



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 2008
TO: Distribution
FROM: Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Department Director
SUBJECT: Feeding Homeless in City Parks

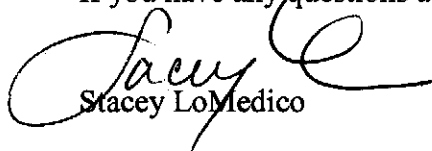
Over the past several months, staff has inquired as to the regulations and/or procedures regarding individuals and non-profit groups feeding the homeless in City parks.

There are no specific City of San Diego or Park and Recreation Department policies or regulations on individuals and/or groups feeding the homeless in public parks. However, there are County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) requirements for such practices.

Specifically, the DEH requires specific permitting for the public distribution of food. Because of this permitting, any group or organization distributing food in public parks are required to produce a copy of their DEH permit. A health permit alone is not enough; the group must provide a Temporary Food Facility Permit. If the group does not provide such a permit, they should be warned that they are in violation of the DEH regulations and that they should ensure they have a permit before returning to the park. If the group continues to violate the County Health regulations, this should be referred to the Police Department as an enforcement issue.

Also, as a reminder any individual/group holding an event with more than 75 people are required to receive a permit per our Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule. If the group is less than 75 people, staff should still work with the group in advance of their program to identify a place within the park that does not conflict with other events and activities in the park.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please contact your Deputy Director.


Stacey LoMedico

Distribution:

Deputy Chief Customer Services
Park and Recreation Department Deputy Directors
Park and Recreation Department Assistant Deputy Directors
Park and Recreation Department District Managers
Park and Recreation Department Senior Rangers