FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Gainesville Takes Firm Stand Against Illegal Parking in Leonard Park to Ensure Public Safety

Gainesville, TX– The City of Gainesville is taking decisive action to address the issue of illegal parking within Leonard Park.

Illegal parking in Leonard Park has become a growing concern, particularly in the turn-about circle at the south end of the park, west of the baseball fields. This obstruction poses a significant risk to public safety, potentially delaying crucial response times during emergencies.

"In order to ensure the safety of all park visitors, the Gainesville Police Department is implementing a zero-tolerance policy toward illegal parking in Leonard Park," stated Police Chief Kevin Phillips. "Effective immediately, we will be patrolling the area more frequently and violators will be issued citations in accordance with city ordinances."

"We have multiple signs that say no parking posted around the area," stated Interim Parks Director Kevin Gann. "We have asked folks to not park there multiple times and the community is vocal about the hazards they've seen and experienced because of the illegal parking. We are going to be serious about enforcing these rules and will start towing if we have to."

The enforcement of this policy aims to alleviate congestion within Leonard Park, allowing traffic to move through the area as quickly and safely as possible in the designated space. Additionally, it seeks to uphold the safety and well-being of park patrons by preventing potential accidents, promoting orderly parking practices, and allowing emergency vehicles unimpeded access to all areas of the park in the event of an emergency.

"We urge all visitors to Leonard Park to comply with designated parking regulations and to park only in designated areas," said Gann. "We have created access to the parking area south of the levee via a designated path. The path connects the levee lot to the parking lot east of the fields, off the frontage road. Together, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our community and visitors."

The Gainesville Police Department remains committed to working collaboratively with park and city officials and the community to address public safety concerns and maintain the integrity of Leonard Park as a recreational space for all to enjoy.

Gainesville Parks and Recreation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through recreational activities and providing facilities for use by our community.

For more information about Leonard Park or other recreational spaces within the City of Gainesville, please contact the Parks and Recreation department at 940-668-4530. To report instances of illegal parking or other non-emergency public safety issues, please contact the Gainesville Police Department at 940-668-7777.

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