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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 8, 2016
3:00 p.m.
117 W. Duval St., 4th Floor, City Hall
Suite 425

AGENDA

09.08.2016 Special Committee on Hemming Park

- 1. Opening Remarks**
- 2. Update from Friends of Hemming Park**
 - a. Central Security Agency Information (Handout)**
 - b. Suggestions for Making Park More Welcoming (Handout)**
 - c. Financial Overview**
- 3. Safety/Enforcement Discussion-Jacksonville Sheriff's Office,
Jackson Short, Commander, Zone 1**
- 4. Standards and Processes of Procurement**
 - a. Suggestions from Committee Members**
 - b. Input from Administration**
- 5. Closing Remarks/Public Comments**

**Friends of Hemming Park
Monthly Budget**

	August	August Actual	Variance	September
CEO, Vince Cavin (final pay)	690	955	(265)	-
Marketing Director/ Admin, Sarah Collins	4,375	4,375	-	4,375
PT Event Director & Volunteer Coordinator, Kayla Hughes	1,093	1,053	40	1,093
Cleaning & Security Personnel	9,330	10,055	(725)	10,093
Social Outreach Services	2,849	3,148	(299)	2,849
Accounting/HR Services	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	2,768	3,014	(246)	2,695
Insurance	2,315	2,315	-	2,315
Pest Control	280	140	140	280
Equipment/Maintenance (see attached)	750	323	427	750
Baseline Marketing (see attached)	2,000	1,165	836	2,000
General Overhead/ Misc.(see attached)	1,350	1,163	187	1,350
Total	29,000	28,906	94	29,000

GENERAL OVERHEAD/MISC	Per Month	August Actual	Variance
Internet	100	96	4
Project management	50	0	50
Adobe	175	175	-
Social Service database	10	12	(2)
Donor database	100	99	1
Forms Software	20	0	20
Time clock software	30	27	3
Payroll Software	-	56	(56)
Misc Software - Cyfe, Pipedrive	50	50	-
Public Phone System	60	53	7
Cleaning Supplies, toiletries	50		50
Xerox Supplies/Rental	410	375	35
Sunbiz Registration	10	0	10
Ice Machine Rental	185	185	-
Paper, Pens, office supplies misc	100	35	65
TOTAL	1,350	1,163	187

BASELINE MARKETING	Per Month		
EU Jacksonville	400	400	-
Jacksonville Magazine	625	625	-
Facebook Ads	100	17	83
Specialty Items/Graphic Design	775	122.5	653
Go Daddy	50	0	50
Mailchimp	50	0	50
TOTAL	2,000	1,165	836

EQUIPMENT/MAINTENANCE	Per Month		
Portalets	400	298	102
Trash Bags	175	25	150
Cleaning Supplies	100		100
Misc Supplies (Tape, Repair equip)	75		75
TOTAL	750	323	427

HEMMING LIO PARK M

FOHP Special Committee

September 8, 2016

Suggestions for Making the Park More Welcoming

Park Rules

- Prohibit Feeding in the Park
- Prohibit Vending in the Park
- Prohibit Biking & Skateboarding in the Park
- Prohibit Haircutting in the Park
- Designate a Free Speech Zone in the Park

Park Rules Enforcement

- JSO allowed to issue citations for violating park rules
- JSO Officer dedicated to Hemming Park
- Continued JSO undercover drug operations in the park
- JTA cooperation in allowing JSO & security to enforce the park rules under the Skyway
- JSO to perform a CPTED review of the park
- Extend the Park Perimeter to include the sidewalks surrounding the park

Communication

- Better understanding and communication regarding FOHP policies and event permitting with COJ
- New contact for park maintenance re: fountain and compound, uncompleted work (Paul)

Hemming Park Rules

Hemming Park is open from sunrise to sunset and for special events. Friends of Hemming Park (FOHP) reserves the right to close all or parts of the park to the public for special events, programs or maintenance.

