

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 010518)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the City Council Committee on Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs to hold hearings regarding the status of public parks in Philadelphia and to investigate methods to improve the parks and park system.

WHEREAS, The Founder of Philadelphia, William Penn had a vision for the City which included lush parks for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, In modern day Philadelphia over 10,000 acres, almost 12% of the City, is dedicated to parks; and

WHEREAS, While much of the parkland serves as an oasis for the citizens of Philadelphia, there remains too many, as the *Philadelphia Daily News* aptly named in their recent special report, "acres of neglect"; and

WHEREAS, Since 1970 there has been a 65% reduction in the Fairmount Park workforce from 637 employees to 221; and

WHEREAS, The Fairmount Park Commission budget allocation in FY2000 was \$13.3 million compared to \$11.7 million in 1970 reflecting an increase of only \$1.6 million over the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, While over 80 "Friends of Parks" volunteer groups have provided a strong support system for the City's parks, there is a clear and increasing need for an increase in staffing and the development of performance standards in order to beautify and maintain the park system; and

WHEREAS, Other aspects of the City's park system should be investigated, such as its current structure where the governance is split between the Fairmount Park Commission and the Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, As the City is embarking on a voyage to clean up and transform its neighborhoods, there should be voices at the table to ensure that Philadelphia's parks are included in the process since they are so often integral to neighborhoods; and

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WHEREAS, The time is right for City Council in conjunction with the Administration and the Fairmount Park Commission to take a fresh look at the governance structure, funding, staffing and performance measures of the public parks in Philadelphia; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the City Council Committee on Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs is authorized to hold hearings regarding the status of public parks in Philadelphia and to investigate methods to improve the parks and park system.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution,
Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Rizzo, Nutter, Cohen, Ortiz,
Kenney, DiCicco, Clarke, Tasco, Krajewski, Longstreth,
Blackwell, Mariano and Goode

Sponsored by:

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 010518 continued