

## Lisa Clausen

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**From:** on behalf of Council  
**To:** Jim Branson  
**Subject:** RE: Town Square Park

Thank you for writing to the Burien City Council. Your message will be forwarded to the Parks Director and Police Chief, and included in the Council's Correspondence for the Record.

L. Clausen  
City Manager's Office

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**From:** Jim Branson [mailto:james.branson.206@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 8:07 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Town Square Park

Dear Council Members,

The new Town Square Park will be opening this spring or summer, and I imagine you will have some sort of ceremony or celebration to mark the occasion. Please let me know the date and time, because I want to be sure to be there. I will celebrate the opening of a new park by engaging in many activities which are technically illegal, but always allowed by the city. I'll bring my dog to play off-leash, and if he defecates, I won't pick it up. I'll bring a 40-ounce bottle of beer, and when I'm done with it, I'll smash it, leaving broken glass all over. I will build a fire, using any materials at hand, and I won't put it out. I will crash about through the new landscape, destroying plants haphazardly. Using a can of spray paint, I will mark the new park with graffiti. All of these activities are destructive and disruptive, of course, but that does not matter to the City Council or the Citizens of Burien. Despite signs prohibiting these actions, they happen every day in our parks, and no one does anything about it.

I have asked what I should do when I witness these acts of destruction, and I was told I should call the police. When I do call the police about these problems, they usually do not respond at all, but if they do respond, the average response time is 90 minutes. They claim, and rightly so, that they have to respond to more urgent matters before addressing these problems. It is just not enough of a priority for Burien citizens to pay for adequate law enforcement. Also, when police do respond to a call and find people destroying our parks, the usual response is to talk to the offender and then leave. As far as I know, no citation has ever been issued for off-leash dogs, littering, fires, graffiti, or recreational drug use in our parks. If I am wrong about this, I would sure like to learn of examples to the contrary.

I assume that, when I engage in these disruptive and destructive actions during your grand opening festivities, the response from everyone--citizens, elected officials, city employees, and police--will be to simply ignore me. Am I safe in assuming that I will not be arrested or fined? If that is not the case, and if I will be penalized for actions that you allow every day, can you explain why you would take action against me and not the dozens of people who do this every day in our parks?

Thank you.

Jim Branson  
Seahurst

CFTR : 3-9-09  
CC : Michael Lofrenieri  
Chief Kemmerer