



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 6

Agenda Date: June 28, 2024

In Control: Public Safety Committee

DEPARTMENT: Center City Development & Operations

DEPARTMENT HEAD: John Jacks

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action for consideration of removing Hemisfair Park from the list of City parks not subject to an 11 pm to 5:00 am curfew under Section 22-28 of the City Code.

SUMMARY:

Hemisfair Park is currently open 24 hours. This briefing and possible action will open consideration of whether to have operating hours for Hemisfiar park by removing Hemisfair Park from the list of parks not subject to an 11 pm to 5 am curfew under Section 22-28 of the City Code.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 22-28 of the City Code establishes an 11 pm to 5 am curfew for most city parks, with the exceptions of Woodlawn Lake Park which closes at midnight and Hemisfair Park, Alamo Plaza, Market Square, La Villita, and the River Walk between Josephine Street and Eagleland Drive, which are listed as 24-hour parks. Public parks may be used for special events and/or holiday use between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on any day with the prior written approval of the

Parks and Recreation Director through the issuance of a special events permit or holiday declaration.

Currently, anyone found in a City park during non-operating hours may receive a citation under Section 22-28(f), while parks, like Hemisfair Park, which is excepted from the curfew hours allows 24-hour access to the public.

HPARC, who operates Hemisfair Park under a management agreement with the City, has adopted operating hours that close Hemisfair Park at midnight. However, because Hemisfair Park falls under an exception to the 11 pm curfew, HPARC's curfew cannot be enforced by a citation.

ISSUE:

Hemisfair Park tenants and downtown residents have expressed security concerns for activity in the park after hours. In response to these concerns, a plan to evaluate removing Hemisfair Park from the list of 24-hour parks will be discussed. The Parks and Recreation Department, Center City Operations and Police Department will collaborate to develop a recommendation for City Council consideration.

This plan will seek input from users of the park and neighborhoods in close proximity, as well as the City's Parks and Recreation Board. The recommendation will be brought forward to the City Council for consideration in August/September 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

To be determined as the recommendations are developed.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Staff collect community input and develop a recommendation for the full City Council to consider removing Hemisfair Park from the list of 24-hour parks to mitigate public safety risks.