



**RECREATION DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Free Speech Zones at City Events and Programs			
Effective Date:		Revision Date:	
Leisure Services Administrator Approval:			
Deputy City Manager Approval:			
City Attorney Approval:			
City Manager Approval:			

PURPOSE

To provide direction on handling free speech activities at City events and programs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all City properties and facilities. Prior approval is not required unless the political activity meets the requirements of the Public Assembly permitting process as required by City Ordinance and/or operating policy. Political activity includes, but is not limited to, speech, petition gathering, solicitation, and campaigning.

PROCEDURE

Free Speech Zones ("FSZ") will be clearly identified within the boundaries of outdoor event areas. FSZ's will be clearly identified outside of, or external to, programmed facilities (enclosed or indoor facilities).

FSZ's are established to provide reasonable time, place, and manner regulations related to conduct and not the content of speech. Free Speech zones are intended to prevent or minimize the following:

- Interrupting or impeding organized events or programs;
- Impeding or preventing the ingress, egress, and/or free flow movement of the public attending an event or access to a programmed facility;
- Negatively impacting the public's observation of and/or participation in the event or program; and/or
- Harassment of the staff, public, and/or participants while attending an event or program.

The following guidelines apply:

- All individuals, groups, and/or organizations, regardless of the political activity, will be afforded the same right to utilize FSZ's. All groups and/or organizations are required to share the FSZ's equally and respectfully.
- Those wishing to engage in political activity must adhere to the Recreation Department's Behavior Policy/Code of Conduct and follow the rules of decorum i.e., hawking, screaming, yelling, and loud and/or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Staff on duty will enforce the Recreation Department's Behavior Policy/Code of Conduct and this SOP in a content neutral manner.
- Programmed facilities are for the exclusive enjoyment of participants and loitering is not allowed. Therefore, as needed, free speech zones will be established outside of the program activities boundary.
- Those using the free speech zone must confine their activities within the FSZ.
- Tents, tables, signs (inground or fixed to a structure), or any other fixtures are not allowed in the free speech zone.
- Violations of this SOP and/or the Department's Behavior Policy/Code of Conduct will subject the violator(s) to all available remedies under the policies, procedures, and codes of the City and laws of the State of Florida.