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➤ Press Release

Friends of the Children's Pool welcomes the enforcement of the Municipal Code Children's Pool

Longstanding problem with excessive signage is finally addressed by City officials.

There has long been a signage problem at the Children's Pool. The City of San Diego Park and Rec Department instituted a permit system for sales tables and signs at the Children's Pool. The Friends of the Children's Pool has participated in the program from the beginning. It is our belief that the permit process is the best way to keep the sidewalk clear as well as allow for the freedom of expression. This is the case as long as the permit system is open to all, allows for the full expression of different views, is handled in a fair manner and is very low cost.

However, certain organizations have felt in the past that the permit system is unfair and that they are above the law. The Friends of the Children's Pool has sought for years to have City ordinances enforced as they apply to non-permitted sales and signs. Finally, through complaints from the Friends of the Children's Pool, the City has acknowledged their duty to enforce the ordinances on the books and committed to enforcing the ordinances in a fair and equal manner. We hope that this commitment will be reflected in the City's future actions at the Children's Pool. Despite our disagreements with the City regarding overall policy and procedural irregularities with regard to the Children's Pool, the Friends of the Children's Pool cooperates with and has a long history of working with the Police Department.

We look forward to continuing this working relationship and we hope that the recently enhanced police presence will help ensure that visitors to the Children's Pool and La Jolla will have a safe and enjoyable experience when accessing the ocean.

Just like the signage rules, the City has ordinances regarding blocking of stairways and sidewalks and harassment of individuals which we expect to be enforced. Public access to the ocean is mandated by the State Constitution and that the City has a shared-use policy at the Children's Pool which explicitly allows use of the beach by both humans and wildlife. We hope that the City will honor their Constitutional obligations as well as their own policy in both deed as well as word. City employees such as the ranger or the police are prohibited from removing people lawfully using the beach. FoCP has a lawsuit ongoing against the City for their willful disregard of the proper permit procedures which has denied the public a voice. We believe that all government actions but particularly actions at the Children's Pool should be done in an open and transparent manner without "special" procedures or backroom deals. The public must be provided an opportunity to be informed and to have a voice.

For more information, please visit <http://www.friendsofcp.com>



The specific purpose of this corporation is to educate the public as to the use of the Children's Pool in accord with Miss Ellen Scripps' charitable intent in 1931 in order to protect La Jolla Children's Pool surroundings as a public park, a bathing pool for children, and public recreational usage in accordance with chapter 937 of the deed of trust between Miss Ellen Browning Scripps, the State of California, and the City of San Diego, county of San Diego. Publicize the return of Children's Pool to public recreational use. Promote water quality and safety. Facilitate cleaning the beach and adjacent areas to make it attractive and convenient for public use.