

ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL

J. AMBLER NEWTON
GLEN E. WILSON
JOHN E. SANDERS
JOHN A. HOMER
GEORGE T. MCGILLIVRAY
ARTHUR SCHRAMM
E. A. SWIFT, JR.

CITY ATTORNEY

BRUCE MACDOUGALL

THE CITY OF SEATTLE
LAW DEPARTMENT

A. C. VAN SOELEN, CORPORATION COUNSEL

CHIEF CLERK

R. B. MCCLINTON

SECRETARY

RUTH GRIFFIN

CLAIM AGENT

JOHN F. COOPER

January 18, 1944.

Re: "Little May Act".

Mr. Wm. L. Norton, Chairman,
Public Safety Committee,
City Council,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:

You have transmitted copy of report of the Chief of Police to the Mayor (Comptroller's File No. 179594), relating to his efforts to control the venereal disease problem. Attached is form of ordinance referred to as the "Little May Act" which the Chief recommends be enacted after remodeling to conform to local law and practice. Included is letter from the Mayor of January 12, 1944, recommending enactment, subject to such "changes" as the Chief of Police and the Corporation Counsel may deem necessary. You specifically ask us "whether or not there are sufficient laws in effect now to control venereal disease without enacting the proposed 'Little May Act.'" "

Arrests are now made and prosecutions had in connection with the venereal disease problem under Ordinance No. 16046, Section 1, which provides in part as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to be guilty of * * * disorderly conduct * * * or to be guilty of any indecent or immoral act, practice or conduct tending to debauch the public morals."

Whether said law is sufficient is a policy question addressed to the City Council. It may well be that the making of arrests, and particularly the drawing of criminal complaints, will be facilitated by an ordinance such as the "Little May Act", which prohibits in detail acts of prostitution, fornication, assignation and other lewd or indecent acts, and the aiding or abetting of the same. Such is evidently the view of the Chief of Police, concurred in by the Mayor. We have no reason to differ with the view that the proposed "Little May Act" may be beneficial from a law enforcement standpoint.

Mr. Wm. L. Norton.

#2.

January 18, 1944.

As to the Mayor's suggestion that the Chief of Police and this office be consulted upon "changes" to be made in the form of ordinance transmitted by the Chief of Police, you are advised that the Chief and the Municipal Judge have been consulted and the necessary changes to conform the proposed ordinance to local law and practice have already been made and are contained in the draft transmitted to your Committee under date January 10, 1944.

Comptroller's File No. 179594 is herewith returned.

Very truly yours,

A. C. Van Soelen
A. C. VAN SOELEN,
Corporation Counsel.

ACV:AP

Enc.

CC - Mayor.

Chief of Police.

January 17, 1944

Hon. A. C. Van Soelen
Corporation Counsel
City of Seattle

Dear Sir:

I am forwarding herewith File No. 179594, being copy of report to Mayor Devin from the Chief of Police relating to means for better control of the venereal disease problem, with the request that you inform me whether or not there are sufficient laws in effect now to control venereal disease without enacting the proposed "Little May Act".

Yours very truly,

Wm. L. Norton

WCH:TW
Att.

MAYOR'S OFFICE
SEATTLE

WILLIAM F. DEVIN
MAYOR

January 12, 1944

Hon. Frank McCaffrey, Acting Chairman
Public Safety Committee
The City Council
Seattle, Washington

Dear Frank:

In reply to your letter of January 11,
it is my recommendation that the Chief of Police
be given such legislation as is necessary adequately
to suppress and control vice and venereal disease.

As you will notice, in this recommenda-
tion from the Chief of Police, he recommends that
the "Little May Act" be remodeled to coincide with
our situation. Therefore, I would recommend that
the Chief of Police and the Corporation Counsel be
consulted upon the changes to be made in this
ordinance, and that it then be enacted.

Sincerely yours,



WFD-O

MAYOR

C
O
P
Y

POLICE DEPARTMENT
City of Seattle, Washington

C
O
P
Y

December 17, 1943

Mayor William F. Devin
County-City Building
Seattle, Washington

Dear Sir:

At a meeting held in the Mayor's Office on December 14th, attended by the City Council and heads of various departments interested in venereal disease control, the mayor asked the Chief of Police to submit a report on contemplated means for better control of the venereal disease problem.

Reports from the health officials and from those interested in the problem of venereal disease control, the conclusion has been reached that organized houses of prostitution were the most prolific source of this infection. This being true it can be assumed that this is not the present problem as there is no indication that any such houses of prostitution are now in operation in the City of Seattle. It has been many months since anything approaching the proportion of a district has been tolerated in Seattle. Organized houses of assignation were closed by the prosecution of the operators and the inmates and also by abatement proceedings against the property.

I believe that persons representing organized prostitution have learned that it is possible for the Police Department to keep them out of business, and with the exception of a very limited and transient operation which might flare up from time to time, organized prostitution has left the city. It has been intimated that there may be in operation carefully conducted houses of prostitution denying admission to men of the Armed Services. This presumption is in error. The houses with purely civilian patronage present a much less problem than one catering to men in uniform as they are easier to locate and present a simpler problem in gathering evidence for prosecution. The possibility of such houses has been carefully investigated and none found to be in operation. The following appear to be our main problem in connection with this matter.

