

Unedited Transcript of Parks and Sustainability Committee Meeting - June 18, 2026

TRANSCRIPTION

Parks and Sustainability Committee - THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD VIA VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

Good afternoon everybody. This is a regularly scheduled parks and sustainability committee. Today is JUNE 18th, 2026. It is 3:06 P.M. And I'll go ahead and get started.

I have in the chamber today, COUNCILMAN Anthony Piacentini, COUNCILWOMAN Jennifer Chappell, COUNCILWOMAN Crystal bass, COUNCILWOMAN Betsy Rudy. I have joined with us, COUNCILWOMAN Tammy Hawkins and then my vice chair, COUNCILWOMAN Paula McCraney. She is on virtual. So this meeting is being held pursuant to krs 61.826 and Council Rule five a. Item one on legislation. We are going to hold. Item two. We have that 0-110177-26. An ordinance amending section 42.31 of the Louisville Metro Code of Ordinances.

Related to issuance of permits, we have Amanda Baker from the County Attorney's office. Can I get a motion, please? Motion. Good afternoon. Amanda Baker, assistant county attorney. There is an amendment by substitution in the system that I want to draw your attention to. So this item would amend mco 42, section through unr l l ree d. So this would add a section to the existing code that states no permit to rent.

Any park, facility or special event permit shall be issued to any person, business or event sponsor whose event producer is not compliant with the terms of any Neighborhood Development Fund grant agreement through which the person or business receives funds from Louisville Metro Government. COUNCILMAN. Yeah. COUNCILWOMAN Hopkins. Thank you. Chair, I just wanted to speak about this. I've been working on this for quite some time.

It seems as if, you know, we have a lot of non-profits and entities that are still able to do business with several departments, specifically parks that are on the noncompliance list. And once it came to my attention, once I got the noncompliance list, I seen that there were several people still doing business. So, you know, I want to do add to what we already have in existence just to make sure that we dot our asm across our t's when we're giving permits out. Councilmember. Thank you, MISTER Chair. Question either for the county attorney's office or COUNCILWOMAN Hawkins. So this is was is there a reason why this is specific to Mnrf?

I'm wondering I'm just curious thought process wise, because sure, I, I get it, if you're not compliant with an Mnrf and you're on the non-compliant list, why are we issuing the question? Why are we issuing permits and, and giving you other special considerations when we have this outstanding

problem? Are there any other non-compliant lists outside of Mnrf? Like I'm just thinking other grants that the city MAY distribute. Did we think about broadening this out to say, look, if you're non-compliant with any grant within the city, right then there, then I think the idea is you'd have to resolve that before you could do this. So. Or do we are we really just being is there any other provision of the law that prevents others that are non-compliant with other grants outside of Mnrf to not get these.

I have to do some research on that front. In doing the research and preparing this. It doesn't appear there's anything in existence currently. This would, as written, would just address the specific issue of the non-compliant list for purposes of nfs with omb. But, you know, I don't see them either. Okay. And then because I was, you know, again, it was going to be is there other noncompliance lists?

It seems like an easy first start because we have a defined list, right. I think that would be a question for the administration. If there are any type of compliance lists out there. And then my only other question is about remediation. So let's play this out a little bit like I'm I represent an organization. We got an ndf grant for whatever it is. We're non-compliant for some reason.

And I know there's a variety of reasons. We put people on the non-compliant list. I'm assuming that and then I've got an event coming up and I want to apply for a permit. I get denied and they say you're on the ndf non-compliant list. Getting off of that or remediating that just simply, okay, you have to contact omb and remediate the current thing. You get off that non-compliant list and then you can get your permit. I think that I think there is a representative from parks here that could maybe answer the administrative questions as to how that would be handled.

