

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Meeting Date: September 8, 2009	1 st Reading _____ 2 nd Reading _____	Legal Review:	Agenda Location: Presentations	Agenda Item:
Subject: A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 AS THORNTON'S "PLAY DAY" TO BE PART OF HARVEST FEST.				
Prepared by: Jan Kiehl, Andy Jennings and Diane Van Fossen.		Approved by: Jack Ethredge		Ordinance previously introduced by: _____
Reviewed by: Mike Soderberg		Presented by: Mike Soderberg Executive Dir. - Community Services		

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Community Services Department submitted an application on May 1, 2009, for "Playful City USA" recognition to KaBOOM!, a national non-profit organization that empowers communities to build playgrounds and non-structured play spaces. As a part of the Playful City USA application, the City is required to submit a draft proclamation or resolution that designates a Play Day in the City. A KaBOOM! Play Day is one day when the community gets together to celebrate and recognize the importance of play – unstructured, self-motivated play – for kids of all ages.
- On July 13, 2009, KaBOOM! announced that Thornton was one of 93 communities across 33 states to be selected as a 2009 Playful City USA community, recognizing the City's commitment to play.
- The designation of a Play Day on September 12, 2009, to coincide with Harvest Fest, will fulfill the application requirements.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- None

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution:

- Thornton Harvest Fest is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2009. This is an existing community event that already attracts the families of the community and presents an ideal venue for Thornton's "Play Day".
- A Play Day is a good way to draw attention to the importance of play in the lives of all children in our community and help promote active life styles.

HISTORY: (includes previous City Council action)

- None

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 AS THORNTON'S "PLAY DAY" TO BE PART OF HARVEST FEST.

WHEREAS, play is a crucial factor in the overall well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, play spaces and playgrounds within walking distance of children's homes are missing from many communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, unstructured, unplanned, spontaneous, and self-motivated play is on the decline; and

WHEREAS, fewer children spend time outside at parks and playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, recess is being shortened or removed from school curriculums; and

WHEREAS, children who play learn the social skills that help them become happy and well-adjusted adults; and

WHEREAS, parents, schools, child care centers, nonprofit organizations, businesses, churches, synagogues, mosques, and all interested parties wish to raise this community's children to become healthy, happy, and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to designate a day when the community can get together to celebrate and recognize the importance of play.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council designates Saturday, September 12th as "Play Day" in the City of Thornton, Colorado, as part of Harvest Fest.
2. That the City Council urges all citizens to celebrate Play Day and support efforts to build and maintain play spaces and playgrounds in Thornton and its neighborhoods.
3. That the City Council urges all citizens to continue to support and maintain play spaces for the well-being of Thornton residents and future generations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on _____, 2009.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO

Erik Hansen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy A. Vincent, City Clerk