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ORDINANCE NO. 2024-25

AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON'S COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 1, SECTION 14-18 (WILDLIFE) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY THAT LEASHED DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN CERTAIN WELLINGTON PARKS; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Wellington Council is authorized and empowered to adopt and amend legislation to govern the affairs of its citizens and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 14, Article III, Division I, Section 14-18 provides that animals and household pets are prohibited in Wellington parks, except for neighborhood parks and the dog park; and

WHEREAS, the Wellington Town Center was designed to be dog-friendly so that members of the public can walk around outdoors with their leashed dogs, except in areas where dogs are prohibited by posted signage; and

WHEREAS, the Wellington Council believes that it is in the best interest of the community to amend Section 14-18 to reflect such intent and provide clarity to members of the public who may visit Town Center for community events or otherwise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: Chapter 14, Article III, Division 1, Section 14-18 of the Code of Ordinances, Wellington, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 14-18: Wildlife

- A. "Wildlife creature" means any animal, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish, or invertebrate.
- B. No person shall molest, harm, frighten, kill, net, trap, snare, hunt, chase, shoot or throw or propel missiles, by any means, at any wildlife creature roaming free about a park or in captivity, nor shall any person remove or possess the young of any wildlife creature, or the nest or eggs of any wildlife creature, or collect, remove, possess, give away, sell or offer to sell, buy or offer to buy, or accept as a gift any specimen, dead or alive.

1 C. No person shall place, dump, abandon, or leave any wildlife creature on the
2 grounds of any park.

3
4 D. No person shall bring or allow any animal or other household pet in any Wellington
5 park, except that leashed dogs are permitted in the following locations, provided
6 the owner ensures proper disposal of pet waste:

7
8 1. Neighborhood parks

9
10 2. The Dog Park (dogs may be off leash inside the fenced area of the park);
11 and

12
13 3. Outdoors at Wellington Town Center, except in areas where dogs are
14 prohibited by posted signage.

15
16 The owner of a dog or other animal that causes damage to a Wellington park shall
17 be responsible for the costs of repairing such damage.

18
19 E. The prohibitions of this subsection shall not apply to:

20
21 1. Horses or dogs used by a law enforcement officer or park security guard in
22 the performance of their duties.

23
24 2. Service animals as defined in F.S. § 413.08(d), as amended from time to
25 time, except that the owner of a service animal is responsible for proper
26 disposal of pet waste and for the costs to repair any damages caused by
27 the service animal.

28
29 3. Animals or fowl kept by the Department or under its direction.

30
31 **SECTION 3:** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this
32 Ordinance conflict with any section, paragraph, clause, or phrase of any prior Wellington
33 Ordinance, Resolution, or Municipal Code provision, in that event the provisions of this
34 Ordinance shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

35
36 **SECTION 4:** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this
37 Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision
38 shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any portion or part thereof,
39 other than the part so declared to be invalid.

40
41 **SECTION 5:** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption
42 of the Wellington Council following second reading.

43
44 **PASSED** this _____ day of _____, 20__ upon first reading.

45
46 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 20____ on second

1 and final reading.

2
3 **WELLINGTON**

4 **FOR**

AGAINST

5
6 BY: _____
7 Michael J. Napoleone, Mayor

8
9
10 _____
11 John T. McGovern, Vice Mayor

12
13 _____
14 Tanya Siskind, Councilwoman

15
16 _____
17 Maria Antuña, Councilwoman

18
19 _____
20 Amanda Silvestri, Councilwoman

21
22 **ATTEST:**

23
24 BY: _____
25 Chevelle D. Hall, MMC, Village Clerk

26
27
28 **APPROVED AS TO FORM AND**
29 **LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

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31
32 BY: _____
33 Laurie S. Cohen, Village Attorney

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