I think that's probably a question for the administration, but I would imagine that that's how that would be handled is a check with omb and a resolution as to how how they would get off that list. Yeah. Thank you. Could somebody parks answer that question? I guess the question really is twofold, right? One is operationally like, how are you guys going to get the non-compliant list to make sure you're not issuing permits? And then let's just say you say you say no to somebody or then you going to say, here's the phone number for omb.

This is you need to resolve this first. And then when they do, omb then informs you and then you can issue them the permit. Can you talk about operationally how you're going to manage that? For Parks and Recreation? I can answer that work on our end. Operationally, yes. We would be looking to omb to send us a regularly updated list of non-compliant.

Organizations. And if we received an application with one of those organizations listed as a producer, the permit applicant, we would let them know that they are on that list and that they need to contact omb to resolve the issue. How that happens, that would definitely be a question for omb, and I think it would probably depend on the reason that they're on that non-compliant list. Makes sense. Thank you. Thank you, MR. CHAIRMAN.

I have a question for Michelle, if you don't mind. Sorry. And then I'll go to Tammy and Jennifer. So. How does this how do you all handle permits? Currently, we

receive an application and review for any number of criteria to make sure that all the information that's required is there. Right now, there is not a Requirement or a step to check this particular list that omb would need to provide to us. I understand it does exist, but that would be added to our checklist of things that we would review to make sure that there is a complete application in hand that would include things like the security plan compliant vendors. So, for example, inflatables are often a part of park events. We have a list of approved vendors for that. We check to make sure that what's listed on the application fits with that list. So this would be just another check in that same application process. If someone was getting an mdf for if a council office was getting an mdf for said event, does the permit go to the mdf holder or does it go to the. So if a event is sponsored by Council member, that is who the issue is, the permit would be issued to. And that's why I believe the purpose of the. Revision that has been introduced is to specify. The producer of the event as well must be in compliance. COUNCILWOMAN Hawkins. Thank you. Omb. I spoke with omb, and omb sends this list out, and they've been sending it out for quite some time. And they had a very hard time with being able to reconcile someone from two years back, a nonprofit that we have given money to. So that's what urged me to do this. I'm a firm believer that we was elected to watch taxpayers dollars. And if I'm not mistaken, you know, as a council person, we should be looking as well, and we should be the set of eyes to be able to alert parks if, if, if we know or, or if we see that a nonprofit that is working with anybody or that's on this noncompliance list, we should alert the department as well. So I would also encourage us as council members, because, you know, a lot of things could be oversight or parks wasn't able to catch it, but omb said they just send the list out and they do try to contact the non-profits. But in the event, if they're not able to contact the nonprofit and the nonprofit is working with the council person, I would think that the council person would be able to contact them and get them connected with omb. Right? So it's just, you know, a few moving parts, but the nonprofit definitely would feel comfortable because they're working with the council person if the council person is a sponsor, but they're not in compliance with omb. So I would also encourage. Any of my colleagues that if they're working with non-profits, they should be looking on the list to see if that nonprofit is in compliance that they're working with as well. Thank you. Councilwoman Chaplin. I have one question and one request. The first question, I don't really have an issue with this. I think the good questions have been brought up thus far about how they're handled, how they're reviewed. I think that that's very important. My question is more to do with clarity on this, and maybe a suggestion would be no. Permit to rent any park facility. Special event permit shall be issued to any person, not compliant with the terms. And the reason I feel like that word would benefit being in there is just because. I think if I was once before, is that justification or grounds for not issuing that complaint? So I just think clarity and is not actively

whereas actively not compliant would. Help clarify things. County attorney could also o or whoever. Yeah, yeah. I don't have a problem with making an amendment. I mean, if parks don't, I, you know, talk to the Parks Department, you know, about this just to make sure that, you know, that they didn't have any issues or concerns. So I definitely don't have any, you know, issues with adding or taking anything out.

