



Photo courtesy Matt Stanton

DUDE CAN HANG: Jerome Hawkins stars in 'North Starr' as Demetrius, a hustler on the run in West Texas. Hawkins stars in two films premiering at next month's Sundance Film Festival.

office/Ford Explorer, idling in a Mid-City alley on a sunny weekday afternoon. "I don't want any toys.

"What am I going to do with money anyhow? I haven't had any money in three years."

Although, he did allow that he might throw a party if the film rights are sold at Sundance.

"Oh, my God, I'll rent out the biggest venue in town. We're gonna take over Park City."

And with that, the Sundance director drove off, looking for a spot in the alley in which to park and rest his head, for there's a long road ahead.

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L.A. canine owners pay for park access

FROM DOG PARK PAGE 3

Santa Monica and put up with the noise and pollution coming from the Santa Monica Airport. That should be enough to allow them entrance to the dog area, they said during meetings with the Recreation and Parks Commission and the council.

City staff initially offered Mar Vista residents 15 permits as part of a pilot program but that proposal was rejected. Mar Vista residents said they did not know how to distribute the permits fairly.

Various media outlets jumped on the story following a second protest involving Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

City staff said they wanted time to monitor usage at the park to see if there was a strong demand from residents before letting Los Angeles dog owners in. A survey found that there wasn't much of a demand, prompting staff to go before the council with the recommendation to open it up to everyone, something with was supported by parks and rec.

Over the course of 15 weeks, a maximum of 24 dogs were seen at the park at any one time and during most of the day there were far fewer dogs, city staff said. The most popular times for use are on weekday and weekend afternoons and evenings, with weekend use being slightly higher overall.

The dog area is open from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekends. That's the hours for Joslyn Park, Pacific Street and Airport Park only. For Memorial Park, the hours are from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for both weekdays and weekends.

A person is allowed to bring only four dogs at a time into an off-leash area, a limit put in place by the council after some complained about professional dog walkers taking up too much room.

If usage patterns at the park change and grow to a point where the annual fee for



File photo

FREEDOM: L.A. dog owners have bought into the city's agreement to allow them and their dogs to have access to Airport Park's dog area.

dog tags does not support maintenance needs, the council could re-examine the policy and make changes.

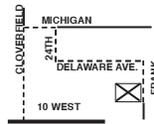
At the park on Sunday, Julie Tarrero was with her collie Beatrice, watching her little dog run around in circles. Tarrero did not have a tag yet, but she was planning on getting one before the Jan. 1 deadline.

"I'm one of those people who puts things off until the last minute," she said. "I'll definitely get one, though. This place is great, the people are nice and the animals are for the most part well trained ... It's so close to my home. I don't know where else I would go if I couldn't go here."

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also
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