



INFORMATION ON ORDINANCE 621

April 2015

Our goal is to ensure public spaces are safe and welcoming for everyone.

- Last year, members of the community came to the City with concerns about safety and behavioral disruptions in the downtown area.
- The vast majority of people use our public spaces in a safe and harmonious manner.
- Most problems are resolved simply by asking the person(s) to correct their behavior. In instances where lesser means aren't enough, the trespass tool can be used to promptly and fairly resolve the problem by temporarily excluding the person(s) from the public space.

Ordinance 621 gives us a tool to address problematic behaviors in public spaces without resorting to citation and arrest.

- A trespass is a comparatively mild, non-criminal sanction that has less impact on the individual involved and incurs less expense for the City.
- In the last seven months, only twenty trespass warnings have been issued of the nearly five hundred Police calls for service to the City Hall / Library area during the same time period.
- Problematic behaviors range from unreasonable disruption (yelling, shoving, or fighting) to dangerous and illegal activity (drug use and sales, damage to buildings, or fixtures).
- In January, the City Council responded to community concerns by improving the original language to ensure a more cohesive appeals process and to clarify the offenses outlined as examples only.

Burien is stepping up to address the challenges posed by poverty and need in our region.

- Over the last five years, Burien has provided more than \$1M in human services grants to help those in need and underserved populations.
- In the 2015-16 city budget, the City Council increased human services funding by 25%, all of which will go toward addressing homelessness.
- Along with work on a regional level, Burien has commissioned a UW team to study how to maximize the impact of the additional funding.
- Burien contracts with a regional service provider (Auburn Youth Resources) to reach out to youth on our streets. This is just one of many grants that the City makes to community organizations whose missions are to reach underserved communities. (See our Fact Sheet for more information.)

City of Burien Fact Sheet

Human Services

The City supports local organizations to help address low-income family needs throughout our community by awarding more than \$200,000 in grants. Just this year, the City has awarded:

- More than \$12,000 to organizations like the Multi-Service Center and Domestic Abuse Women's Network for shelter and transitional housing services.
- Nearly \$40,000 to organizations which combat hunger.
- \$13,000 to St. Vincent de Paul's Eviction Prevention Program.
- \$5,000 to Auburn Youth Resources to provide outreach to youth who find themselves on the streets.
- More than \$40,000 to organizations which help with child care and other family- or child-based assistance.
- Nearly \$25,000 to organizations which provide emergency and/or crisis assistance.
- Multiple other grants to organizations to prevent sexual assault, to connect people with jobs, and to increase access to basic healthcare.

Safety, Maintenance, and Sanitation Services

Burien spends tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars each year cleaning up parks, lobbies, bathrooms, sidewalks and other public areas. Additionally, more than half of the City's general fund budget is spent on safety services such as law enforcement.

- In 2014, Burien incurred significant expenditures to remove graffiti, reconfigure the bathroom for increased safety, improve and repair lighting, and to repair and clean infrastructure such as gates, doors, and sidewalks.
- These expenses have grown over the past several years alongside our increased need to keep our public places as safe and welcoming as possible.
- We have a strong partnership with the King County Library District, a public agency that has also incurred significant expenditures, including increased security, to help keep the Burien Library a safe and welcoming environment for library patrons.

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