You Are Welcome To:

- Enjoy the park in a way that does not disturb others
- Enjoy the landscaping and fountains without entering these areas
- Use a park chair or one seat on a bench intended for sharing
- Share park furniture with other park patrons
- Walk your dog on a leash so long as any waste is cleaned up and disposed of

Park Rules Allow, during FOHP Events:

- Possession of alcoholic beverages only when purchased and consumed in designated areas from an FOHP approved vendor or through an FOHP sponsored or permitted event
- Bringing chairs, tables, or furniture into the park during FOHP events

Park Rules Allow, but only with an FOHP permit:

- Vending or soliciting in non-designated areas
- Holding an event, gathering, rally, or presentation
- Using amplified sound or electrical outlets within the park

Park Rules Prohibit:

- Disturbing the peace
- Littering Please dispose of all waste in designated receptacles
- Feeding animals
- Indecent exposure
- Panhandling or aggressive begging
- Possessing illegal weapons
- Causing fires or possessing fireworks
- Using vehicles, except those operated by authorized personnel
- Destroying any park property
- Illegal gambling
- Sleeping or camping
- Soliciting or vending in non-designated areas without a permit from FOHP
- Violating of Florida State Statutes or Local Municipal Ordinances not listed here

Please contact Hemming Park staff if you have any questions or concerns and enjoy your visit to Hemming Park!

JSO & other law enforcement officials have authority to enforce Florida State Statutes, Local Municipal Ordinances and all park rules & issue, pursuant to Chapter 28, Ordinance Code, trespass warnings that may prohibit violators from entering

Hemming Park and its adjacent sidewalks for one year. These Rules enforce, and are defined by, relevant provisions of the Florida Statutes and the Jacksonville Ordinance Code, including but not limited to Section 614.138.



INITIAL SECURITY SURVEY
For FRIENDS OF HEMMING PARK

Contract begin date: 10 August, 2016 | 12:00pm
Date of report: 1 September, 2016
Prepared By: Jesse Harrigan, CHIEF-CENTSEC

This informal report was prepared based on my own observations of the property from the contract begin date until the date of this report. I began security operations myself for seven hours each week day and for four hours each weekend day.

Based upon my initial observation, I have directed officers to take a community policing stance on the park. They are encouraged to stop and talk to everyone they can to develop rapport with them. So far, this method appears to be successful. Frequent visitors to the park know individual officers by name and often call them over to chat. They also keep officers abreast of potential security issues and minor disputes that they know of among other visitors.

Officers have further been directed to make visitors aware of park rules. They often warn groups of impending enforcement action. For example, during the second week of the contract, officers warned everyone they came in contact with of the no open container of alcohol rule. They further advised they would begin enforcement action the following week. When the next week began, officers only encountered one open container violation and were able to remove the violator from the property simply by reminding him of the rules and asking him to leave. The violator did so without further incident.

Officers are further encouraged to be proactive vs reactive. They are encouraged to walk through the property looking for violations, vs waiting for complaints.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jesse Harrigan".



Central Security Agency

2131A State Rd 16 Saint Augustine, Florida 32084

CENTSEC
SECURITY SURVEY

DUTIES CENTSEC HAS PERFORMED

Provide visible security presence

Maintain the peace via presence and by intervening (Prevention of arguments, fights, etc.).

Serve as visible sources of information

Remove intoxicated persons

Remind visitors of the ban on open container violations

Remove visitors who have been trespassed from the property

Remove sleeping pedestrians

Remove visitors from stage areas

Notify Bicyclists / Skateboarders of rules

Relocate visitors from kid zone area

Prevent visitors from using power outlets

Turn in found property to the library

Help locate missing persons / children

Assist vendors with navigating vehicles through the park

Direct people in need to FOHP social worker

Maintain security for JFRD when on scene

Direct traffic around JFRD Rescue vehicle during medical calls

Prevent visitors from shouting obscenities

Direct visitors to JSO who request police reports for issues that have occurred outside of the park

Assist other agencies / nearby properties with security related incidents

Provide detailed daily activity reports and incident reports

Provide directions to:

- City Hall
- State Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Jacksonville Courthouse
- Federal Courthouse
- Library
- Landing
- Etc.



GROUPS

There seems to be approximately 5 groups or “Clicks” of people who frequent the park (Frequent, meaning daily or every other day). Each group seems to watch out for their own and not mingle with other groups. Further, each group presents different challenges when dealing with confrontations that arise. These groups are as follows:

