



Legislation Text

File #: 12-0106, **Version:** 2

Recommendation to declare ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code by amending Sections 16.16.015 and 16.16.017, all relating to skateboarding, read and adopted as read.
(Districts 1,2,4,5,6,9)

In 2004, the Houghton Park skatepark was opened to the public and the City Council approved Section 16.16.017 of the Long Beach Municipal Code, which created a one-year trial period for the coexistence of skateboard riders and bicycle motocross (BMX) riders only at the Houghton Park skatepark. During the trial period, there were no incidents, injuries, or conflicts of any kind reported, and both skateboard riders and BMX riders peacefully and safely coexisted. However, when the one-year trial period expired in 2005, it was never formally extended. Therefore, for the last several years, any BMX rider in a City skatepark has technically been in violation of the law and subject to citation, although a ban on bikes and other apparatus in the skateparks has not been actively enforced.

Since 2004, five additional skateparks have been built throughout the City, at 14th Street Park, Bixby Park, Drake Park, El Dorado Park West, and Orizaba Park, with a new skatepark at Ernest S. McBride, Sr. Park under construction. In addition to skateboards and BMX bikes, the use of the skateparks by other types of non-motorized recreational apparatus with wheels, such as in-line skates and scooters, has increased dramatically. All of these different types of non-motorized recreational apparatus have peacefully and safely coexisted in the City's skateparks.

At its August 18, 2011 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved a recommendation to the City Council to amend the Municipal Code to allow non-motorized recreational apparatus with wheels in City skateparks, as compatible with state law, for a one-year trial period.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is requesting a revision to Sections 16.16.015 and 16.16.017 of the Municipal Code to allow the use of non-motorized recreational apparatus with wheels in all City skateparks for a one-year trial period. At the end of the one-year trial period, if all riders continue to peacefully and safely coexist, all riders will then be allowed to permanently use City skateparks, which will cause Section 16.16.017 to be eliminated, and Section 16.16.015 to define the law. All riders must comply with park safety by wearing helmets and elbow and knee pads at all times. In addition, in order to comply with state law, the amended section would require that "children under the age of fourteen (14) are not permitted to use skateparks without adult supervision."

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Gary J. Anderson on October 21, 2011, and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on October 26, 2011.

City Council action is requested on February 7, 2012, in order to implement the Ordinance in a timely manner.

Adoption of the Ordinance will result in minimal costs associated with updating the existing signage

at each location to reflect the applicable municipal code. Sufficient funding is available in the General Fund (GP) in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR). There is no impact to jobs associated with the recommended action.

Approve recommendation.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTIONS 16.16.015 AND 16.16.017, ALL RELATING TO SKATEBOARDING.

GOERGE CHAPJIAN
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

JIM McDONNELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER