

## **Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program**

3534 S.E. Main Street • Portland, Oregon • 97214 • Phone 232-0010

*A non-profit coalition supporting citizen participation and community development in Southeast Portland.*

**To: Portland City Council**

**From: Helen Cheek  
Crime Prevention Coordinator  
Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program**

**Subject: Proposed ban on alcohol in the parks**

**Date: April 26, 1989**

From my experience as Crime Prevention Coordinator in inner southeast Portland, I believe that a ban on alcohol, except by permit, would decrease the amount of vandalism, noise and violence in and around the parks. The abuse of alcohol in city parks is the root cause of much of the crime and disorder.

Ten of the eleven parks in the neighborhoods I serve have had alcohol banned, park by park, within the the last two years, most of them in 1988. In most cases this action came as a result of a neighborhood request. Neighbors around each park met to discuss the situation, sought support from the neighborhood association and the local precinct commander and petitioned the Park Bureau to institute the ban. Neighbors report a substantial decrease in problems, particularly at night. District officers also have reported fewer problems.

The issue is not use of alcohol per se, but the abuse of alcohol to the degree that it keeps citizens from using the parks, and causes chronic disturbances in the neighborhood. While it may seem unfair to some to ban alcohol completely in the parks, we must weigh the right of the individual to drink in the parks against the severe negative impact on the community from the abuse of alcohol.

Because the banning of alcohol park by park has caused confusion for the citizens and the police, a regionwide ban is necessary. The people of Portland have demonstrated that they care about the parks and are willing to take the steps necessary to protect them and keep them safe for the community.

I strongly urge that you vote to ban alcohol, except by permit in all city parks.

Marion Philips, 2606 SE Salmon, Portland, Oregon 97214

Testimony to the Portland City Council Supporting the Ban of Alcohol in All Public City Parks.

I am here today to testify in favor of banning alcohol in city parks. As a member of the SE Crime Prevention Policy Committee and a member of the Board of the Buckman Neighborhood Association, I report to you that the Boards of both groups unanimously support this ban. Return these parks to the men, women, and children of this city who long to use them as they were intended to be used. The tax paying citizens of this city paid for these parks and we want them back.

As you may know, several parks in Buckman have had alcohol banned from them after petitioning by neighbors. Informal polling of neighbors by Board members who live across from two parks where alcohol was banned, namely Colonel Summers and Sewallcrest, attest to the vast improvement in the park environment and the increase in use by all ages. One Board member living near Sewallcrest Park said, "Parents use the park with their children more frequently since the ban of alcohol. Parents inform those who attempt to drink there, 'This park is posted,' and point to the sign."

As a private citizen and homeowner I am here to report my experiences with Portland parks during recent years. My husband and I have been residents of the city of Portland for the past 21 years. When we returned from a sabbatical in 1985, we thought it would be fun to live downtown near Portland State where my husband is a Professor of Philosophy and close to my clients in the downtown business

district. We rented an apartment on the fourth floor of a nice building overlooking the Lovejoy Fountain. From March to November there was continuous drinking by basically the same crowd who gathered underneath the pavillion near the fountain. I never went to sit near the fountain because I was afraid of that crowd. From my apartment, I saw the fountain used as a urinal, a place to wash clothing, and a bathtub. The bushes around the fountain gave off a stench of urine during dry weather. The noise from these drunks prevented us from opening our windows on nice days, and kept us awake at nights. Their arguments were filled with loud profanities that pierced our double-paned windows; their physical fights were so bad that we called the police on several occassions. I saw weapons, I saw what looked like drug deals. I called Commissioner Lindberg's office three times to complain, and was told that even the Parks Department groundskeepers did not like to go into many downtown parks.

