



Community Health
Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
November 27, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Community Health Commission

Submitted by: Laura Miller, Chair, Community Health Commission
Ann Munoz, Co-Chair, Community Health Commission
Kimi Sakashita, Secretary, Community Health Commission

Subject: Public Commons for Everyone Initiative

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Commons for Everyone Initiative address the over concentration of alcohol outlets and incorporates input from the Berkeley Alcohol Policy Advocacy Coalition.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time to further research and develop the Public Commons for Everyone Initiative (PCEI) proposal.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The PCEI seeks to develop policies and practices that would improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors in the public commons areas of Berkeley through improved services and enforcement. The Community Health Commission (CHC) was asked to review the PCEI and make recommendations.

BACKGROUND

On October 11, 2007, the CHC heard a presentation from Lauren Lampert, Senior Management Analyst, Office of the City Manager on the proposed PCEI, asked questions, made comments and discussed the general aspects of the Initiative. The CHC subsequently put the PCEI on the November 8, 2007 agenda for further discussion and adopted the recommendation in this report.

The CHC supports the overall efforts to improve the health, safety and enjoyment of Berkeley's public commons for everyone. As the PCEI was presented, the CHC supports increased public bathrooms, keeping the bathrooms safe for the public, and identifying funds for them. In addition, the Commission supports increased services for the homeless and those who occupy the street, and acknowledges that it is a developing, ongoing process to meet the needs of the

homeless. However, the Commission is concerned about the excessive penalties for behaviors associated with being homeless to enforce the PCEI without first identifying and developing needed resources to assist homeless persons.

Alcohol use and availability has significant impact on the public commons. The CHC has reviewed the issue of over concentration of alcohol outlets in Berkeley, in particular, in South and West Berkeley Neighborhoods. In addition, the Berkeley Alcohol Policy Advocacy Coalition (BAPAC) has done extensive research on issues related to alcohol sales and consumption in Berkeley and has presented its recommendations to the City Council, requesting new ordinances that will further regulate businesses that sell alcohol.

M/S/C (*Wolin/Chu*) The CHC recommends that the PCEI addresses the over concentration of alcohol outlets and that the Initiative incorporates input from BAPAC. **Ayes:** Unanimous; **Absent:** Bergman, Davis, Gardner, Lewak, and Simpson.

M/S/C (*Adler/Chu*) The Commission supports the PCEI in establishing some specified outdoor public areas where smoking is not permitted. **Ayes:** Adler, Anderson, Chu, Green, Kelly, Miller, Muñoz, Speich, Tempelis, Weiss and Wolin; **Noes:** Mogulof; **Absent:** Bergman, Davis, Gardner, Lewak and Simpson.

Commissioner Mogulof voted no on the motion, due to lack of specifics on what defines public areas and how the no smoking ban would be enforced.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The CHC needs more specific details of the PCEI and how the Initiative would be implemented and enforced. Without more specifics on how the Initiative would be implemented and enforced, the CHC is making a limited recommendation.

CITY MANAGER

See companion report.

CONTACT PERSON

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