



## South Bend Common Council

227 West Jefferson Boulevard, Room 441, Downtown South Bend, Indiana 46601

### NEWS RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
From: Council Vice-President Oliver J. Davis

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### **Off Leash Dog Parks Special Committee Proposed**

I am excited to announce that a proposed Resolution has been filed which would create a 9-member advisory special committee. This committee would include city residents and city officials who would make recommendations on developing multiple off leash dog parks - hopefully in each quadrant of South Bend. The committee would be appointed before May 1<sup>st</sup> which is the opening day of "National Pet Month".

South Bend residents identified the need for dog parks during community outreach meetings held in 2013, when the Parks Master Plan was developed. Their support and enthusiasm for dog parks is even stronger today.

Joining me in sponsoring this Resolution are 2<sup>nd</sup> District Council Member Regina Williams-Preston, Council Member at Large Karen L. White, and 5<sup>th</sup> District Council Member Dr. David Varner. We note that based on information provided by South Bend Animal Care and Control, several thousands of dogs are being raised as pets in South Bend, with city dog licensing increasing again last year.

Dog parks have been very successful in communities throughout the country. We believe there is definitely a need for dog parks, with some of the many benefits of ideal dog parks being that they:

- Provide opportunities and safe locations for dogs to get vital exercise and socialization
- Provide an opportunities for exchanging information with dog owners and promoting responsible dog ownership
- Help build socialization opportunities for people of all ages, with adults and children enjoying the outdoors with their dogs thereby promoting healthy life styles for both 2-legged and their 4-legged pets
- Help build new community partnerships in creating dog parks which are safe, attractive, innovative and well-maintained

Council Member John Voorde has agreed to hear our proposal in a meeting of the Health and Public Safety Committee which he chairs, next Monday afternoon. The City Council will hold a public hearing and vote at our 7 p.m. meeting that evening. South Bend residents are encouraged to attend, so we can hear your voices.