I was afraid to use the little convenience store near my apartment because there were frequently dangerous looking transients purchasing alcohol there. My work was downtown, but I was reluctant to walk there because of the drunken crowds at the Lovejoy Fountain, the Forecourt Fountain, and on the benches on the paths connecting these fountains. In the evening, I was reluctant to take the paths from our apartment to the KOIN Center Cinema or the Civic Auditorium, even in the presence of my husband. But our biggest disappointment was when we realized we would never buy an apartment in downtown, though this had been our plan for some years. We were totally discouraged by the unsafe environment in and around downtown, particularly in the parks. I urge each of you to vote for banning alcohol in the city parks. Thank you.



CITY OF

# PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

4/26

161837

Mike Lindberg, Commissioner  
1220 S.W. Fifth Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 248-4145

April 14, 1989

To: Mary Howard, Council Clerk  
From: Commissioner Mike Lindberg *MDL*  
Re: Time Certain Request

I write requesting that the proposed ordinance banning the possession and consumption of alcohol in City Parks be heard in City Council on Wednesday, April 26, at 10am.  
Thank you.

aa  
attachment

ORDINANCE NO **161837**

\*Ban possession or consumption of alcohol in the parks, except by permit (Ordinance, amend Code Section 20.12.040)

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. The parks of the City of Portland are valuable resources to the community, providing the public with settings for constructive recreation, entertainment and contemplation.
2. The parks of the City of Portland should be safe and inviting to individuals, families and groups.
3. The excessive consumption of alcohol by some park users is a primary cause of behavior problems in parks, including noise, vandalism, anti-social acts, litter, harassment, and reckless driving. These problems have a negative impact on other park users and neighbors, making the parks less safe and inviting than they should be.
4. Banning possession or consumption of alcohol in parks, except by permit, was supported by the public during hearings held on the issue.
5. The banning of the possession or consumption of alcohol in the parks, except by permit, will provide a safer and more inviting atmosphere in the parks, and will provide park officials and police officers with an effective tool in responding to alcohol-related park problems.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- a. PCC 20.12.040 is repealed and replaced by a new section 20.12.040:

**20.12.040 Alcoholic Beverage**

It is unlawful for any person to sell, possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in any park, except by permit issued by the Commissioner in Charge of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation or by the Commissioner's authorized designee. A permit granted under this section may contain such conditions as, in the discretionary judgment of the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee, will promote the preservation of the parks for the peaceful enjoyment of the public at large.

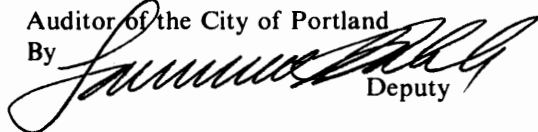
**ORDINANCE No.**

Section 2. The Council declares that an emergency exists in that immediate effectiveness of this Ordinance is necessary for the public health, welfare and safety; therefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by Council.

Passed by the Council, APR 26 1989

Commissioner Lindberg  
HAuerbach:naj  
April 12, 1989

**BARBARA CLARK**  
Auditor of the City of Portland  
By

  
Deputy

THE COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	Yeas	Nays
BLUMENAUER	✓	
BOGLE	✓	
KOCH	✓	
LINDBERG	✓	
CLARK		✓

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	
BLUMENAUER	
BOGLE	
KOCH	
LINDBERG	
CLARK	

Agenda No. 586

## ORDINANCE No. 161837

### Title

\* Ban. possession or consumption of alcohol in the parks, except by permit. (Ordinance; amend Code section 20.12.040)

Filed APR 21 1989

**BARBARA CLARK**

Auditor of the CITY OF PORTLAND

By Mary L. Howard  
Deputy

INTRODUCED BY	
COMMISSIONER LINDBERG	
NOTED BY THE COMMISSIONER	
Affairs	MDL
Finance and Administration	
Safety	
Utilities	
Works	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau:	
Prepared By:	Date:
HAuerbach:naj	4/12/89
Budget Impact Review:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Not required
Bureau Head:	
AGENDA	
Consent	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NOTED BY	
City Attorney	<u>Mary L. Howard</u> , Deputy
City Auditor	
City Engineer	