

From: [Horne, William](#)
To: [Cretkos, George](#)
Cc: [Call, Rosemarie](#)
Subject: RE: Disabled Veterans and the Long Center
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:09:51 PM

Will do....Thanks.

Bill

Bill Horne, ICMA-Credentialed Manager
City Manager
City of Clearwater
(727) 562-4046
(727) 224-7088
william.horne@myclearwater.com



From: Cretkos, George
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 3:23 PM
To: Horne, William
Subject: Re: Disabled Veterans and the Long Center

yes--please--limit to service connected disability--not any veteran--gnc

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 12, 2014, at 2:03 PM, "Horne, William" <William.Horne@myclearwater.com> wrote:

Kevin has provided the code provisions that address non-resident Park and Recreation Fees below. I don't know how we can charge non-resident disabled veterans the resident rate without amending the ordinance. Pam reviewed the ordinance provision and agrees. Interestingly, we charge the resident rate for active duty military and families but have never included veterans in any category. Do you want this as a council discussion item at the next worksession?

.....Bill

I have listed the exemptions below. We address active military and their families (f) but not previous service. The rate is still very economical versus other options..

The criteria which establish the class of City residents for the purpose of the fees above are:

(a)

Permanent residence within the incorporated boundaries of the City. For the purposes of this Section, Permanent Residence shall mean a place where a person has his or her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment which, whenever absent, he or she has the intention of returning. Residence shall mean such permitted uses of the use category "Residential" in the Clearwater Community Development Code, as may be amended from time to time.

(b)

Ownership of real property within the incorporated boundaries of the City, as evidenced by the official tax rolls maintained by the county;

(c)

Tourists and guests temporarily residing at properties three months or less, within the incorporated boundaries of the City as evidenced by a motel key or another resident member;

(d)

Persons who are employees of the city, and their family;

(e)

Persons who are retirees of the City of Clearwater;

(f)

Active Military personnel and their family;

(g)

Full Time employees or clients of the Upper Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens (UPARC), for the use of the Long Center facility and programs only;

(h)

Corporate memberships to City wellness programs at City facilities funded by businesses or employees of government institutions (within the incorporated boundaries of the City);

Bill Horne, ICMA-Credentialed Manager
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<image002.jpg>

From: Cretekos, George
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 8:34 PM
To: Marc G
Cc: Kuligowski, Patricia; Horne, William
Subject: RE: Disabled Veterans and the Long Center

Mr. Marc Goldberg
2286 Cumberland Circle, #1113
Clearwater, FL 33763

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

Thank you for your communication regarding your recent experience at the Long Center and your interest in having service-connected disabled veterans receive a special discount at City of Clearwater facilities. First, especially on this Veterans' Day holiday, let me thank you for your service and sacrifice in behalf of our country. Let me also apologize for any discourtesy you may have experienced.

You have raised a very legitimate question, and I am forwarding your request to the Clearwater city manager who has jurisdiction over the day-to-day operations of city operations. While it is the city policy to charge a higher rate to non-residents whose property taxes do not pay for the operation, maintenance, and construction of Clearwater Parks and Recreation facilities, should he determine that the City Council would have to direct that a discount be offered, then I will be pleased to raise this issue with my Council colleagues at a future meeting.

Again, thank you for your note, and with warm, personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

--george n. cretekos

George N. Cretekos
Mayor, City of Clearwater
727-562-4050
george.cretekos@myclearwater.com

<image003.jpg>

(please note that under Florida's public record laws, written communications, including e-mails, to and from members of city council regarding official business are public record and will be made available to all members of the Clearwater city council and the press)

From: Marc G [<mailto:zen2100@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Cretekos, George
Subject: Disabled Veterans and the Long Center

11/10/14

Dear Mayor Cretekos,

I am writing to you because I have not received a warm response to my inquiry at Parks and Recreation, for asking if they would allow the courtesy of giving "Service Connected Disabled Veterans" some sort of discount for swimming rehabilitative use of the Long Center.

Although I have a Clearwater address, they people at the Parks and Recreation Department have informed me that I am not a resident of Clearwater, because my home is in an unincorporated area. I would have to pay an additional \$180.00. OK, I understand why, but asked if being a disabled comat veteran, with a document from the VA with proof of service connected injuries, would qualify me for any type of a discount at the Long Center. The very nice woman asked me to hold for a bit on the phone and returned to say "Absolutely", just take your documentation down to the center and tell them you spoke with us. They will give you the same price as a resident. I was very happy with that. Not the case when I went to join at the center later today. Not quite rude but close. Pretty cold reception though. "Sorry they were wrong" the woman said. " You pay the full fee or you cannot use the facility" " I don't care, you do not qualify for any discount"

I called back Parks and Rec and they said they were sorry they might have made a mistake. I am upset, and quite disappointed in that response. I can visit almost any facility in this state because of my service disability including every state park at no charge for my entire life, but I cannot even get a discount at a sorely needed rehabilitative venue like the Long Center? Please Clearwater, you can do much better than that !

My doctors at James A Haley Veterans Hospital say that swimming is an answer for me in my rehabilitation. I live 7 minutes north of the Long Center. They have a rehabilitation pool that I and other disabled veterans could sorely make use of.

I ask that as Mayor of one of the best cities in country to live, you might just make the city a bit more friendly to those of us that have put ourselves on the line for our country. Truly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marc Goldberg
2286 Cumberland Circle #1113
Clearwater, FL 33763
(727) 259-3720

Sent from Windows Mail