



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

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**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL                      DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2018**

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY                      WARDS: ALL**  
**SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: ORDINANCE AMENDING RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9.08.110 –**  
**PARK HOURS AND CLOSURE TO REVISE THE PARK CLOSURE HOURS TO**  
**10 P.M. TO 5 A.M. FOR DEVELOPED PARKS AND A HALF HOUR AFTER**  
**SUNSET TO A HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE FOR UNDEVELOPED PARKS**

**ISSUE:**

Introduce and subsequently adopt the attached Ordinance amending Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 9.08.110 - Park Hours and Closure to revise the park closure hours to 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for developed parks and a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise for undeveloped parks.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council introduce and subsequently adopt the attached Ordinance amending Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 9.08.110 – Park Hours and Closure to revise the park closure hours to 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for developed parks and a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise for undeveloped parks.

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 20, 2016, City Council approved the revision of Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) chapter 9.08.110, through a comprehensive RMC update performed by the City of Riverside. Park hours were changed to 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. as a result of the update. Due to park patrons utilizing parks during early morning hours, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) decided to re-evaluate park hours. Based off of a review of ten cities, PRCSD decided to update park closing hours to 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for developed parks and a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise for undeveloped parks. The difference of park closure hours are due to the differences in lighting at the two types of park. Developed parks have the lighting infrastructure for park users to utilize the park safely during early morning hours. The proposed changes were presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on June 18, 2018 and no negative feedback was received.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff recommends an additional update to RMC Chapter 9.02.110 to amend park closing hours to 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for developed parks and half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise for undeveloped and natural parks.

Counters at Mt. Rubidoux indicate that on average there are 50 individuals accessing the trails as early as 5 a.m. on a daily basis. The parking for Mt. Rubidoux is located at Ryan Bonaminio Park at the Tequesquite Arroyo. Also, recent police activity has indicated park patrons utilizing other parks for early morning exercise before 6 a.m. Due to this observed increase in positive use of parks, such as for exercise during early morning hours, staff recommends amending park closure times to allow for citizens to utilize parks earlier without violating the RMC.

Staff updated the survey of park closure times for ten cities in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. While results vary, 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. for developed parks and half hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise for undeveloped and natural parks appear to be reasonable closing times and similar to other cities’ regulations. See a summary of survey results below:

<b>City</b>	<b>Park Closure Times</b>
Anaheim	10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
Corona	10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
Fontana	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
Irvine	10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
Moreno Valley	10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Murrieta	Sunset to Sunrise
Orange	11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
Rancho Cucamonga	10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
San Bernardino	10:00 pm to 6:00 am
Temecula	Dusk to Dawn

On December 11, 2018, PRCSD will return to City Council for adoption of the attached Ordinance approving the proposed changes to RMC Chapter 9.08.110. If adopted, the Parks Division will install signs in phases and temporarily utilize a sticker that is placed over the sign with the new park hours. Sign replacement will cost an estimated \$87 per a sign for a total of \$26,100 to replace 300 signs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact of this action is estimated at \$26,100 for park signage. Sufficient funding is available in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department’s current operating budget Professional Services account 5215000-421000.

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director  
 Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Interim Chief Financial Officer / City Treasurer  
 Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager  
 Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Ordinance