



The Willard Neighborhood Association

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To: Mayor Tom Bates
Members of the Berkeley City Council

From: Vincent Casalaina, President
On behalf of the Willard Neighborhood Association

Date: May 22, 2007

The Willard Neighborhood Association would like to thank the Mayor and the members of the City Council for their thoughtful and compassionate start of the creation of the "Public Commons for Everyone" initiative. We understand that the issue is quite complicated and that many stakeholders hold divergent views.

The Willard Neighborhood Association believes that the "Public Commons for Everyone" initiative is necessary if our City is to reclaim its public space. Our neighborhood, bordered by People's Park and Telegraph Avenue, is often beset by drug activity, petty theft, and unruly/inappropriate street behavior which are exactly the kind of quality of life issues addressed in the "Public Commons for Everyone" initiative.

We support:

- Restricting smoking in commercial zones;
- Installing better directional signage to public restrooms;
- Keeping restrooms open 24/7;
- Developing prohibitions and increased fines for public urination and defecation;
- Providing for strict enforcement of all existing laws affecting the quality of life in public spaces and parks
- Reducing warning provisions association with regulation prohibiting lying on the sidewalk

After review of the existing ordinances, of particular concern to our neighborhood are: littering, lying on the sidewalk, public consumption of alcohol, yelling and shouting, obstructing the sidewalk, shopping carts, dog feces removal, and the use of warnings before citations are issued.

We eagerly look forward to the next step in the City Council's consideration of the PCEI. Let us know what we can do to help move the process along.

Sincerely,

Vincent Casalaina
President, Willard Neighborhood Association