

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 23, 2002

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Needham S. Cheely, III, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: An Ordinance to Amend Section 16-7, Use of Public Park and Recreational Facilities by Children, of the James City County Code

The Division of Parks and Recreation will distribute a Park User Guide this fall to all park visitors. The purpose of a park users guide is to educate the public about the laws and regulations that govern the use of the parks. The safety and enjoyment of our park patrons and the protection of the public facilities are our major concerns.

When reviewing the County Ordinances, staff discovered an inconsistency related to the age of children being left unsupervised in parks. The James City County Division of Social Services has a policy enforced by the local Commonwealth's Attorney's Office that states that parents of any child under the age of 12 left unsupervised could be criminally prosecuted. The existing County Ordinance governing the operation of parks, Section 16-7 of the County Code, states that children under the age of the age of six must be supervised. Staff believes that this Ordinance should be changed to the age of 12 to be consistent with the Division of Social Services' policy.

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached ordinance that amends the County Code, Section 16-7, to provide consistency with the policies and practices of the Division of Social Services and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Needham S. Cheely, III

CONCUR:

Anthony Conyers, Jr.

NSC/gs
AmendSection16-7.mem

Attachment