

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: June 14, 2022

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Nicholas Caristo, Chief of Police

Re: Discussion – Possible Bradley Park and Lake Trail Closure Hours

Date: June 6, 2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

Recently there have been several concerns from the community regarding overnight usage of Bradley Park. These concerns led the Police Department to monitor the situation and area more closely over the last several months as well as search for possible crime prevention improvements. Many of the Town's burglaries and thefts over the years have been associated with criminals traveling the Lake Trail late at night in an attempt to obfuscate their activities from police and public scrutiny with Bradley Park serving as a convenient hub and access point. With close proximity to West Palm Beach via the Flagler Bridge and convenient, free parking nearby there are few current restrictions in place to prevent this specific form of criminal behavior.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council discuss their possible interest in creating ordinances that would provide overnight closure hours for Bradley Park and the Lake Trail. Having codified closure hours would provide the Police Department with a significant tool for detaining and investigating suspicious persons. As an initial suggestion, we would propose closure hours of 10 P.M to 5 A.M.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The Town Attorney has researched this issue and believes that codifying closure hours of Bradley Park and the Lake Trail would be legal and defensible as long as access was maintained for adjacent property owners.

NC/wmr

cc: John C. Randolph, Town Attorney