I just kind of want to make sure that everyone understands that when a permit is when a person puts in an application for a. Permit, you know, it goes all the way down the pipeline. So it goes to parks, parks, looks at it. And then I believe that Lmpd approved it. So it goes through a series of hands. And part of Lmpd says, yes, we're going to do this or not. I believe that when it first is submitted to parks, you know, so it won't have to go all the way down that they should be able to look at the list and say no or yes. Nobody shouldn't even be able to put in an application if they're on that list until, you know, until they're, they're in compliance.

We should not. Be doing business with entities that, oh, omb. This is Amanda Baker, assistant county attorney. I, I think that, you know, certainly an amendment could be made to insert the word actively. One of the challenges with inserting an adjective like that is that it can be open to interpretation. And typically when departments are looking for compliance or noncompliance, they're looking for, are they or aren't they? So when you add some, we can certainly amend.

But if you add the word actively, I think that that could possibly open this up to interpretation that maybe council is not looking for. Here. Interesting. As a non Esquire, I would have thought differently. So if that's something that you recommend against, or if there's a different way of saying it, I'm open to it, but otherwise not a cross that I'm going to die on. Understood. Okay.

I have a question for parks again. How do how does this. How does this fall into your wheelhouse of, of. Oversight? I mean, how are you, how are you going to maintain this and, and, and keep accountability of this already the compliance list is entirely within omb wheelhouse as far as the determination of compliance or noncompliance. We would just simply be going from the list that they provide. Well, then how do we address issues as in open fires and.

People that don't have a permit that's in the park? How are we going to how are we going to police this? I'm not. So if I don't know if that's related to the compliance, that that is the check before giving. If someone is to. Sorry, I don't mean to cut you off, but if somebody was to just go and host an event or just throw a party at, at Nick Rodman Park, for example, and they didn't follow the permits and procedures process. What's the policing mechanism there?

That is an issue that we do sometimes find, and we work with Lmpd in those instances. We also now have our park rangers that have both them and Lmpd have access to our. Permitted events list regularly so that they can help us. Assure compliance with those kinds of activities and parks. Thank you, COUNCILWOMAN Chappell. I forgot my request. Director King, could you remind us of the qualifications an event would have to have in order to require them to have a permit?

I think just a refresher for myself and

everyone else. It's always good to hear, you know, like when when does it become necessity to get an event permit? Well, those are listed on our website. Don't necessarily have them committed to memory, but there would be instances like events that are expected to have, say, over 250 people. Obviously, that MAY be dependent on the park size if it is going to be open to the public and advertised to the public, if there is amplified sound involved, if there are vendors involved, there are a number of different criteria that are listed on our website. Thank you so much. COUNCILMAN Webber is going to get them with that sound, though.

COUNCILWOMAN Hopkins yes. I'm not sure if, you know, if you all were or not. You know, I do a lot of business with parks and have been since I've been in office and have had to go through a series of permits and. The process is, is every case is different. If someone walks in a park and if they decide to do something outlandish, I'm sure that they didn't get a permit to do that. They just came in the park, you know? But we would hope that good citizens, you know, when they want to have events in our parks, that is why we have that.

Permitting process in place. I'm speaking for when someone goes to fill out a permit if they're not in compliance. I think some of the things that you were saying was irrelevant to what I'm asking for right now, and I'm just simply asking for, you know, just to another check of the box of what they already do, which shouldn't really be a big deal. Any other questions or speakers? Alright, this calls for a, oh, we. Need to make a motion on the amendment. Oh.

I'm following your lead. You tell me. So there's an amendment that we need to. There's an amendment by. I read the motion, the amended the amendment by substitution into the record, but I don't recall a motion being. There you go. Motion moved.

All right. And now we are voting on. She got. I think Crystal did. Okay, ma'am. Now we need to vote on the amendment. Please.

Roll call. Please vote. All in favor? Aye, aye. All right. And anybody opposed? All right.

Amendment moves. And now we're now we're need to vote on the ordinance itself. Councilmember Craney I. So you have six yes votes. All right. And it moves to old business. Thank you. Item number three is still being held waiting on some