



E-NEWSLETTER

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CAO partners with community groups and Clear Channel to encourage youth to rise above the influence

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Precipitated by the state's legalization of marijuana for adults, a consortium of social service groups is partnering with the City Attorney's Office and Clear Channel Outdoor on a multi-media campaign emphasizing that most youth don't use drugs or alcohol.

To boost the involvement of youth in drug and alcohol prevention activities, Clear Channel has donated billboard space this spring to promote a contest that encourages youth to submit selfies, via Instagram and

Twitter, of themselves and their friends involving drug-free activities. It's all about youth, as youth will also judge the contest and award prizes. In addition, postcards, posters, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will be deployed to encourage youth 13 to 20 to view the contest rules on www.206rising.org, a Neighborhood House project.

"Above the Influence," a program of the national Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, now has a local partner, Neighborhood House, which has served families and communities in Seattle since 1906. www.nhwa.org

Mark Okazaki, Neighborhood House executive director, says, "Today more than ever we need to reach out to youth and parents to educate them about drug prevention. Keeping our youth drug and alcohol free will not only improve their health but also their academic performance in school. We would like to thank the City Attorney's Office, Clear Channel Outdoor and other partners who have helped contribute to spread these billboards across the City."

Other Clear Channel billboards -- part of the first major youth drug prevention media campaign in Seattle since the passage of I-502 in 2012 -- will feature messages aimed at adults by doctors at Seattle Children's. Parents will be encouraged to speak with their children about the connection between marijuana use under age 21 and impaired driving, depression and learning problems at school.

"It's a long-overdue conversation with our children," Holmes said. "They're smarter



than the fear tactics we've been presenting them."

The honest, fact-filled conversations this campaign is designed to inspire, Holmes said, is one antidote to the anti-drug messages that proliferated in the failed War on Drugs, which drove incarceration rates to all-time highs and was ruinous to whole communities.

"Clear Channel Outdoor-Seattle values the opportunity to partner with the city and non-profits to enhance the lives of those within our community," said Pam Guinn, President, Clear Channel Outdoor-Seattle. "We know from experience that our media is an effective means to communicate public service messages to a variety of audiences."

Businesses and individuals are asked to donate prizes through Neighborhood House at www.nhwa.org/makeadifference.

Other campaign partners include Central Area Drug Free Communities Coalition, Coalition for Drug Free Youth/Navos, the Prevention WINS Coalition/Children's Hospital, WAPI Community Services, Healthy King County Coalition, Above the Influence/Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, SE Seattle PEACE Coalition, Mercer Island Youth and Family Services, Lao Khmu Community, Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, Aki Kurose Middle School and Washington Attorney General's Office.



City tells Roosevelt landlords they have to pay off huge debt

Time is running out for Hugh and Martha Sisley to reach an agreement to pay their \$3.3 million debt to the City as a result of decades of housing code violations in the Roosevelt neighborhood.

Sisley attorneys have been presented two options to pay the judgments: voluntary (preferred) or involuntary.

If the Sisleys deed to the City a now-vacant parcel of land along 14th Avenue NE stretching from 65th Street to 66th Street, the City will reduce the couple's overall judgment debt by the fair market value of the land. With title transferred to the City, Seattle Parks and Recreation will develop the property into green space. Should the Sisleys balk at agreeing to offset the judgments with the property, the City plans to acquire the narrow, long parcel through a sheriff's auction.

At a press conference on March 13, with several dozen Roosevelt and Ravenna neighbors in attendance, City Attorney Pete Holmes thanked the community for its patience and his colleagues at City Hall for their partnership. "With the Mayor and City Council's support and approval, we can now use this general fund asset to preserve valuable open space for a community that has suffered so long."

"Roosevelt has long wanted more park space to help accommodate the increase in residents coming to the neighborhood," Mayor Ed Murray said at the press conference that was held on 14th Avenue where the park will take shape. "Now we will have the resources to help make it happen."

The mayor's acting superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Christopher Williams, said in a statement: "We are thrilled to work with the City Attorney to acquire this property for a future park. This is a great opportunity to add precious open space in a rapidly growing neighborhood. We look forward to working with the community to plan and develop the park."

Joining Holmes and Murray at the site were Council President Tim Burgess and Councilmember Jean Godden, Parks committee chair, and Michael Shiosaki, director of Parks Planning and Development.



Referring to Sisley, Burgess said, "I'm pleased that we have the opportunity to transform one man's callous neglect into a community benefit for the Roosevelt neighborhood."

