

Gail Easton

From: Michael STEPHENS]
Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2011 10:53 AM
To: Legal Affairs Police Corrective Services and Emerg Svc Committee
Subject: Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee
Attachments: 245A-100517L1AR.pdf; ATT00001..htm

Attention: The Research Director,

Please find attached a series of emails between our offices (we are responsible for several properties fronting the Queen Street Mall Precinct) and Ms Grace Grace our local Member of the State Parliament (Brisbane Central) and Members of the Queensland Police. We believe that these emails deal directly with providing the Police with the necessary tools to assist with Move-On orders for extended periods - particularly with repeat/recidivist offenders. Our issues deal directly with the Queen Street Mall Precinct - the primary shopping district in Brisbane and reputedly the pre-eminent shopping Mall in Australia.

As an operator who has to deal with such issues first-hand on a daily basis, we believe that we have a very clear perspective on the problems facing retailers in the CBD. Should you wish for us to talk to this submission we would be more than happy to do so.

Yours Faithfully,
 Michael Stephens

From: Gail Easton [mailto:Gail.Easton@parliament.qld.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** Legal Affairs Police Corrective Services and Emerg Svc Committee
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2011 4:59 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: Call for submissions - Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee

CHANGES TO POLICE POWERS - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Dear Subscriber

A parliamentary committee wants to hear your view on the **Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011**. The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee will examine the policy to be enacted by the Bill and the application to the Bill of fundamental principles.

The committee has called for submissions to give individuals and organisations an opportunity to have their say on the proposed legislation. Submissions will assist the committee in its examination of the Bill and help inform the recommendations it makes to the Parliament. The committee intends to hold public hearings at Parliament House in late September 2011.

The committee invites written submissions on the Bill by email to lapcsesc@parliament.qld.gov.au or by post to:

The Research Director

Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Submissions close **on Friday, 23 September 2011.**

The committee has issued a Media Release which provides some information on the Bill and how to make a submission. The media release and further details about the committee are available on the committee's Internet site at: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lapcsesc.

Should you no longer wish to subscribe to this service, please email the committee to advise.

Regards

Gail Easton

Executive Assistant
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services
and Emergency Services Committee

QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets Brisbane Qld 4000
Ph: 07 3406 7307 Fax: 07 3406 7070

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael STEPHENS < >
Subject: Re: Homeless People sleeping in Queen
Street
Date: 9 August 2011 11:00:09 AM AEST
To: Grace Grace <grace.grace@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QUEENSLAND POLICE
< >

Hi Grace,

As forecast, the girl who was given the formal move on order was back standing in front of our building between 5 & 6pm last night - notwithstanding the direct instructions from the Police to leave the area for 12 hours. She was this morning walking in and out of our tenancies. The police attended to her last night and again this morning but they truly need more assistance.

Many Thanks,
Michael

On 08/08/2011, at 11:26 AM, Michael STEPHENS wrote:

Dear Grace,

We just had an incident this morning with one of the so called homeless - a girl who notwithstanding being formally warned off our properties in the CBD at least twice continues (with and without her friends and associates) to trespass and damage property (including the most recent event of urinating in passageways and believe it or not urinating into the fresh air intakes of the air-conditioning system - together with leaving a home-made bong in the ceiling space with blankets and other items). She/they then have the audacity to hang around at the front of our properties - smoking and leaving rubbish all over the place. Today she went so far as to threaten to 'have her boys smash me up after work'.

The police attended this morning very quickly and dealt with the girl in a completely professional and expedient manner. She was moved on out of the Mall for 12 hours. I don't believe given previous experiences that this will work and she/they will return again tomorrow.

As we have stated on many occasions this is a real problem and the police truly need your assistance - particularly in the area of permanent move on orders/directions. This problem of allowing the so called homeless youths to congregate in gangs and permanently hang about what is supposed to be the best retailing district in Australia is a deterrent to business; a sad commentary on how we stand aside and allow a few maladjusted individuals to pull down the whole human condition; and honestly just disgusting to have to clean up their affairs afterwards. While I do not hold concerns for my safety, this behaviour of threatening violence on others who happen to interfere with their efforts to run amok is not good. We are allowing a few to make it distressing for the rest.

I called your office this morning to leave a message, asking you to return my call, but was directed to send an email.

I would appreciate it if you could find the time to visit and discuss permanent solutions to what has allowed to become a permanent problem.

Many Thanks,
Michael Stephens

On 04/08/2011, at 9:51 AM, Grace Grace wrote:

Thanks Corey, I know this group does good work and look forward with an update of their efforts. ta.

