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FINAL

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CHICAGOLAND

Council called to order in Iraq

Diverse assembly
headed by cleric

A TRIBUNE SPECIAL REPORT
UNITED'S RHAPSODY OF BLUES

ESOP's fable forces airline to the brink

Pooch owners in the booming South Loop seek fenced-off area where their pets can freely frolic

Grant Park dogs may get a spot to run

By Celeste Garrett

Tribune staff reporter

There's the Spirit of Music Garden, Buckingham Fountain, the Court of Presidents and even the Flaherty Memorial Rose Garden. And now Grant Park, the jewel of the city's park system, may be getting a new attraction: a fenced dog run.

About 80 residents, calling themselves the South Loop Dog Park Action Co-op are lobbying the Chicago Park District for a spot near the south end of the park to let their animals run free and are getting a fairly warm reception from city officials and park advocates.

It's a sign of the continuing housing boom in the South



Tribune photo by David Klobucar

Aidan Allaway, 14 months, is dog-friendly with Casey, who is out for a walk with owner Mike Gallagher in Grant Park.

Loop, experts said, where new residents—most without a backyard—want to stretch the traditional uses of the showcase park known as Chicago's "front yard."

"I'm not sure how the public is going to feel about a dog run in Grant Park," said Bob O'Neill, president of the park's

PLEASE SEE **DOGS**, BACK PAGE

FROM PAGE ONE

DOGS:

Off-leash site is top issue in talks this week

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advisory council. "The dog-use issue is a real hot one and a perfect example of balancing very local community use with the international stature and design of Grant Park.

"These diverse uses will continue to increase as the residential population around Grant Park explodes."

The proposal tops the agenda of the Grant Park Advisory Council meeting Tuesday. The area in question, a patch of about 120 feet by 150 feet, is at the southern end of the park, near the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Michigan Avenue, in an area that slopes down to the train tracks.

Any park district dog run must have a hard surface, such as concrete, because regulations call for regular cleanings with bleach, officials said.

Dogs on leashes are permitted in all city parks. Chicago's seven dog-friendly parks have fenced areas where the pets are allowed to roam, park district officials said.

"We've actually been at this for over three years, trying to find a park suitable for dogs to play off leash," said Gail Merritt, a Printers Row resident who heads up the South Loop dog group and owns Chloe, a 3-year-old Labrador-husky mix. "Within the South Loop area, there are lots of dogs. And the residents who live near the handful of smaller parks are not very happy about dogs off leash."

Erma Tranter, executive director of the Friends of the Parks, said her organization does not get involved in efforts to install dog runs at individual parks.

"In the areas where they already exist, they seem to be successful," Tranter said.

"Friends of the Parks supports dog-friendly areas in general because dogs are important to the quality of life to many citizens."

Park officials are supportive of the request for a dog area in Grant Park, said spokesman Ju-



Mike Gallagher and Judy Meguire walk their dogs in Grant Park Sunday. A South Loop group is hoping to build a fenced dog run.

Tribune photo by David Klobucar



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lian Green, but he noted that the local community must be in favor of it.

City planners see no letup in the South Loop housing boom. In 1980, there were 6,400 residents in the area bounded by Lake Michigan, the Chicago River on the north and west, and Congress Parkway on the south.

The population was 12,000 in 1990, 16,000 in 2000; a projected 22,000 by 2010 and 30,000 in 2020.

"It is growing exponentially, all because there simply is a much more 24-hour feel to the city now," said Pete Scales, a spokesman for the Chicago Department of Planning.

Demand for conversions of Loop office space into housing is so high that developers are specializing in it, he said.

Merritt, 51, a communications and management consultant, gave up a house and a backyard in the Lincoln Square neighborhood for the South Loop when she married a man already living downtown.

"I purchased a loft in the South Loop because of the diversity, charm, it's close to the lakefront and the park system," said Sarah Booth, 36, a former Lakeview resident who quit her job at IBM to start her own business.

She now lives with Sadie, an Akita, and Rio, a husky, both a year old.

"I have a much better sense of community now, and the dogs really have done that for me," she said. "They're how I've met everyone I know in the neighborhood."

Michael Beyard, who studies big city retail and entertainment development at the Urban Land Institute in Washington said the new urban dwellers are

often young singles or empty-nesters who come with high expectations for city services.

"They tend to be well-educated, high-income professionals and they're not going to be satisfied with what earlier city residents were satisfied with," Beyard said. "They want the best of suburban and urban living. . . . They want it all."

It is a problem most cities want to have right now, he said. Officials in Boston, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington also are trying to attract residents to their downtown areas by creating cultural amenities and more retail options.

"But among the major U.S. cities, outside of Manhattan, Chicago is where we are seeing the largest growth in population within the vicinity of downtown," Beyard said. "It seems that good public planning and a good real estate market and changing demographics are all driving people into the city."

City planners are looking to bring more grocery stores, theaters and schools downtown, Scales said. Officials are looking at Block 37, a vacant lot bounded by State, Randolph, Dearborn and Washington Streets, for "some kind of food use," he said, while a new development that includes housing,

retail and a school is being planned for what was a golf course next to the Illinois Center complex, east of Michigan and south of Wacker Drive.

"And the revamping of our theater district is ongoing," Scales said.

More parks also are planned for downtown and the South Loop to accommodate the surge in people and their pets.

Barbara Burnette moved from Plainfield into an apartment building on Michigan five years ago and has no back yard, but last year adopted a 1-year-old golden retriever named Max. Now Burnette, 35, an interior designer for an architectural firm, has volunteered to draw the plans for a Grant Park dog run, complete with shade trees and flowering planters.

Because of city budget cuts this year, the community group would have pay half of the estimated \$150,000 cost if it wins approval of the dog run.

Merritt said the South Loop dog group would raise the money through weekend dog washes, group memberships and selling commemorative bricks to be placed in the park with the names of big donors.

"We want this to be a jewel of a dog park," Merritt said. "After all, it is Grant Park."

BUSH: Senator Cheney contro

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"a selective use of intelligence to support Bush's

"The way in which the administration has responded in the last few days raises more questions than it answers. Now it looks as though it's just a conscious effort to create a false impression,"

Graham went on to say that if anyone believed that President Dick Cheney got a CIA report that proven nature of intelligence, "I'd like some swamp land."

Rice and Rumsfeld's allegations that the intelligence was developed to support the president and insisted that Bush said was accurate.

The reference to intelligence was part of the speech cleared by key agencies, including the CIA, they

"It is ludicrous that the president of the United States went to Washington to wonder whether Saddam sought uranium," Rice said. "This very broad case of

Union and other people. Yet, both advisers said intelligence did not meet the standards to be used in a presidential speech. They have been stricken

On Friday, George Tenet said he was responsible for not disclosing the information. It was a CIA chief said.

Support for Tenet

Rice and Rumsfeld should not resign, said a talented public official. Bush's full confidence

They also confirmed the Washington Post reported had persuaded them to remove a reference to intelligence claims in a speech last October. State of the Union

Denying that the White House was about Tenet's boss