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## San Jose City Council passes new leash law for dogs on city trails

new signs, striping and mileage markers to be installed along

city trails.

Contact Tracy Seipel at 408-275-0140.

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The San Jose City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a new ordinance that requires people on city trails to keep their dogs on leashes no longer than 6 feet -- 14 feet shorter than is allowed now.

The new law also requires dog owners to walk, jog or bicycle to the right of the trail with their pets.

First-time violators would receive a warning, second-time violators could be issued a \$100 citation, and a third violation within three years could result in a \$200 fine.

The action comes after a series of community meetings held by San Jose City Councilwoman Nancy Pyle following a fatal accident that occurred on Sept. 16, 2009.

Beverly Head was taking a morning walk when her legs became entangled in a dog leash as a mountain biker riding alongside his two Siberian Huskies passed her on the Los Alamitos Creek Trail. The retired 62-year-old San Jose phlebotomist fell and hit her head. She was conscious after the accident, but at the hospital her brain swelled, and she died the next day.

Head's widower, Bob Head, on Tuesday addressed the council and thanked the city for making the change, adding that he believes it will enhance safety on trails.

City officials say dog owners can still have up to 20-foot leashes when their pets are in open, grassy spaces in a park, as long as the dogs aren't bothering anyone.

The council also unanimously approved a plan for



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