Grace Grace MP

Member for Brisbane Central

www.gracegracemp.com

www.facebook.com/GraceGraceMP

Phone: 3832 1322

From: [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2011 9:43 AM
To: Grace Grace;
Cc:

Subject: RE: Homeless People sleeping in Queen Street

Thank you Grace

Our Thursday night JUST Patrols – Joined Up Street team with BYS will be out tonight and tomorrow night – I will ensure they are briefed also regarding this group. Police working with BYS Youth workers in the field has had a great impact around the area and I am sure they will have some luck with this group.

<image002.jpg>

Corey Allen

Senior Sergeant

Officer in Charge

Brisbane City Station

Phone: +61 7 3258 2438

Fax: +61 7 3258 2648

From: Grace Grace [mailto:Grace.Grace@parliament.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2011 9:41 AM
To: Allen.CoreyM[MNR];
Cc:
Subject: RE: Homeless People sleeping in Queen Street

Thank you Michael and Corey for including me in this email correspondence. Corey, I am pleased that this matter is receiving priority attention, I believe it most important that we address Michael's concerns as soon as possible. If there are any additional services that you require to address this problem, please let me know and I will do all I can to assist. For example, possibly Brisbane Youth Service or other Government services may be able to assist these young people or at least get to the bottom of their homelessness. I am currently in Parliament, but my office will be able to help directly, if required. ta.

Grace Grace MP

Member for Brisbane Central

www.gracegracemp.com

www.facebook.com/GraceGraceMP

Phone: 3832 1322

From: [mailto:]

Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2011 9:27 AM

To:

Cc: ; Grace

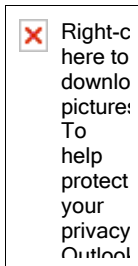
Grace;

Subject: RE: Homeless People sleeping in Queen Street

Thank you for the update Michael – the beat police spoke to this crew this morning outside Hungry Jacks. Their details are being referred to our Child Protection Investigation Unit as they are running a specific operation targeting this cohort.

As for the footage please have a copy burnt and Eric will collect it from you.

Please keep up the quick contact and I am sure that we can get a result with some persistence.



Corey Allen

Senior Sergeant

Officer in Charge

Brisbane City Station

Phone: +61 7 3258 2438

Fax: +61 7 3258 2648

From: Michael STEPHENS [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, 4 August 2011 8:08 AM
To: Allen.CoreyM[MNR]; Van Boxel.EricC[MNR]
Cc: ; grace.grace@parliament.qld.gov.au
Subject: Homeless People sleeping in Queen Street

<image003.gif>

Good Morning Gentlemen,

This morning, one of our painters was working in Queen Street and found about 8 Kiwi types and youths sleeping in the firestairs/internal stairs of Queen Street. You may recall that we have suffered great damage in this property and the reason that our painter was in there was to remedy the graffiti sprayed on the walls recently. The painter told them to move on - no doubt in colour language - and only minutes ago they were hanging out in front of Hungry Jacks and gave him a gob full and he walked over to our offices. We have a video recorder on this property and would be happy to show you footage.

I am afraid that we are loosing control of this situation and these youths are merely moving between Albert Street and Queen Street. Notwithstanding the many breaches and events, we are not aware of any charges/convictions that have been made against these people and they are continually hanging about the properties and we have lost several

traders/tenants as a direct result.

Have we achieved any success in 'Move On' orders? Can we get a permanent injunction against these people. They are disgusting in their appearance and smell and are really turning off shoppers and visitors and tenants. Apart from the undesirable social implications of allowing people to harass and trespass, they are damaging property and this is a disturbing trend which has not lessened and is a very bad sign for retail and commercial operations.

Can you please have someone look into this situation.

Many Thanks,
Michael Stephens

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Vincent < >
Subject: 245 Albert Street homeless youth issues
Date: 8 August 2011 5:11:34 PM AEST
To: "Grace.Grace@parliament.qld.gov.au"
<Grace.Grace@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Michael Stephens < >

Hello Grace

I have been a chiropractor at Queen St for 19 years and have been in Albert Street for the past 6 years.

The issue of the ongoing problems with various youths out the front of my office and now in the toilets, in the roof space, on the roof and in the basement car park on an almost weekly basis is becoming frustrating, costly and concerning for my business. The premium rent I am paying is not being reflected in the service that I am getting from the landlord.... Although I do believe they are doing all they can, but are hampered by the "game-like" attitude of some of the perpetrators.

Please understand that I also applaud the work done by our police. My city based Rotary Club (Mid City) actually gave Corey Allan an award for community service and we sent one of his staff on a leadership course. I agree with Michael Stephens of QED and ask that the police be given greater powers to move on certain people who are known to all and sundry to be loitering with the intent to disturb or disrupt the normal business and entertainment activities of the CBD's patrons.

I welcome the chance to meet with one of your representatives and have a walk-through my CBD building area and enjoy a quick coffee as we step around the urine puddles and then assist my wheelchair patients or elderly Veteran Affairs patients around the groups who sit and lie around the thoroughfare as they attempt to return to their taxi or vehicle.

