

Proposed: 2/21/2023

ORDINANCE NO. 028-2023(CRR), *First Reading*

By: Councilwoman Russell

An Ordinance amending Subsection (a) of Section 505.06, "Animals Prohibited in Public Parks," of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to permit leashed dogs in the City's Parks under specified conditions.

WHEREAS, Section 505.06 of the Codified Ordinances prohibit the possession of domestic animals in the City's Public Parks; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has been studying the issue and reviewing policies in other communities, and has recommended that the City permit leashed dogs in parks with specified conditions; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that it would be beneficial to the City and its residents to permit leashed dog-walking in City Parks under such conditions.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Subsection (a) of Section 505.06 of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Cleveland Heights which presently reads:

**505.06 ANIMALS PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC PARKS**

(a) No person shall take, lead, or have in his possession any animal in any public park located within the City.

shall be and hereby amended so that henceforth said Subsection shall read as follows:

**505.06 ANIMALS PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PLACES**

(a) No person shall take, lead, or have in his possession any animal upon the grounds of any public park located within the City with the exception of licensed dogs kept on a leash of no more than six feet, properly cared for and cleaned up after, kept under the control of the owner at all times, and which do not enter into any playground area, tennis court, ball field, basketball court, picnic shelter, swimming pool premises, splash park, community garden, sledding hill, or area planted with flowers, shrubs or decorative vegetation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Mayor may declare dogs to be prohibited during public events in the parks such as the Cain Park Arts Festival, theatrical and musical performances, and other temporary events typically associated with crowds of people provided signs are erected and maintained at the entrances to the Park during the prohibited times.

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SECTION 2. Current Subsection (a) of Section 505.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights as it existed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance shall be, and is hereby, repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

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MELODY JOY HART  
President of Council

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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor