

South Portland City Council
Position Paper of the City Manager

Subject:

ORDER #9-17/18 – Amending ORDER #141-05/06 designating certain areas as “Safe Zones” under State law. Passage requires majority vote.

Position:

Effective September 15, 2005, Maine law allows municipalities to designate certain areas within its borders as “Safe Zones”, which by definition include athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, or any public place where minors frequent. The purpose of designating these areas is to protect children by ensuring a greater penalty can be given to anyone caught dealing drugs within 1,000 feet.

I have attached a memorandum from Police Chief Ed Googins regarding the amendment of ORDER #141-05/06. He would like to add Sawyer Park and Ridgeland Heights to the City’s list of parks, athletic fields, recreational facilities etc. that are designated as “Safe Zones.” In addition, Willard Park should be changed to Santo “Sam” DiPietro Memorial Park (ORDER #86-16/17). Chief Googins will be at Monday’s meeting to answer any questions.

Requested Action:

Council passage of Order #9-17/18.



City Manager



POLICE DEPARTMENT

EDWARD J. GOOGINS
CHIEF OF POLICE

AMY J. BERRY
DEPUTY CHIEF

To: Scott Morelli, City Manager
From: Edward J. Googins, Chief of Police
Date: June 30, 2017
Reference: Designating Sawyer Park a Safe Zone

In March of 2006, the South Portland City Council enacted ORDER #141-05/06 which designated the City's major parks as "Safe Zones" under State Law 30-A M.R.S.A. subsection 3253, An Act to Protect Children Using Maine's Athletic Fields and Parks from Drug Dealers. This order was amended on September 17, 2012 (ORDER #35-12/13) when five additional locations were added. Since then Ridgeland Heights has been created and with the planned installation of a children's playscape at Sawyer Park on Main Street at Westbrook Street I would ask that these also be designated "Safe Zones" as well. Finally, it should be noted that Willard Park, which is already on the list, should be changed to Santo "Sam" DiPietro Memorial Park (ORDER #86-16/17).

I request these items be placed on a future Council agenda for action.



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

PATRICIA A. SMITH
Mayor

SCOTT T. MORELLI
City Manager

EMILY F. SCULLY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

**IN CITY COUNCIL
ORDER #9-17/18**

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend Council Order #141-05/06, as approved on March 20, 2006, to provide as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 415 of the 122nd Legislature, First Special Session 2005 established heightened penalties for drug-related crimes committed on athletic fields, parks, playgrounds or recreational facilities designated by municipalities as “safe zones;” and

WHEREAS, a municipality may designate as a “safe zone” any area that is frequented by minors; and

WHEREAS, any area designated as a “safe zone” must be conspicuously marked as such with an informational sign using wording provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of South Portland has a number of athletic fields, parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities frequented by minors;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby ORDERED, that the following athletic fields, parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities frequented by minors are hereby designated as safe zones:

- Anthoine Creek Park
- Bug Light Park
- Cash Corner Park
- Clarks Pond
- Fisherman’s Point
- Arvin “Ge” Erskine Park
- Greenbelt Walkway
- Greenbelt Extension
- High/Sawyer Park
- Hinckley Park
- Legere Park
- Mill Creek Park
- Public Tennis Courts
- Ridgeland Heights
- Santo “Sam” DiPietro Memorial Park
- Sawyer Park
- School Street Park

District One
CLAUDE V. Z. MORGAN

District Two
PATRICIA A. SMITH

District Three
EBEN C. ROSE

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
BRAD FOX

At Large
MAXINE R. BEECHER

At Large
SUSAN J. HENDERSON

South Portland Municipal Golf Course
Spring Point Shoreway
Thomas Knight Park
Wainwright Farm Recreation Area
Willard Beach
~~Willard Park~~
Wilkinson Park

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Manager be and hereby is ORDERED to cause all of the above-named safe zones to be conspicuously marked as such with an informational sign using wording provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Fiscal Note: Less than \$1,000

Date: July 10, 2017