Godden, like all City officials, gave credit where credit was due. "Today's win is one for our neighborhood. It is because of their patience, vigilance, and willingness to keep the pressure on that we are standing here today. Thanks to Mayor Murray and our City Attorney Pete Holmes, we've taken the final step towards ending the decades-long scourge by this slumlord, who brought blight to Roosevelt and Ravenna, and will be replaced by green space for the neighborhood we can once again be proud to call our home."

Pete's remarks on \$3.3 million debt owed the City by the Sisleys

Good morning! I'm Pete Holmes, your City Attorney, here to announce new steps we are taking to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood. And to thank you for your patience.

So let's get to it: The City of Seattle now holds judgments totaling \$3.3 million against Hugh & Martha Sisley, encumbering all of their four dozen decrepit, area properties. These judgments are accruing interest at \$800 per day. Next week, this ordinance will be submitted to City Council. It authorizes me to "credit bid" some of the judgment principal at the foreclosure sale of these parcels [gesture toward nearby properties], and to transfer title to the City's [parks department]. Should bidding at the foreclosure sale for some reason exceed fair market value, the ordinance further authorizes exercise of the City's power of eminent domain to condemn and acquire the property for fair compensation.

Let me emphasize that we prefer to collect the City's judgments and take title to this new open space for the community through voluntary transfers.

The Sisleys have an option for now to transfer this property to partially satisfy the judgments, but we will not wait if they fail to agree to this transfer; we will continue with the compulsory process I just described until the judgments have been fully satisfied.

So, how did we get here? About two years ago, I directed my office to change our enforcement strategies to break the "slumlord's economic model," to call the Sisleys' bluff. We would no longer compromise accrued penalties and interest in exchange for belated, partial performance, and moved to defend and enforce each and every notice of violation issued by the hard working code enforcers from our City's Department of Planning & Development. Thanks to Senior Assistant City Attorney Patrick Downs, we held firm all the way up to the Washington Supreme Court to perfect these valuable judgments. Michael Shiosaki of our parks department will explain how its expertise was utilized to identify the ideal property to secure for the Roosevelt community. And with the mayor and city council's support and approval, we can now use this general fund asset to preserve valuable open space for a community that has suffered so long.



Nightclub closes after City requests emergency suspension of liquor license

City Attorney Pete Holmes and Mayor Ed Murray issued the following statement March 5 upon news that the owners of Club Fusion decided to close the University District-area nightclub:

"Today's closure of Club Fusion is good news for the University District. Club Fusion had exhibited a pattern of violent events that made it a public safety hazard for both residents and visitors to the neighborhood. Last week, the City requested an emergency suspension of their liquor license following a shooting that sent two teenagers to the hospital. We are pleased that the owners decided to voluntarily and permanently close Club Fusion. Moving forward, we will continue to work with the Seattle Police Department and our partners at the Washington State Liquor Control Board to maintain a safe and vibrant nightlife throughout Seattle."

A week earlier Holmes had written the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) asking for an emergency suspension of the liquor license of Fusion Ultra Lounge, 722 NE 45th St.

Holmes said to WSLCB Director Rick Garza: "Since 2013, Fusion has proven itself to be an emergency public safety hazard. Most recently, two shootings have taken place outside the club, involving club patrons, in the last two months."

Prosecutors Against Gun Violence outline goals

City Attorney Pete Holmes is among the nation's leading prosecutors who have announced support for a wide range of gun violence prevention principles, including universal background checks and measures to crack down on illegal weapons trafficking.

"As prosecutors committed to public safety, we strongly believe these common-sense policies would curtail gun violence across our nation," said Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, co-chair and co-founder of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV). "We call on policy makers to share our sense of urgency, put partisanship aside and take action."

"The set of principles unveiled reflects PAGV's independent, non-partisan approach to the public health and safety crisis of gun violence, and the unique and credible perspective that prosecutors bring to this issue," said PAGV co-chair and co-founder Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. "We invite jurisdictions across America to join our call to address this crisis."

In September, Feuer and Vance founded PAGV, which counts 30 prosecutors representing major jurisdictions across the United States. PAGV is an independent, non-partisan coalition that identifies and promotes prosecutorial and policy solutions to the national public health and safety crisis of gun violence. PAGV will work locally and nationally to raise public awareness and support for the following policy principles:

- *Universal background checks
- *Timely and effective transmission of prohibited persons data to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System
- *Combating illegal weapons trafficking by tightening federal and state anti-trafficking laws, limiting multiple gun sales, and supporting inspection and enforcement of licensed gun dealers
- *Limiting access to guns by domestic violence perpetrators, and supporting gun dispossession protocols for domestic abusers
- *Addressing the nexus between mental health and gun violence
- *Preventing gun violence through youth and community outreach
- *Using technology to more effectively enforce existing laws, and
- *Safe storage of firearms.

