

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: April 9, 2024

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Nicholas Caristo, Chief of Police

Re: Proposed Ordinance to Amend Chapter 74 of the Town Code, Relative to Parks and Recreation,
to Modify Closures of Recreational Areas
Ordinance No. 013-2024

Date: March 29, 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

During the regular Town Council Meeting on June 14, 2022, the Police Department brought forth the topic of codifying closure hours for Bradley Park and the Lake Trail as a proactive measure to increase community safety through crime prevention efforts. The Town Council asked that this endeavor be continued through the presentation of a proposed ordinance. Ordinance 014-2022 was approved by Town Council on July 12, 2022, and provided for closure of Bradley Park and the Lake Trail, with the addition of Lake Drive Park from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Exceptions were created for deeded property owners on the Lake Trail immediately adjacent to their properties, for Town Marina customers accessing the Marina docks, and for Town staff or those working on their behalf.

This previous amendment has been successfully used by the Police Department as a proactive measure to deter criminal activity in these locations during the overnight hours. In light of the increases in beautification projects of Town-owned parks and the increased pressures of population growth in our neighboring municipalities, the Police Department is suggesting that these previously amended park closure hours be extended to all Town-owned parks. This proposed ordinance would not alter closure hours for other public spaces specifically addressed elsewhere in the Town's Code of Ordinances (e.g. Phipps Ocean Park, Clarke Beach, Inlet Dock).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council approve Ordinance 013-2024, amending Chapter 74 of the Town Code, relative to Parks and Recreation, to modify closures of recreational areas.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The Town Attorney has reviewed this ordinance and approved for legal form and sufficiency.

NC/wmr

cc: Joanne O'Connor, Town Attorney
Carolyn Stone, Deputy Town Manager
Robert Miracle, Deputy Town Manager
Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works