

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Biddle
900 Audubon Lane
Winter Park, FL 32789

Mayor Joe Terranova
Winter Park City Hall
401 Park Avenue South
Winter Park, FL 32789

April 21, 1998

Re: Lake Mizell
Partial No-Wake Zone

Dear Mayor Terranova:

We appreciate your taking the time to review our concerns regarding Lake Mizell and the serious problems there.

Lake Mizell is comprised of a small northern section that is separated by a narrow channel from a larger southern section. We respectfully, but strongly, urge the City Commissioners to make the northern part of Lake Mizell and the narrow channel a No-Wake zone.

The distance in the channel is less than 285 feet. There are numerous water skiers (many of whom are "drag strip" skiers who stay all day, skiing back and forth between the north and south sections) and jet skiers who are very noisy and irresponsibly fast. These watercraft pass each other in the narrow channel and within the small northern part creating a danger to themselves, others, and the environment.

Tom Fumea, the Risk Manager for the City of Winter Park, has assessed the situation and agrees with the creation of a No-Wake zone.

We request that this dangerous and bothersome situation be remedied immediately for the following reasons:

- **Safety.** The area is far too small for the level of activity, creating a very dangerous situation. The City is **on notice**, creating a **liability exposure**. It should be noted that Lake Sylvan, which is larger than the northern section of Lake Mizell, prohibits motorized watercraft.
- **Erosion.** Many skiers and wakeboarders operate their boats so as to create as large a wake as possible in order to jump the waves and perform acrobatics. In addition, the jet skiers run numerous circles in order to jump the waves they create. Obviously, this is extremely damaging to this small, environmentally fragile lake. The impact is

evident in the shorelines, seawalls and boat docks. It has also had a negative effect on water turbidity at a time when the city is spending large sums to improve water clarity. There are many other larger, equally accessible lakes which these watercraft could use without such extensive impact.

- **Noise.** The noise from all the boats and jet skis (and the swearing from the skiers) is extreme and bothersome. Because the lake is so small, this noise has a major impact that would be less likely on a larger lake.

For these reasons, we request that a **No-Wake Zone** be established in the **northern part** of Lake Mizell, **the channel**, and **175 feet south** of the channel. Once the No-Wake zone is in place we request enforcement by local police.

In addition, because Lake Mizell is so small and environmentally fragile, we request that a study be undertaken to establish the feasibility of making Lake Mizell a complete No-Wake zone in the future. This would create a place on the Winter Park chain of lakes for fishing, canoeing and kayaking, free from the trauma of motorized watercraft, and in keeping with many other natural and environment-friendly improvements in our area (such as bike paths for cyclists).

We thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,

Clyde H. Biddle

Judy H. Biddle

cc. Vice Mayor Roland Hotard
Commissioner Kenneth Marchman
Commissioner Rachel Murrah
Commissioner Doug Storer
City Manager James Williams
City Risk Manager Tom Fumca