



CITY COUNCIL
Linda Maio

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 25, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Linda Maio

SUBJECT: Dog Owner Education, Cesar Chavez Park

RECOMMENDATION:

Request the City Manager to look into the development of a dog owner education program at Cesar Chavez Park as to the designated on-leash and off-leash areas using volunteers who would be eligible for a small stipend.

BACKGROUND:

Violations of the on-leash and off-leash areas continue to occur. Recently it was reported that an off-leash dog bounded into the burrowing owl protected area which is not only off-limits to dogs but is fenced to protect the owls. Many people do not realize what the boundaries are as they are not visible, like a fence would be. I have received complaints from walkers and joggers as well as seniors and those with small children.

What is envisioned is a kiosk or table at each of the two entries to the park, established for a few hours a day, several days a week. Knowledgeable volunteers would greet dog owners at the entries, talk about why the two different areas were established, and stress that we want to keep the park multi-use. Owners would be entreated to adhere to the stipulated boundaries and also not to risk a citation (citation references are posted at the park). The program could be tried for 3-6 months and be evaluated for its effectiveness at any time. Volunteers would have a badge and function a lot like the Ambassadors. They could get a small stipend for their efforts. The outreach would be both friendly and educational.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

No environmental sustainability impact.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Estimate could be as much as \$10,000.

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