I look forward to your reply

Sincerely,
Dr Andrew Vincent
Chiropractor

May 19, 2010

State Member for Brisbane Central
Unit 2, Hill House
541 Boundary Street
SPRING HILL QLD 4000

brisbane.central@parliament.qld.gov.au

Attention: Ms Grace Grace MP



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TELEPHONE
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61 07 3221 7385

amr@qedgroup.com

Dear Ms Grace,

Queen Street Mall and Surrounding Areas – Public Nuisances

Over past months, areas of the CBD, particularly the central Queen Street Mall and King George Square areas have degenerated into hang-outs for the disaffected, homeless and those generally wishing to participate in disruptive and socially unacceptable acts. It reminds one of undeniable hurt that lasted for decades to both the Tourism and Retail trades in San Francisco. We write seeking your assistance to return the Queen Street Mall back to a world class shopping destination; one which is safe, clean and a pleasant environment for all to shop, visit, enjoy and conduct business.

We are unsure if your workload permits you to visit the Queen Street Mall on a regular basis, but we work here daily, and we are confident that the Police and Brisbane City Council will readily attest to an increase in aberrant behaviour. Apart from the obvious difficulties of walking over and round people slouching and lying all over the ground in these high pedestrian zones; there are difficulties for visitors and shoppers in finding a seat to rest because there are people sleeping on seats/benches; there are difficulties in navigating litter; and then there is the anti-social behaviour, the screaming, the spitting, throwing of food, the blocking up of advertising space and retail shopfronts which together has the impact of an overall nuisance value. The result is intimidation of visitors, shoppers and workers in the CBD.

If for a moment we look at this issue from a narrow focus, we represent a property Owner who has two (2) investment properties in the Queen Street Mall precinct and will pay (before one dollar in nett income is achieved) over \$1,000,000 in Land Tax and approaching \$2,000,000 in Statutory Charges in the coming year. Our tenants and visitors have increasingly and daily (particularly during school holidays) been subjected to:

- ❖ numerous gangs and mobs participating in disrupting group activities including behaving in loud and vulgar manners;
- ❖ young men occupying ladies toilets and putting on make-up, jewellery and costumes;
- ❖ physical damage (ad-hoc letting off fire extinguishers and fire hoses within the building – broken bathroom fittings, chocking open fire doors for others to gain entry after-hours);
- ❖ threats to tenants demanding the use of their facilities – even though they are not patrons of the establishment;
- ❖ leaving waste and throwing of food and drinks;
- ❖ random yelling at young ladies who must walk through this area;
- ❖ pushing, shoving and threatening of older visitors.

We have approached both the Police and the Brisbane City Council (Mall Operations) – who between them have significant control over such matters. Both parties have responded to our issues readily and in a positive manner. They do however have difficulties in that the disruptive parties know the problems of readily enforcing actions and are either non-responsive to fines or return to the area after 24 hours if officially moved-on.

It has come to our attention that in other areas of the State, the authorities enjoy significant 'Move-On' powers. We also understand that these powers have worked well in Southbank and the Fortitude Valley without any hint of draconian overtones. Accordingly we would seek your assistance in introducing such measures in the CBD and just as importantly, a follow-through officially supporting a decrease in tolerance of the existing anti social behaviour that disrupts trade and distracts from the area. These are fixable issues that have been demonstrably turned around in major cities including Los Angeles and New York – primarily by addressing levels of tolerance.

We understand that much of the work has already been done – section 46 of the Police Powers and Responsibility Act allows the police authority to move people on at or near a regulated place should the officer have reason to believe their behaviour is going to cause anxiety, interfere with trade, is offensive or threatening and is disrupting of orderly conduct to those entering or trading within a building or area. These powers do however become ineffective when inappropriate behaviour is not occurring within distance of a building or regulated space.

We note that the South Bank Corporations Act gives the entity responsible for security the right to exclude the public from South Bank, provided the public are not conducting themselves as required by the South Bank Corporations Act. We believe that Police should be given the power of exclusion from the Queen Street Mall, surrounding areas and other major public spaces; allowing them to ban people for brief or longer periods (say 14 days or with a Court Order up to 12 months for repeat offenders).

Unfortunately these are not new issues – just increasingly unpleasant and disruptive actions by groups who seem intent on making their patch to the exclusion of others. If required, we can happily draw your attention to newspaper articles on such activities and exclusion powers that exist within Queensland and other States banning troublemakers from designated precincts.

The 'Mall' is one of Queensland's favourite gems and best shopping venues. We would hate to see it continue to degenerate and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you, the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Police to explore avenues going forward.

Yours faithfully,
QED Enterprises Pty Ltd



Michael Stephens
Managing Director
117Q-100517LIAR

cc: Brisbane City Council (Mall Operations) - John.Dwyer
Queensland Police - Allen.Corey