



City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota

Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Sq Dr NE
Blaine MN 55449

Legislation Text

File #: WS 22-076, **Version:** 1

Workshop Item *Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief*

Title

Proposed Ordinance Amendments - Conduct in Public Parks/Street Racing

Background

Staff recently shared a proposal for two ordinance amendments, one to address behaviors that create disturbances to the public, particularly at the beach, and another to address the increase of exhibition driving and street racing. To quickly address concerns that may occur at the beach an emergency ordinance has been included on the regular Council meeting agenda later this evening. The proposed amendment for street racing will be moved forward for consideration through the regular process, but staff is requesting feedback on both topics at this time to move the items forward.

As Council is aware, we have a history of behaviors at the beach that are problematic and create disturbances to the public. In consultation with the city attorney and after review of existing ordinances, staff found a need for an ordinance amendment in key areas. Currently, if someone needs to be removed from a park due to behavior, we cannot trespass them as it is a city park and we currently do not have an existing ordinance allowing for that process. The only option would be to request a ban from the park from a judge as part of an ongoing criminal process, which would be a long, untimely process. Additionally, although city code allows for closure of a park, the code is lacking strength and clarity. Staff is recommending both items be addressed by adopting an emergency ordinance as allowed by city charter.

The second amendment will help address exhibition driving/street racing, which has continued to increase throughout the metro area as well as Blaine. The problems that arise generally do not occur with car shows and gatherings with street rods but rather with groups who are reckless, damage property, and have been involved with violence. Currently, the tools available to address the concerns are limited and this ordinance would provide a measure to address the concerns more effectively.

Staff Recommendation

Staff is requesting Council input on the two proposed amendments.

Attachment List

Draft ordinances