



**LINDA MAIO**  
Councilmember  
District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 19, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Councilmember Maio  
SUBJECT: Signage, Cesar Chavez Park, On- and Off-Leash & Protected Areas

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the City Manager a request to evaluate and improve signage at Cesar Chavez Park to delineate more clearly On- and Off-Leash, and Protected Areas, and involve the appropriate commissions.

BACKGROUND:

Some years ago, after much controversy, an area was designated to enable dogs off-leash at Cesar Chavez Park in a specific area at the Park. An agreement was forged that was to protect habitat areas, and path walkers, and signage was developed. At the time, hay bales were used to designate the off-leash area. Over time the signage has degraded and faded to the point of being illegible in some places. Not all users know which areas are on- and off-leash so dogs roam freely in protected areas. Some do not use a leash when walking on the main path leading to reports that frisky dogs not in voice command jump up on people.

When I have talked with owners who were not in compliance some reported that they were indeed “lazy” about it while others said they didn’t see any signs and thought that the entire park was an off-leash area (except for the beautifully protected burrowing owl habitat, of course).

While we expect that not everyone will respect the designations our job is to ensure that signage is clear. Perhaps we can use color-codes to designate areas. The Park has three major areas: on-leash only, off-leash ok , and areas that are to remain protected from any incursion at all by dogs or people. We cannot fence these areas, nor would we want to. Color coding might be a way to designate areas without excessively numerous or large signs, and could be an easy way to help users heed the designations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown.

CONTACT PERSONS:

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Council District 1

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