



2011 RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

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Committee

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8 February 2008

Mark Driver
Recreation Planner
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

ATTN: Mark Driver mdriver@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

RE: City of Sydney's proposal for certain parks to be made off-leash areas for dogs

Dear Mark,

2011 Residents' Association Inc. (2011RA) is pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the above issue. This submission has been prepared following consultation with the members of 2011RA.

2011RA understands and supports the desire of dog owners to exercise their dogs. 2011RA also understands the concerns of some elderly people and disabled people, as well as parents and carers of small children, that off-leash dogs could affect personal safety, not only by the possibility of being attacked, but also from being knocked over or frightened by overly-exuberant dogs.

Taking all these matters into consideration, 2011RA proposes that instead of certain parks being off-leash all the time as in the City's proposals, the parks be off-leash part of the time:

- 6:00am – 8:00am and 4:30pm – 8:00pm each day; or
- 4:30pm – 8:00am each day.

2011RA feels that either of these two proposals would represent a good compromise for dog owners and other users of the parks. 2011RA is concerned that the City of Sydney's proposals mean that in some parks there will always potentially be dogs that are off-leash.

We would also like to bring to the City's attention an alternative possibility of fencing off areas of parks which would allow dogs to exercise without necessarily interacting with people. This could involve portable fences.

As an aside, we note that dogs are currently allowed to be off-leash in the Woollahra Council section of Rushcutters Bay Park from 4.30pm - 8.30am each day and are required to be on-leash at other times. We bring this to the City's attention as Rushcutters Bay Park, while controlled by two different Councils, is essentially one park, and the City of Sydney should be mindful of the implications of this on the behaviours of park users when setting its policies.

Finally, we seek an assurance from the City that the proposed policy is not simply a revenue raising measure.

If you would like any further clarification of the 2011RA's views on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Dr Sacha Blumen
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