

# *Friends of Kate Sessions Park*

A Committee of City Beautiful of San Diego, Inc.

Report Date: October 6, 2010

Attention: NR&C Committee, San Diego City Council

Kate O. Sessions Neighborhood Park is indicated to serve the 3,500 – 5,000 community residents within a ½ mile radius, according to the PB Community Plan (which is incorporated into the City’s General Plan). As a direct result of the 24 hour ban of alcohol use at City beaches and beach parks, Kate Sessions Neighborhood Park has become a year-round destination for large groups who engage in binge drinking. The ensuing public intoxication results in public urination, excessive foul language and threatening remarks to other park users, as well as illegal parking, broken glass and damage to neighboring properties, and intoxicated drivers leaving the park. The current environment has made use of the park unsafe and inaccessible for intended users.

Since August 2009, The Friends of Kate Sessions Park (“The Friends”) has worked diligently with representatives from the San Diego Police, Animal Control, City Council and Park and Recreation Departments to address the need to restore a safe environment for park users. The effort to enforce existing laws and restore any sense of order in the park has resulted in an escalation of use of city resources and related costs. (Refer to Park and Recreation Board report attachment)

To pursue its mission to ensure a safe and accessible environment for all park users at Kate Sessions Neighborhood Park, The Friends are seeking a change to San Diego Municipal Code 56.54 to add the park to the list of neighborhood and community parks in the City of San Diego that already have a 24 hour restriction on alcohol use. This proposal has overwhelming support from the community as evidenced by the following:

1. Formal public and community endorsements in favor of the proposal for a 24 hour ban:

1/7/2010	Santa Clara Recreation Council (4-0-1) (Governs Kate Sessions Neighborhood Park)
1/15/2010	Pacific Beach Planning Group (11-2) (Governs the Pacific Beach Community Plan)
2/20/2010	Union Tribune Editorial Board
2/24/2010	La Jolla Parks and Beach Committee (7-0-1)
3/11/2010	La Jolla Town Council (13-0)
3/24/2010	La Jolla Recreation Council (10-0-2)
4/07/2010	Community Parks 1 Division Area Committee (10-0)
8/19/2010	Park and Recreation Board (8-1)
2. A three month petition drive from April-June 2010 resulted in almost 600 signatures of community users, primarily residents and intended park users within the ½ mile radius of the park (Refer to [Attachment 1 – Signature Map](#))
3. Precedence exists in the San Diego Municipal Code. With few exceptions, the community and neighborhood parks listed within the Code already have a 24 hour ban on alcohol use. Compromises will not eradicate the public safety and escalating use of city resource issues at Kate Sessions.

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**Mission Statement:** *To preserve, protect and enhance Kate O. Sessions Neighborhood Park in its entirety; to promote safe, wholesome recreational opportunities for individuals, children, families, and the community of Pacific Beach while celebrating the wildlife, canyons, rolling lawns and priceless view that are a fitting memorial to Kate O. Sessions.*

