

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 08/26/25

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 25-0795

**LOG NAME:** 22RECREATIONAL AQUATIC SPRAY GROUNDS ORDINANCE REVISION

**SUBJECT**

(ALL) Adopt an Ordinance Repealing and Restating Chapter 16 “Health and Sanitation,” Article XIX "Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds” of the Code of the City of Fort Worth to Rename the Article “Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains”, Update Definitions, Update the City’s Standards and Regulations Governing Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains, Adopt the Texas Administrative Code’s Minimum Standards Governing Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains and Name the Environmental Services Department as the Regulatory Authority

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt an ordinance repealing and restating Chapter 16 “Health and Sanitation,” Article XIX "Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds” to rename the Article “Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains”, update definitions, adopt the Texas Administrative Code’s minimum standards , update the City’s higher regulatory standards and name the Environmental Services Department as the regulatory authority.

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**DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication is for the City Council to consider adopting the attached ordinance which repeals and restates Chapter 16 “Health and Sanitation” Article XIX "Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds” of the City Code to rename the Article, amend regulations to align with changes to State law, update definitions , and name the Environmental Services Department as the regulatory authority.

On March 31, 2009, the City Council approved Ordinance Number 18521, which enacted regulations governing recreational aquatic spray grounds. These regulations have not been updated since then.

Adoption of the Article will align the City Code with state statutes and regulations and allow for seamless adoption of future revisions to meet the minimum State standards.

The proposed changes will rename "Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds" to "Public Interactive Water Features and Fountains" to align with State terms and adopt minimum state regulations that: 1) allow alternate water treatment technologies for supplemental disinfection (e.g., ultraviolet light, ozone); and 2) continue to require alarm-based alerts without secondary system shut-off devices. The Article will retain three regulatory standards that exceed the minimum standards, which require: 1) signage prohibiting diaper changing; 2) coliform water testing; and 3) all water to pass through primary and supplemental disinfection.

There are no additional financial burdens for the public interactive water features and fountains operator.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that this action will have no material impact on City funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Valerie Washington 6199

**Originating Business Unit Head:** Cody Whittenburg 5455

**Additional Information Contact:** Leticia Cordero 6973  
Art Franco 6975