

June 19, 2014

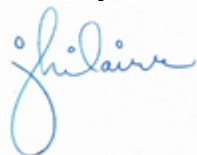
To President King and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, I am writing this letter in support of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Cemetery Division (comprised of Fairview and Evergreen Cemeteries) and its proposal regarding 2015 fee increases that were presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on June 12, 2014.

The Cemetery Division reviews its fees and expenses on an annual basis since it is an enterprise operation which means that only its own revenue and fund balance may be used to pay for operations. As the cost of providing cemetery services and meeting perpetual care responsibilities increases over time, the Enterprise must adjust fees and charges to continue to be self-sufficient. Cemetery revenues have been flat for the last five years so it is necessary to increase the Division's fees to bring in additional revenue. Specifically, the Cemetery Division is requesting fee increases for burial and cremation spaces, opening and closing fees, burial vaults, disinterments and overtime charges for 2015.

The Parks and Recreation Board believes that the proposed fees are needed to support the Cemetery Division's proposed budget in 2015. If the Cemetery Enterprise does not periodically increase fees and charges to cover increased operating expenses, draws from the Cemetery Fund Balance or capital improvement reductions may be necessary. Thus, the Board encourages City Council to approve the recommended fee increases for 2015.

Sincerely,



Jackie Hilaire, Chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

C: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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