

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**November 1, 2022**

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**SUBJECT: FOREST PARK RIDES, INC. MINIATURE TRAINS**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the status of the miniature train ride in Forest and Trinity Parks.

History

Forest Park Rides, Inc. (FPR) has been operating a miniature train ride within Forest and Trinity Parks since 1958. It is a five-mile roundtrip ride that begins in Forest Park near the Zoo, crosses the Trinity River and enters Trinity Park, turns around near the Lancaster Bridge, then returns to the starting point. The train station is located on Colonial Parkway adjacent to the Trinity River.

The most recent agreement was authorized by City Council on October 17, 2006 (M&C C-21783, City Secretary Contract #37950). The initial agreement term was ten years, with two successive five-year renewal periods by mutual consent. Following the initial term, the first renewal was executed effective November 1, 2016. The second renewal and first amendment were executed effective November 1, 2021. The current and final authorized term expires October 31, 2026.

Current Status

Due to equipment issues, the train has not operated since March 2022. Park & Recreation Department staff have been working with FPR to urge the return of the train to operational condition. However, due to the lack of progress, in accordance with Section 3.02 of the agreement a formal notice of default was issued to FPR on October 28, 2022. The notice of default states that FPR has sixty (60) days from the date of the letter to cure all contractual breaches. If FPR fails to do so, the City will have the right to terminate the agreement immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lewis, Interim Director of Park & Recreation Department, at (817) 392-5717.

David Cooke
City Manager