

1 **BOARD BILL NO.185CS INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE**
2 **INGRASSIA, ALDERMAN JEFFREY BOYD**

3 An ordinance pertaining to all parks which are owned and maintained by the City of
4 St. Louis; prohibiting any persons not accompanying a child from being in or upon the confines
5 of areas designated as children’s play areas which are owned and maintained by the City of St.
6 Louis; containing an emergency clause.

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

8 **SECTION ONE. Legislative Purpose.**

9 WHEREAS, play activity is vital to the beneficial development of children and research
10 has indicated that outdoor play provides physical, emotional, social and cognitive enrichment
11 and advancement for children; and

12 WHEREAS, many public parks in the City of St. Louis provide dedicated play space for
13 children and minors enhancing child development, social interaction skills and the ability to
14 engage in physical exercise; and

15 WHEREAS, certain play areas for young children are not intended for use by adults or
16 older children, other than those persons accompanying children, and are intended to furnish age
17 appropriate recreational play equipment and open space to accommodate child’s play when
18 children are supervised by parents, guardians, caretakers or other appropriate adults. Appropriate
19 recreational play equipment is often designed for children between the ages of two (2) and
20 twelve (12); and

1 WHEREAS, in order to provide for the safest play areas for children and minors in the
2 City of St. Louis, and to maximize play area equipment availability, the St. Louis City Revised
3 Code should be amended and allow for the designation of specific areas within City parks by the
4 Division of Parks to be designated a “Children’s Play Area” which shall be for the exclusive use
5 of children twelve (12) years or younger and for persons accompanying such children; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the intent of this legislation to protect the safety, welfare and general
7 well being of all children playing in St. Louis City parks.

8 **SECTION TWO. Definitions.**

9 For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

10 “City” is the City of St. Louis and any of its duly created agencies.

11 “Child” is a person that is twelve (12) years of age or younger.

12 “Children” are a group of individuals of which no person is older than twelve (12) years
13 of age.

14 “Division of Parks” is the Division set forth in Art. XIII § 14-B(b) of the Charter of the
15 City of St. Louis.

16 “Park” is any area owned and maintained by the St. Louis Director of Parks, Recreation
17 and Forestry, including any sidewalk immediately adjacent to such area but not extending past
18 the curb line of such sidewalk.

1 “Children’s Play Area” is an improved area wholly located within a park, not including
2 the entire park, owned and maintained by the City of St. Louis that is designed, equipped and set
3 aside for children to play therein and is designated by the Division of Parks **and the alderman**
4 **for the ward where the area is located** as a children’s play area.

5 **SECTION THREE. Prohibition of Persons in Children’s Play Areas.**

6 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other ordinance to the contrary, no person older than
7 twelve (12) years of age shall be in or upon the confines of a Children’s Play Area which are
8 owned and maintained by the City of St. Louis, unless they are accompanying a child or group of
9 children, between the time of 10:00 a.m. and the park curfew. It shall not be a violation of this
10 ordinance for parents, guardians, caretakers or other appropriate persons to accompany a child or
11 children in a Children’s Play Area. Nor shall it be a violation for authorized City employees or
12 other authorized workers to be present in order to maintain the grounds and equipment.

13 **SECTION FOUR. Designation of a Children’s Play Area by the Division of Parks and**
14 **Alderman.**

15 For the purposes of this title and chapter, the Division of Parks **and the alderman for the ward**
16 **where the area is located** must identify an area as a Children’s Play Area by clearly and
17 conspicuously displaying signage and boundary markings with signage that reads as follows:

18 “CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA: Only persons twelve (12) years or younger and those
19 accompanying such persons are permitted in this area. All other persons are prohibited from this
20 area and subject to a citation and fine.”

21 **SECTION FIVE. Penalty for Violation.**

September 20, 2013

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Board Bill No. 185 CS
Alderman Jeffrey Boyd

Sponsored by: Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia,

1 Any person, **eighteen (18) and over**, violating the provisions of this chapter and title shall, upon
2 being issued a citation by a police officer or park ranger of the City of St. Louis and found guilty
3 thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than ~~\$100~~ **25** nor more than ~~\$500~~ **100** per occurrence.

4 **SECTION SIX. Severability Clause.**

5 If any part of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent
6 jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this
7 ordinance.

8 **SECTION SEVEN. Emergency Clause.**

9 This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, it is hereby
10 declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of
11 the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore shall become effective immediately upon its
12 passage and approval by the Mayor.