additional playing fields and playgrounds to enjoy spontaneous, cardiovascular and aerobic activity; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that fields, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities (the “Recreational Facilities”) owned by or located on property owned or controlled by the Orange County Public School District (“OCPS”) represent a great untapped resource for encouraging children and adults of all ages to get more exercise; and

WHEREAS, the Recreational Facilities are typically closed to the public and remain unused outside of normal school operating hours, including on weekends and during the summer; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that making the Recreational Facilities available for public use outside of normal operating hours would be consistent with the recommendations of the Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness and the Council on School Health, which emphasize the importance of promoting physical activity within the community and at school, with a particular emphasis on the role of schools; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that allowing the Recreational Facilities to sit idle and unused for large stretches of time represents a waste of publicly-funded resources, to which residents contribute via payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the media has reported that in recent years, a number of Orange County schools have cut back on recess time, resulting in less physical activity for students during the day, and the City hereby finds that making the Recreational Facilities available outside of normal operating hours would help to remedy such issue; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that erecting fences around the publicly funded playing fields and playgrounds, creates not only a physical barrier between residents and their local schools, but mental and emotional barriers as well; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that allowing public use of the Recreational Facilities would be consistent with OCPS’s Local School Wellness Policy, according to which, “Schools shall support students in establishing and accomplishing personal fitness goals that result in the achievement and maintenance of a health-enhancing level of physical fitness,” and “Schools shall provide students varied opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction that will lead to a physically active lifestyle.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSIONON OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FL. THAT:

1. **SECTION 1. Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are hereby confirmed as being true and correct and are adopted as a material part of this Resolution.

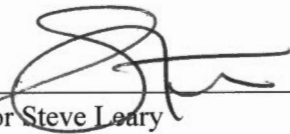
2. **SECTION 2. Request to OCPS.** The City hereby requests that OCPS take the steps necessary to make the Recreational Facilities available for public recreational use, outside of normal hours of operation, including on weekends, during the summer, and at other appropriate times, in order to

promote the public health as described in this Resolution. The City invites OCPS to communicate and coordinate with City staff to help adopt policies, programs, and actions consistent with this Resolution.

3. **SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the date of its adoption.

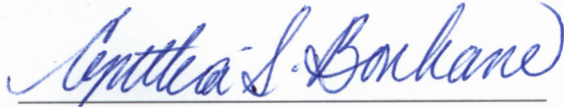
ADOPTED this 14th day of August, 2017, by the City Commission of Winter Park, FL.

CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF WINTER PARK, FL



Mayor Steve Leary

ATTEST:



Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk

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