Holmes attended PAGV's national prosecutorial summit on the nexus between gun violence and mental health in Miami on March 24.

EVENTS

4/1/15 – Pete and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Diaz will speak to a Seattle University Law School seminar on their perspectives of the federal monitoring of the Seattle Police Department.

4/1/15 – Pete will join North Precinct Liaison Attorney Brendan Brophy at the North Precinct Advisory Committee meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at North Seattle Community College.

4/28/15 – Pete and Mayor Ed Murray will speak to the Ballard/University District Rotary Club meeting from noon to 2 p.m. at Anthony's Homeport on Shilshole Bay.

5/7/15 – Pete will attend the Mayor's Citywide Service Award Program honoring employees with 30 years of service, including two from the City Attorney's Office. The ceremony will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in Bertha Knight Landes Room at City Hall.

5/19/15 – Pete will attend a meeting of the state Sunshine Committee from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cherberg Building in Olympia.

5/19/15 – Pete will speak to the Southwest Precinct Advisory Council from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the precinct.

LINKS TO NEWS STORIES

2/17/15 Wrongly accused May Day protest photographer drops lawsuit -- A photographer wrongly arrested during the May Day 2012 protests in downtown Seattle has dropped a federal lawsuit he'd been pursuing about the city police department. (seattlepi.com)

<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Wrongly-accused-May-Day-protest-photographer-6086108.php>

2/24/15 Police Union seeks to block outside hires -- As Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole moves closer to making widely expected changes in her command staff, a department union asked a state hearing examiner Tuesday to block a new city ordinance that allows O'Toole to hire outside candidates. (SeattleTimes)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/police-union-seeks-to-block-seattle-chiefs-hiring-of-outsiders/>

3/5/15 Owners of Club Fusion in U-District decide to close troubled nightclub permanently, city says -- Pressed by city leaders, the owners of Club Fusion have decided to close the troubled nightclub in the University District, Mayor Ed Murray and Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes said Thursday. (Q13)

<http://q13fox.com/2015/03/05/city-requests-emergency-suspension-of-fusion-ultra-lounge-liquor-license/>

3/11/15 Asking Youth to Rise Above the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol -- A new media campaign in the Seattle metro area called Rise Above The Influence is being called the first major youth drug prevention media campaign since the passage of I-502 back 2012, legalizing recreational marijuana. (KPLU)

<http://www.kplu.org/post/asking-youth-rise-above-influence-drugs-and-alcohol>

3/13/15 Holding landlords responsible for blights -- The City of Seattle has rightly upped the ante in a decades-long battle with a notorious North Seattle landlord. City Attorney Pete Holmes Friday laid down a threat to use eminent domain in an effort to hold landlords Hugh and Martha Sisley accountable for repeat code violations at properties in the Roosevelt neighborhood — along with \$3.3 million in fines. (Seattle Times editorial)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/holding-landlords-responsible-for-blights/>

3/17/15 Judge rejects franchises' bid to stop part of Seattle minimum-wage law -- A federal judge has rejected a request from franchises to temporarily prevent part of Seattle's minimum-wage law from taking effect next month. (Seattle Times)

<http://www.seattletimes.com/business/economy/judge-rejects-request-to-shield-franchises-from-minimum-wage-law/>

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The Seattle City Attorney's Office is committed to providing the City of Seattle with the highest caliber legal advice to help protect the health, safety, welfare, and civil rights of all.

The City Attorney's Office has four divisions:

The Civil Division represents the City in lawsuits and advises City officials as they develop programs, projects, policies, and legislation. The sections within the Civil Division include torts (claims), governmental affairs, land use, environmental protection, labor and employment, and contracts/utilities.

The Criminal Division represents the City in prosecuting traffic infractions, misdemeanors, and gross misdemeanors in Seattle Municipal Court. The types of cases prosecuted by the Criminal Division include driving under the influence, traffic infractions, domestic violence, theft, assault, and trespassing.

The Administration Division staff provide budgeting, accounting, human resource, clerical and information technology services for the City Attorney's Office.

The Precinct Liaison Division assigns an assistant city attorney as a liaison to each of the City's five police precincts as another way of addressing public safety and neighborhood livability problems.

How to apply for an internship/externship in the Civil and Criminal Divisions: [http://
www.seattle.gov/law/volunteer_program/](http://www.seattle.gov/law/volunteer_program/)



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