GROUP # 1



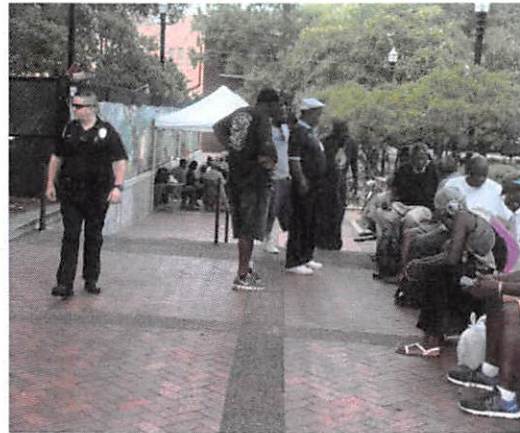
- Gathers on the North side of the property directly in front of the main entrance to city hall, adjacent to W Duval Street.
- Roughly 10+ white males aged from approx. 25-70 years of age.
- Roughly 6 white females aged approx. 30 to 50 years of age
- 1 black male
- 1 white female.
- Most appear uneducated
- Some are veterans of the military
- Some appear to have some type of mental issue or exhibit anti-social behavior.

While talking with members of this group, I’ve ascertained the following: All appear to be homeless and live in nearby shelters or find places to sleep on the street at night. When asked why they frequent Hemming Park, the most common reply is because their friends come here and that it is centrally located to area shelters and public bathrooms.

For the most part, members of the group are friendly and welcoming, but tend to argue loudly at times and drink alcohol from open containers. On separate occasions, I have observed 6-10 members of the group intoxicated to the point they are unable to walk. In the past, they attempted to hide alcohol containers from me as I approached and informed me that past security companies allowed them to drink as long as they didn’t see them do so. After explaining CENTSEC Officers are directed to actively seek out rule violations, members of the group apologized and advised they would abide by the rules. As of the date of this report, I have experienced very few further altercations with members of this group.



GROUP # 2



- Gathers on the South side of the property by the stairway, next to and alongside the statue
- Roughly 30+ black males aged from approx. 35-70 years of age
- Most appear to be retired or some other form of unemployed with the exception of a few
- Some appear to be formally educated
- Some are veterans of the military

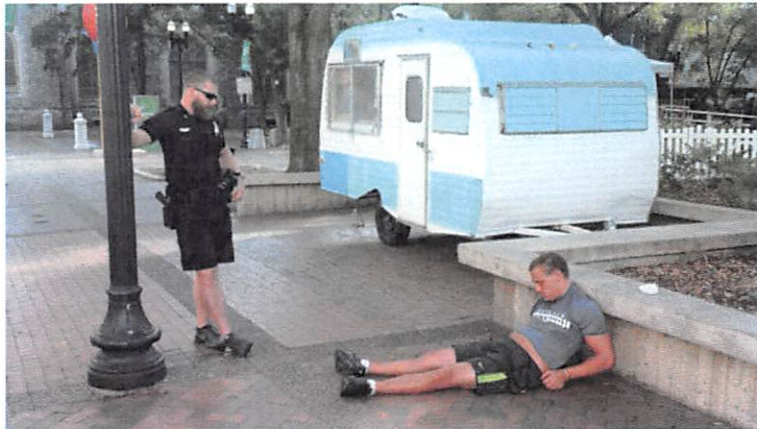
I've noticed this group mostly stays to themselves while playing dominoes, cards and chess. On separate occasions, I've received complaints about conduct and have also observed this group become very loud and shout at each other. I've received several complaints about noise and the shouting of obscenities. Other visitors have expressed to me that they feel unsafe near the group and generally avoid walking by. Further, a few female visitors have approached me on different occasions to tell me they felt uncomfortable walking past the group and were "Heckled" as they walked past. I've observed the group pointing out women walking by as they make it obvious they're looking. I've also noticed pedestrians generally avoid walking past the group.

Further, I have received reports of members of this group drinking alcohol from containers other that hide the contents, but have not observed this myself.

To combat potential problems with this group, I've directed officers to frequent the area during times of high pedestrian activity and to build rapport with members. They are encouraged to ask if members are drinking alcohol and also to remind members of the rules.



GROUP #3



- Scattered throughout the property
- This element is a mix of people who do not appear to associate with any specific group. They are usually found sitting on the walls surrounding the property and on the ground near the main stage area.
- A majority appear to have some type of mental issue and shy away from, or lash out at people.
- Intoxicated frequently
- During one incident, I observed an intoxicated man fall and knock himself unconscious. JFRD was called to the property and the man was deemed ok and walked away on his own.

Most issues with members of this group include loud arguments with each other, and alcohol related violations. On occasion, members yell obscenities at people passing by, for no apparent reason.

