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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DATE: July 15, 2021
TO: Mayor Blad and Council Members
FROM: Brian Lowman, Recreation Manager – Team Sports
RE: **Request for Exception to City Ordinance to Allow for Overnight Camping – Annual Budweiser Tournament**

Jerrold (J.R.) Lynch, representing the annual Budweiser Adult Softball Tournament, has submitted a request for exception to City Ordinance 12.36.020 (Restricted Hours in Parks) to allow for Overnight Camping at NOP Park's Watkins Softball Complex on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17, 2021 in support of the tournament.

The annual Budweiser Tournament has been conducted by Mr. Lynch for the past 8 years. This year's tournament is scheduled for July 17 & 18, 2021 at NOP Park's Watkins Softball Complex. This tournament is one of the two largest yearly adult softball tournaments in Pocatello, with many participants traveling from outside of the area to participate, and bringing a valuable increase in commerce to the City.

A small minority of tournament participants traveling from outside of the area have expressed an interest in self-contained overnight camping in the parking lot areas at NOP Park. With the indicated care that will be taken to remain self-contained while on site, as well as thoroughly cleaning up all areas following use, staff is supportive of the request. Staff also agrees that granting the exception request could also facilitate many friendships being made or improved during the tournament.

Staff recommends that Council approve the request from Mr. Lynch for exception to City Ordinance 12.36.020 (Restricted Hours in Parks) to allow for Overnight Camping at NOP Park's Watkins Softball Complex on Friday, July 16 and Saturday, July 17, 2021 in support of the annual Budweiser Adult Softball Tournament.

Mayor Blad and Council Members,

Hello, my name is Jerrold (J.R.) Lynch. I have run our local Budweiser softball team, and the annual "Budweiser Tournament" for the past 8 or so years. This year's tournament is scheduled for July 17 & 18, 2021 at NOP Park's Watkins Softball Complex. The annual tournament is an extremely challenging process, as trying to please hundreds of people is never an easy task. Coordination of facility use, field preparations, umpires, awards, shirts, and jerseys for champions creates a ton of work leading up to the tournament. The general flow of the tournament is that it typically very fast paced and logistical on Saturday (1st day of tournament), and then calms down a bit on Sunday as team numbers begin to decline. As an FYI, I normally spend close to 30 hours over an approx. 35-hour tournament span out at the fields, making sure things progress successfully.

Many of our annual tournament participants travel from outside of the area to participate. As a result, the tournaments bring a valuable influx of commerce to our City, with hundreds of people and their kids staying at local hotels, and frequenting local restaurants/businesses, and gas stations.

Other tournament participants will bring their campers & portable generators to the annual tournament, so that they have an air-conditioned area to cool off & re-fuel between games, which can be very beneficial in mid-July due to the hot conditions outside. Many people also enjoy bonding between games by visiting and getting to know one another. My observations are that it's great that they do so, and I see this as an area where many friendships are made or improved.

A smaller minority of tournament participants traveling from outside of the area have expressed an interest in self-contained overnight camping in the parking lot areas at NOP Park. It has been brought to my attention that such a request would require City Council approval for an exception to City Ordinance, to allow for tournament participants to camp overnight in NOP Park.

I would like to respectfully request that a small minority of tournament participants traveling from outside of the area be allowed to camp overnight in NOP Park on the evenings of Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th, 2021 while participating in our annual Budweiser Tournament. I estimate the total number of campers to be less than 15, and careful care will be taken to remain self-contained while on site, as well as thoroughly clean up all areas following use.

With the multiple benefits of overnight camping for adult slow pitch tournament participants stated above, combined with planned measures to address clean-up, I'm hopeful that my request will be looked upon favorably by the Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerrold Lynch
585 Hyde ave
Pocatello idaho, 83201