ORDINANCE NO. ORD-22-0031

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH
MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 16.16.140
RELATING TO PROHIBITING ADULTS NOT
ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN AGES 12 AND UNDER FROM
PARK PLAYGROUNDS

WHEREAS, City of Long Beach ("City") adopted Ordinance No. ORD-22-
0014 on May 10, 2022 to establish "Kids Zones" which prohibit adults not accompanying
children under the age of 12 from park playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, safe outdoor spaces are vital to the healthy development of
children, as they provide exercise and recreation areas, emotional and social enrichment
opportunities, and promote community use of public green spaces; and

WHEREAS, in playground design, everything from the height of the structure
to the type of surfacing used is based on guidelines that reflect use by toddlers and children
aged 2 to 5 and/or 5 to 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, adult use of playground equipment can result in structural
damage that may lead to safety hazards for the children who use the equipment after them; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City have reported adults misusing public
playground spaces by engaging in other activities that discourage proper use by children
and their guardians; and

WHEREAS, given the recent upticks in vandalism and damage, and resident
concerns about the safety and availability of the City’s playgrounds to children, it is
necessary for the City to continue to promote measures for safe outdoor spaces; and

WHEREAS, City’s current "Kids Zones" at park playgrounds prohibit adults
not accompanying children under the age of 12 from being present, which sought to ensure
the City’s playground equipment and play areas specifically designed for children remain
safe and available spaces for use by children of the aforementioned age groups; and

WHEREAS, kids zones would be easily identifiable and enforceable with
signage identifying the zone area; and

WHEREAS, kids zones would not cover other non-playground public spaces
in parks, including, but not limited to, benches, fields, and restrooms; and

WHEREAS, in establishing Ordinance No. ORD-22-0014, City followed suit
of other jurisdictions in California, New York, Oregon, Colorado, and Florida, in an effort to
preserve such spaces and equipment for children for which they were intended; and

WHEREAS, City signage in park playgrounds provide that such equipment
is for the use of children ages 5 to 12; and

WHEREAS, City desires to include children of the age of 12 to Section
16.16.140 in order to be consistent with the manufacturer’s recommendations for
appropriate use of playground equipment and current operational practices at park
playgrounds;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as
follows:

Section 1. Section 16.16.140 of the Long Beach Municipal Code is hereby
amended to read as follows:

16.16.140 Park Playgrounds - Adults not accompanying children ages 12 and
under prohibited.

A. No adult shall be present on any City park playground unless
the adult is accompanying a child or children age 12 and under, lawfully under
their custody or control, including a parent or guardian, babysitter, caretaker
or other designee of a parent or guardian having sole or joint supervisory
responsibility over the child, using such playground.
B. "Park playground" or "playground" for purposes of this Section means any park area which has been designated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine Director, or designee, as a "Kids Zone", and on which clear and visible signage has been posted providing notice of such "Kids Zone" status and the prohibition in Subsection A.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council and cause it to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the thirty-first (31st) day after it is approved by the Mayor.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of November 15, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Zendejas, Allen, Price, Supernaw, Mungo, Saro, Austin, Richardson.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Absent: Councilmembers: Uranga.

Recusal(s): Councilmembers: None.

Approved: 11/21/22 (Date)
AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) ss
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )
CITY OF LONG BEACH )

Alyssa Campos being duly sworn says: That I am employed in the Department of the City Clerk of the City of Long Beach; that on the 16th day of November 2022, I posted three true and correct copies of Ordinance No. ORD-22-0031 in three conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, to wit: One of said copies in the lobby of City Hall in front of the Civic Chambers; one of said copies in the Billie Jean King Main Library; and one of said copies on the front counter of the City Clerk Department.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This 16th day of November 2022.