



## **Florida Breastfeeding Coalition Inc.**

**210 Lookout Place**

**Maitland, FL 32751**

**Phone 407-803-2024 - Fax 407-215-0402**

**[www.flbreastfeeding.org](http://www.flbreastfeeding.org)**

July 26, 2008

City of Jacksonville  
Parks Department  
220 E Bay Street  
Jacksonville Florida 32202

Dear City Parks Director:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Holly Howe who was visiting the Kids Kampus at Metropolitan Park with her children on July 19, 2008. Ms. Howe felt Tom Wright and another park employee harassed her because they had opinions about her breastfeeding her 5-month-old daughter and human milk posing a health risk to others.

The park employees should be made aware of Florida Law, House Bill 231 (Fl. ALS 4; 1993 Fla. Laws ch. 4; 1993 Fla. HB 231 Fla. Stat. § 383.015, § 800.02 - 800.04, § 847.001 - later: § 827.071) that states in Section 1. The breastfeeding of a baby is an important and basic act of nurture which must be encouraged in the interests of maternal and child health and family values. A mother may breastfeed her baby in any location, public or private, where the mother is otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether or not the nipple of the mother's breast is covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding. May it also be noted that the Centers for Disease Control and the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) consider human milk to be a food, not a body fluid. Universal precautions are not required in the handling of human milk. (OSHA: Standard number 1910.1030; 12/14/02)

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General recommend all infants be exclusively breastfeeding for 6 months and breastfeeding be continued for at least one year or as long as the mother and baby mutually desire. The many positive benefits of breastfeeding have been well documented in the medical literature and have been supported by the Department of Health and Human Services' *Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding* and the United States Breastfeeding Committee's *Breastfeeding in the United States: A National Agenda*.

Every citizen should encourage breastfeeding. The benefits of breastfeeding affect every part of our society. Breastfeeding reduces infant mortality and morbidity more than any other intervention, which translates into healthier children who have a greater chance to grow up as healthier adults. Breastfeeding is the most cost-effective way to decrease disease and save healthcare dollars. It would be appreciated if your park employees were better educated on the law and the medical science of breastfeeding.

Sincerely,

Pat Lindsey, IBCLC, RLC

cc: Councilman Daniel Davis  
Holly Howe