

**ORDINANCE NO. 2296****AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA,  
ADDING A NEW SECTION 21.25 ("CARNIVAL DEVICES")  
TO CHAPTER 21 ("PARKS") OF THE SOUTH PASADENA  
MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE THE USE OF  
CARNIVAL DEVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Pasadena (City) currently has no official policy or ordinance regarding the use of carnival devices such as inflatable structures, bounce houses, dunk tanks, slides, climbing walls, animal rides, and petting zoos, which City park patrons use while hosting parties and events; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of carnival devices cause excessive noise issues due to the loudness of electric generators necessary to power the devices, and prompts other City park patrons to complain about the amount of space that is taken up by the devices; and

**WHEREAS**, there is further risk of damage to City trees, turf, vegetation, and irrigation lines from improperly placed carnival devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of unpermitted, uninsured, and unlicensed carnival devices in City parks has created a hazardous situation not only for the end users, but for the general public as well; and

**WHEREAS**, meteorologists have warned that gusts of wind as low as 20 mph can easily lift certain carnival devices such as inflatable structures and bounce houses off the ground; and

**WHEREAS**, several recent incidents across the country have highlighted the dangers posed by inflatable structures. In May 2014, two boys in New York state were seriously injured when a gust of wind blew their inflatable structure into the air and tossed them to the asphalt from at least 15 feet above the ground. In July 2014, wind caused an inflatable slide in Sparks, Nevada to pull from its tethers and rise 300 feet into the air, knocking down lamp posts; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), between 1995 and 2010, there were more than 62,000 children and teens treated in U.S. emergency rooms as a result of an injury sustained while using inflatable structures. The number of injuries increased every year in that period of time from 702 in 1995 to 11,311 in 2010; a 15-fold increase, with the most rapid jump seen in the last few years of the study. The research shows about a third of the children injured are under five years of age. Many of these injuries are due to collisions within the inflatable structure. Most of the injuries consist of broken bones, but approximately 20 percent are head and neck injuries. Between 1995 and 2010, AAP reported 10,996 bumps and bruises, 17,297

broken bones, and 4,506 concussions and close head injuries. According to a 2012 AAP study, accidents occurred most often at sports or recreation sites (44 percent), or at a private residence (38 percent); and

**WHEREAS**, carnival devices tend to attract large parties, which are difficult for City parks to accommodate due to limited parking and park space; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed ordinance, which only applies to carnival devices located in City parks, will allow the City to reduce the risks created by carnival devices by controlling overall setup and operation and requiring proper insurance and indemnification from vendors; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed ordinance further gives City staff the authority to abate unlawfully placed carnival devices and issue citations for said violations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The above recitals constitute findings of the City Council of the City of South Pasadena.

**SECTION 2.** A new sub-section 21.25 ("Carnival Devices") of South Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 21 ("Parks") is added to read:

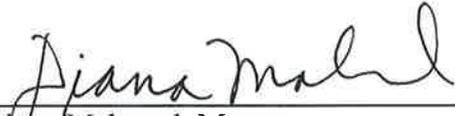
“A. Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful for any person to use, maintain, or operate the following devices within any public park:

1. Dunk tanks, booths, or machines which generally consist of a large tank of water over which a seat is suspended.
2. Inflatable recreational structures including, without limitation, inflatable, interactive structures or equipment commonly used for jumping, bouncing, sliding, riding, or as an apparatus for sports and recreational activities.
3. Other similar temporary attractions including, without limitation, structures containing live animals; petting zoos; climbing walls; and slides.

B. The Community Services Director, or designee, may allow the use of the attractions otherwise prohibited by this section for City purposes including, without limitation, the City's own recreation programming.”

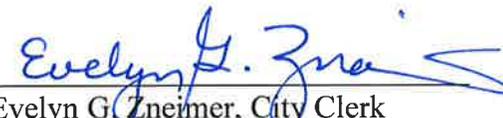
**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its final passage and within fifteen (15) days after its passage, the City Clerk of the City of South Pasadena shall certify to the passage and adoption of this ordinance and to its approval by the City Council and shall cause the same to be published in a newspaper in the manner required by law.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this 18th day of May, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana Mahmud, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney

(seal)  
Date: 5/18/2016

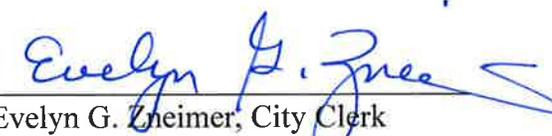
**I HEREBY CERTIFY** the foregoing ordinance was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of May, 2016, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Cacciotti, Joe, Khubesrian, and Mayor Mahmud

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Schneider

**ABSTAINED:** None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk  
(seal)