Usually, officer presence alone prevents any further issues from members of this group. Upon approach, most members leave the area without any further incident. When asked to leave the property, they usually do so, but return later.

To combat issues with members of this group, officers are encouraged to maintain a strong security presence and to build rapport with them.



GROUP #4



- Gather near the main stage area on the East side of the property, near the skyway.
- Predominately black males and females
- Few white males and females
- This area is frequented by several different types of people who appear to be transient in nature. In addition to a few people who frequent the area, I meet new people there on a daily basis.
- Arguments happen here frequently
- Frequent patrons of the park have made me aware that drugs are passed in this area.

People who frequent this area usually sit on the wall surrounding the stage, preventing others from navigating the walkway to enter the skyway from the park

To combat issues in this area, I have directed officers to ask people to refrain from sitting on the wall surrounding the stage area. Although tedious in nature, this has seemed to alleviate people large groups and I've observed less issues since doing so. It has also allowed for officers to increase a security presence in the area.



GROUP #5



- Gather in front of the main stage area near the East side of the park
- Approximately 10+ black males dressed in similar clothing
- Appear to be formally educated
- Very adamant their viewpoint is correct
- I have received numerous complaints from frequent park goers about the group. Complaints include them being very loud, shouting bible verses, actively attempting to provoke someone to hit them, shouting to families that they will eat their babies.

I introduced myself to members of the group and asked if I could spend some time listening to what they were preaching. The apparent leader of the group seemed pleased that I showed interest and told me to remain and listen whenever I want. This action appears to have gained respect from the group. I further told the group if they experienced any issues with other citizens, to notify me. Later in the day, they found me to ask if I could remove an intoxicated man who was yelling at them. I was able to relocate the man without further incident. I have not observed any aggressive or violent behavior from the group, but was told by other visitors this was in part because of my presence.

I have directed officers to develop rapport with the group in hopes of maintaining a professional relationship.



INCREASED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC DURING THE LUNCH AREA FROM NOON-1:30 AND 4PM-5:30PM

- This increase is due to people going to and from local restaurants for lunch and when leaving work for the end of the day.
- An increased number of visitors frequent the park to use tables to eat.
- The most foot traffic usually generates at the corner of Duval and Laura Streets and continues to the corner of Monroe and Hogan Streets.
- I've directed officers to frequent these areas during these times to show a strong security presence.

DAILY ACTIVITY REPORT

I've directed officers to maintain a daily activity report to include interactions with park guests, staff and others. Offender information is logged via photo of identification cards and photos of the person, along with a brief explanation of interaction and disposition or outcome.

LIAISE WITH LIBRARY SECURITY

I've noticed that when people are asked to leave the park, they generally go into the library. I've directed officers to liaise with library security on such issues as a courtesy.

- Library security has approached CENTSEC Officers on occasion to assist with trespassing issues that arise in the library. During these times, I've directed officers to remain in the area until JSO Officers arrive.

INTERACTION WITH JSO OFFICERS

I've had several interactions with JSO Officers. Most interactions were good and officers seem to enjoy seeing us on the property.

- Bicycle units tend to be the most proactive officers. They frequently ride through the property and actively seek out offenders. Usually when I see them in the park, they find at least one violation and act accordingly.
- Walking beat officers frequent the park as well and remain in the area for longer periods of time, which helps to create a strong security presence. Every time I've asked for help, these officers have been more than accommodating and have helped me to resolve the issue at hand. They also pass along security related information.
- I've only experienced two negative interactions.
- The first was when a JSO Patrol Officer arrived for an intoxicated man who injured himself after jumping from a wall, requiring medical attention. The officer left the man in care of rescue, who in turn left the man on the property. I notified the JSO Officer of another intoxicated man who was nearby and asked him to write a citation for an open container. In this case, the officer approached the man and playfully said: "Uh oh" as he glanced towards the open container, and said "You know they have security now, and they're going to be calling us every ten minutes about this, which will make us very angry." He then asked a nearby patron to get rid of the alcoholic beverage and then left the area.
- Another incident occurred on August 24th where a man and woman were verbally arguing with each other. The argument began off the property as a physical fight, and led into the park when



INTERACTION WITH JSO OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

the female half was trying to escape the male half. Both were screaming at each other, saying they were going to "Beat each other's ass" and "Fuck each other up". Although I was able to separate the two, the situation continued to escalate and attract a crowd. At one point, the woman told me she had a weapon and would cut the man if necessary. At that time, I felt it was necessary to call for help from the police. I contacted JSO via 911 at 4:27pm while still attempting to intervene in the fight. I also made a call to their non-emergency telephone number at 4:54pm to ask if an officer was in route. I was told the call had not been assigned to an officer yet. JSO Officers did not arrive until 5:10pm (43 minutes later). By that time, the male half had fled the scene.

