



Monroe County Legislature

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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Re: Pertaining to the Establishment of Dog Parks

Honorable Legislators:

Over three years ago, the Monroe County Charter was amended by this Honorable Body to enable the establishment of off-leash areas (dog parks) within Ellison, Durand-Eastman, Genesee Valley and Greece Canal parks. Former Parks Commissioner Frank Allkofer worked closely on this matter with community members who have been advocating for off-leash recreation zones.

Under the amended law, off-leash areas are to be officially designated by the Director of Parks once all necessary improvements to construct the areas have been completed using private funds. A similar project has already been completed by Onondaga County. Wegmans Good Dog Park, an exceedingly popular facility which opened over five years ago in Onondaga Lake Park, was completely funded through corporate sponsors and individual donations.

It is estimated by the American Human Society that 39% of U.S. households own at least one canine. As legislators whose constituents utilize Ellison Park regularly, we are very aware of dog owners' use and enjoyment of this exceptional community asset. In anticipation of increased recreational activity by area residents, including dog owners, as we head toward the summer season, it is important that the county revisit and perhaps update the dog parks project.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the County Administration provide the County Legislature with an update regarding the establishment of dog parks within Ellison, Durand-Eastman, Genesee Valley and Greece Canal parks. The update should include a revised project timetable, total private funds raised thus far for the project, the membership of the project planning committee as well as official minutes from all planning committee meetings and any

additional information the administration believes appropriate. The update is to be delivered to the County Legislature by July 1, 2007.

This proposal shall have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the 2007 Monroe County budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis R. Heider
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Paul E. Hancy
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Legislator - District 23

