

ORDINANCE NO. 180855

Amending Chapter 53, Code of Ordinances, by enacting new Sections 53-8 and 53-9, for the purpose of providing Park Rangers with the authority to issue General Ordinance Summons (GOS) and Uniform Traffic Tickets (UTT) within City parks, community centers and park property and other park ranger powers and duties.

WHEREAS, the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners goals are to provide a broad range of safe, enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all visitors, to protect and preserve parks and natural resources and foster stewardship through education and information sharing; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 170387 which instituted hours for parks and directed the City Manager to work with the Parks Board to create a team to develop strategies to address crime and the perception of crime in parks; and

WHEREAS, a Task Force was formed and consisted of members from the City Manager's Office, the Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation, KCPD, the Law Department and the Health Department and developed a plan as directed by Council; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation Number 3 of the Safety Plan was for the development of a park ranger program to educate park users on park rules and to intervene when necessary in combination with off-duty Kansas City, Missouri Police Department officers as needed for enhanced security; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the concern of the City Council regarding the safety and accessibility of the City's parks and trail system, the Parks Board passed a resolution on October 16, 2018, recommending that the City Council of Kansas City pass an ordinance regarding the Park Ranger program; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That Chapter 53, Code of Ordinances of the City of Kansas City, Missouri, is hereby amended by enacting new Sections 53-8 and 53-9, to read as follows:

Section 53-8. Park Rangers

The Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department Park Rangers ("Park Rangers") shall assist the Director of Parks and Recreation in the security, control, management and protection of all Kansas City, Missouri parks, park property, boulevards, roadways within the parks, community centers and all wildlife and natural/cultural resources of the park.

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, when used in this section, shall be defined as follows:

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- (1) *Parks Property* includes all parks, park property, boulevards, roadways within the parks, community centers and all wildlife and natural/cultural resources of the park.
 - (2) *Park Ranger* means a security officer employed by the Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation Department who shall hold a Class A, patrol agent, license issued by the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Police Commissioners.
 - (3) *Director* means the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or his or her designee.
- (b) *Authority of Park Rangers on park property.*
- (1) Pursuant to authority of Revised Missouri State Statutes Sections 84.420 and 84.720, park rangers of the parks and recreation department that meet the standards of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners and procure a Class A patrol agent security license from the Police Board are hereby authorized to police parks property.
 - (2) Upon observing any violation of the city ordinances, park rangers are authorized to take such action as is necessary to stop such violation of the city ordinances or of the laws of the state of Missouri or of the United States and may detain the violator for disposition by the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (c) *Duties of the park ranger upon parks property.*
- (1) To issue written citations including general ordinance summons or uniform traffic tickets to persons violating the provisions chapters 4, 10, 14, 46, 50, 62, 64, 70 and 72 of the Code of Ordinances upon park property;
 - (2) To provide for the safety and security of visitors to and users of the city parks and recreation facilities and protection of public parks and recreation property and facilities;
 - (3) To remove any person from park property in violation of any law, or the rules and regulations of the director of parks and recreation, or in any other way endangering the safety or property of others;
 - (4) To remove a motor vehicle or trailer parked in violation of any city ordinance relating to the parking of a motor vehicle or a trailer or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to do so;

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- (5) To direct all traffic by voice, hand or signal in conformance with traffic laws, provided that, in the event of a fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or to safeguard pedestrians;
- (6) To take reasonable steps to obtain needed medical, rescue or other emergency assistance in the event of emergencies involving illness or injury, or danger to life;
- (7) To assist the police department as needed and as requested; and
- (8) To carry out such responsibilities as are commensurate with their status as Class A Patrol Agents.

(d) *Administrative duties.* The director is hereby directed to administer all aspects of the park rangers' operations and to coordinate with all applicable city departments and state agencies in matters related to park rangers commissioning, certification, duties, responsibilities, functions, training and operational procedures

Sec. 53-9. Obedience to park ranger.

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any park ranger in the performance of the duty of that ranger.

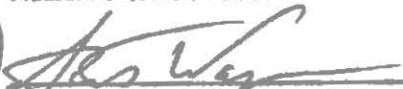
Approved as to form and legality:



805 Lana K. Torczon
Assistant City Attorney



Authenticated as Passed



Sly James, Mayor



Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

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Date Passed