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LEE HOLLOWAY, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
SUE BLACK, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Date: January 20, 2011

To: Chairman Gerry Broderick, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee

From: Sue Black, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

**Subject: Citation Authority for the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, and her/his Authorized Designee(s) – Informational Item**

**ISSUE**

Authority conferred upon the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture (DPRC), and her/his authorized designee(s) to issue citations for selected violations of Chapter 47 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances relative to parks and parkways as allowed by Wis. Stat. § 66.0113(2).

**BACKGROUND**

- In 2008 DRPC created, with County Board approval, a Park Ranger program dedicated to the education of park patrons, public safety, fee compliance, and rule enforcement.
- The Park Rangers have been assisting law enforcement by responding to and handling reports of minor offenses in the parks including off-leash dogs, parking violations, failure to pay fees, and permit violations; however, their enforcement authority is currently limited to verbal warnings only.
- Wis. Stat. § 66.0113(2), Citations for certain ordinance violations, provides in part:

the governing body of a county. . . may designate by ordinance or resolution other county. . . officials who may issue citations with respect to ordinances which are directly related to the official responsibilities of the officials. Officials granted the authority to issue citations may delegate, with the approval of the governing body, the authority to employees.

DPRC is currently working with the Office of the Sheriff and Corporation Counsel on developing a procedure in which DPRC may issue citations for selected violations of Chapter 47 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO).

- DPRC’s authority to issue citations would not diminish the Sheriff’s Office or other local law enforcement officials’ authority, duties, or responsibilities but would supplement their efforts and allow those agencies to focus on more serious offenses.

- DPRC would likely request citation authority for violations regarding:
  - Fee Compliance – including but not limited to failure to pay permits or fees such as dog tags, boat launch fees, vendor permits, and rentals
  - Public Safety and Health – including but not limited to off-leash dogs, animals in prohibited areas, animal waste control, littering, unauthorized vehicles in parks, parking violations, swimming hour violations, making of fires, and use of skateboards and go-carts
  - Miscellaneous – including but not limited to unauthorized posting of advertisements or handbills
  - Unauthorized Use of Park Property – including but not limited to dumping, landscaping, and excavating park property
- Citation authority for ordinances pertaining to more serious offenses such as use of firearms, fireworks, hunting, disorderly conduct, moving traffic violations, interference with park personnel, gambling, boating and navigation regulations, aircraft, destruction or removal of public property, and fish and waterfowl violations would not be granted to DPRC and would remain the sole authority of the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office or other law enforcement agencies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

No action requested. This item is informational unless further action is required.

Prepared by: Laura Schloesser, Safety, Security and Training

**Recommended by:**

**Approved by:**

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James Keegan, Chief of Administration and External Affairs

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Sue Black, Parks Director

cc: County Executive Lee Holloway  
 E. Marie Broussard, Deputy Chief of Staff, County Executive’s Office  
 Terrence Cooley, Chief of Staff, County Board  
 Renee Booker, Director, DAS  
 Supv. Joe Sanfelippo, Vice-Chairman, Parks Committee  
 Sarah Jankowski, Fiscal Mgt. Analyst, Admin & Fiscal Affairs/DAS  
 Julie Esch, Research Analyst, County Board  
 Linda Durham, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Clerk  
 John Jorgensen, Corporation Counsel  
 Inspector Schmidt, Office of the Sheriff