- On another occasion, when I arrived on the property to start my shift at noon, a park patron told me a JSO Officer had to use a pneumonia inhalant to wake an intoxicated man who was found sleeping in the park. A few hours later, Ambassador Jason told me he found the same man, later identified as Mr. Dix, asleep and was unable to wake him. I wasn't able to wake the man either. He was unresponsive and was barely moving. Concerned for his well-being, I requested JFRD to respond. They were able to wake him, but found no further medical issues. I asked the man to leave the park. He became agitated and began yelling at me as he left the area. A short time later, I observed JSO bicycle patrol officers dealing with the same man near the West side of the property, after being flagged down. They recorded his information and told him he was banned from the park and not to return. Roughly 20 minutes later, I found Mr. Dix unconscious near the coffee cart. I contacted JSO via telephone and asked for an officer to return for assistance. An officer arrived later and also contacted JFRD, who transported the man to the hospital. Even after dealing with Mr. Dix on several occasions, who clearly posed a safety risk to himself and others, and even after being trespassed, he was never arrested. I made contact with Mr. Dix the next day as he walked through the park. I informed Mr Dix of his trespass and asked him to leave the area. He did so without further incident, but returns to the park on a daily basis and remains until CENTSEC Officers ask him to leave.

ADDITIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS

Due to the nature of duties performed and the response time from police, I'd like to recommend scheduling two security officers in the park. On any given time, there are 50 to 100+ people on the property. Most of these people frequent the area and gather in groups of 10 or more. Dealing with an individual person who has violated a park rule or committed a crime is uncommon, as groups of people involve themselves in an attempt to help out a friend. From a safety and liability standpoint, I feel it necessary to have two officers who are able to help each other in the event of an altercation or emergency. These officers wouldn't necessarily need to be paired up at all times, but would be able to cover more areas of the park, while providing a greater security presence.



FURTHER RECCOMENDATIONS

- The State of Florida allows law enforcement officers to use discretion when dealing with minor infractions of the law, including open container laws. I'd like to recommend that FOHP staff request that JSO (via city hall and the Sheriff) designate Hemming Park a "Zero tolerance" area and to encouraging officers to take enforcement action when dealing with offenders, versus repeatedly warning or overlooking issues.
- I recommend posting signs that notify patrons of zero tolerance.
- I recommend FOHP approach city hall with an amendment of city ordinance Section 28.802 to reflect JSO Officers may trespass offenders for committing ANY offense in the park.
- I recommend obtaining official documentation that establishes the boundaries of Hemming Park
- Further, I recommend requesting to re-establish boundaries of the park to include all sidewalk areas surrounding the park, up to the roadway, for purpose of preventing trespassed individuals from congregating on the sidewalks. When offenders are trespassed from the property, they usually relocate to the sidewalks surrounding Hemming Park, which create a new problem. People congregating on the sidewalks make it hard for other people to navigate the walkways. I've observed pedestrians walk to the opposite side of the street to avoid contact with people sitting in the walkway.

PROTESTS / DEMONSTRATIONS

During the month period, CENTSEC has been present for two protest demonstrations.

- The first was an attempt to oust the State Attorney from office that turned into a black lives matter march. The demonstration included a march from Hemming Park to the State Attorney's Office and back. JSO was present for the protest and we experienced no security related issues.
- The second was to raise awareness about Duval County tax increases. On two separate occasions, the event organizer asked CENTSEC officers to remove people with opposing viewpoints. Officers explained they would not remove a person from a public park for expressing opposing views. No further security issues were observed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- CENTSEC Officers have been present for three special events.
- No security issues were observed at either event
- CENTSEC maintains a special pricing rate for FOHP

IN KIND DONATIONS TO THE FOHP

- CENTSEC will make in-kind donations to FOHP by way of providing additional officers to the property. This will be accomplished by training new officers on the property at various times throughout the year. This increased security presence will be provided at no additional cost.
- CENTSEC will provide professionally marked security patrol vehicle(s) throughout the year at CENTSEC's discretion for use as an added security presence at no additional cost.