

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Barron, City Manager

FROM: Stacie Anaya, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: February 19, 2020

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing: Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting Camp Standards of Care in Compliance with Texas Administrative Code 745.115(3) Municipal for Recreational Camp Programs.**

BACKGROUND

The Parks & Recreation Department conducts up to twelve one-week summer camps and several one week and one day holiday camps during LISD school breaks for ages 6 to 12 and ages 13 to 15 at City and LISD facilities; an Xtreme Response Camp for ages 12 to 15; a Spring Break Eco Adventure Camp for ages 9 to 12 at LLELA; and three one-week summer camps for ages 7 to 12 at LLELA.

ANALYSIS

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) regulates various child day-care operations including listed family homes, registered child-care homes, licensed child-care homes, child-care centers, employer-based childcare, shelter care, before or after school programs and school- age programs. A review of each of these categories of day-care facilities shows that these facilities are either on-going through the school year or designed to provide daily on-going child-care or exist for more than a three-week period. Camps operated by a municipality and other designated entities are exempt from these standards and regulations that are directed towards facilities that operate on a daily on-going basis. The proposed standards of care provide all the necessary controls and rules that the state deems necessary for a program of a very limited duration such as a camp.

Under the Texas Human Resources Code 42.041 (b)(14) and DFPS Rules, 40 TAC 745.115(3), the exemption is provided for certain municipal recreation programs for youth ages 5 to 13 when the following criteria are met:

- Governing body of the municipality annually adopts standards of care by ordinance after a public hearing;
- Ordinance includes at a minimum: staffing ratios; staff qualifications; facility, health and safety standards; and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing the adopted local standards;
- Standards of care are provided to the parents of each program participant;
- The program cannot be advertised as a child-care facility; and

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- Parents must be informed that the program is not licensed with the State of Texas as a child-care operation.

The Texas Administrative Code requires the Council's adoption of the standards of care ordinance each year. The proposed standards are updated to adjust the minimum age for Camp Play attendees, updating the definition of camps to include youth after school programs, adjusting the minimum age of camp counselors to 16 and camp leaders to 18, and adjusted language to allow camp staff to provide more comprehensive first aid care.

The most significant change to the Camp Standards of Care this year is adjusting the minimum age for camp counselors from 18 to 16 years of age and camp leaders from 21 to 18 years of age. Each year it is a challenge to find interested and qualified candidates who want to work with our camp participants. During the same hiring time frame, Aquatics is recruiting and hiring over 70 seasonal aquatics team members. The minimum age to hire a seasonal lifeguard for the City is 16 and the minimum age for a seasonal pool manager is 18. In reviewing the responsibilities of the seasonal aquatics and camp team members, adjusting the age requirements for the camp team positions is consistent with hiring elsewhere in the division.

RECOMMENDATION

City staff recommends City Council approve the ordinance as set forth in the caption above.