1. The Street Walker. The street walker is primarily a problem for the beat patrolman and can be held to a minimum by the alert police officer. Prowler car officers may be of assistance in apprehending this type of violation. The persistent street walker, of course, will require action by plain-clothes men who allow themselves to be solicited and thus obtain evidence for prosecution.

2. Call Girl. Call girls we find are in two general classes, namely, those who maintain a room in a hotel and entertain in their room or go to other rooms at the instigation of the bellhop or those outside of the hotel who are called in by the bellhops for the tenants of the hotel. Both type of call girls create a distressing problem. They must be apprehended by the "Squad" at an expenditure of considerable time and money. It is necessary for at least two plain-clothes men to rent a room and establish relations with the procurer by the purchase of liquor or some other ruse. It has been our experience that the cost is from \$25.00 to \$50.00 and some three to six hours of the officers' time in procuring evidence necessary for the conviction of each of these girls.

December 17, 1943

3. Taverns, Restaurants and Dance Halls. Such establishments are I believe the source of much of our trouble at the present time. I believe that most of this trouble can be eliminated through better cooperation and a more complete understanding of the situation on the part of the operators of these places. Of course, energetic attention to these places by the beat officer is the ultimate solution.

The recent rise in the venereal disease rate while hard to determine the exact cause may be the result of three or four different causes or the accumulation of all. First as has been stated before in our recent reshuffling of men in order to send a large number of officers to school, it was necessary to leave some of the beats uncovered. These beats were on the patrol and in the district most productive of arrests of girls found to be infected. Since then new men have been assigned to these beats and will soon become familiar with the situation and will remedy the unsatisfactory condition.

The call girl is a problem that will require the cooperation of the hotel owners and operators. It has been suggested that a hotel ordinance regulating their operation in giving officers more latitude in investigations be established. In a meeting in the Corporation Counsel's office with Mr. Van Soelen, Dr. Westman, Judge Hodson, Bruce McDougall and Captain Irene Durham, I discussed the advisability of such legislation for some time without coming to any definite conclusion. The hotel people have demonstrated complete willingness to cooperate and have called a meeting which was to have been held on the 16th of December in accordance with the original announcement but for some unforeseen reason, it was necessary to postpone the meeting until some future date. This meeting will undoubtedly produce many constructive suggestions.

I am submitting an ordinance popularly known as the "Little May Act" which has been effective in other cities and which I recommend be remodeled to coincide with our situation as there are many provisions in this ordinance which I believe beneficial.

In the past we have held meetings with tavern operators which it was felt were very productive and lead to better cooperation. I think that it will probably be necessary to hold more such meetings in the future although our present reports show no reason to be alarmed over the conduct of the various taverns.

It is my sincere belief that every member of the Police Department is seriously concerned in trying to eliminate the increase in venereal disease. It has been suggested by Dr. Westman that he conduct refresher classes for patrolmen and members of the department whose duties are connected with the suppression of vice so that they may have a more complete understanding of the various problems. Dr. Westman has agreed to conduct such courses and is now working on a course which will be available as soon as time permits.

December 17, 1943

I have repeatedly called your attention to the overcrowded conditions of the City Jail. Dr. Westman and I have spent many hours in search of a suitable location for the confinement and quarantine of venereal cases. Such a place was located some time ago. All mechanics necessary for the operation of this institution have been set up by the Health Department but due to the priority difficulties, it has not as yet been possible to put this establishment in operation which still leaves us with the same congested situation.

We have at present 79 girls crowded into the City Jail quarters, designed to accomodate 27 girls. The ward in the County Jail is crowded to capacity. We have an overflow of 14 patients in the City Hospital. We have a grand total of 159 girls in custody at present. The most pressing problem at the present time is securing priorities for the completion of the Florence Crittenden Home and the Women's Ward in the County Jail.

In conclusion I believe that by continuance of the vigorous and diligent work which has accomplished the desired effect in the past, we can continue to make a good record and keep the venereal trend downward, if we are not confronted by unforeseen problems. I propose to keep the beats in the areas in which the disease is more prevalent fully covered at all times.

In checking back to find causes, I discover that particularly on the first patrol, it has been impossible to adequately cover these beats. I have instructed my superior officers to give this matter their utmost attention, although at this time of the year we have many aggravating problems. Just recently two persons have been killed in robberies and we can expect at this season an increase in crimes of this nature.

I feel, however, that without jeopardizing other necessary police services, we can continue to do the job that is compatible with the available man power.

Respectfully,

/s/ H. D. KIMSEY

H. D. Kimsey
Chief of Police
Seattle Police Department

HDK/am

AN ORDINANCE MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO OFFER OR AGREE TO COMMIT OR TO COMMIT PROSTITUTION OR OFFER TO SECURE OR SECURES ANOTHER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSTITUTION, FORNICATION, ASSIGNATION OR ANY OTHER LEWD ACT, OR WHO IS IN OR NEAR ANY PUBLIC PLACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTICING OR PROCURING ANOTHER TO COMMIT ANY SUCH ACT, OR WHO KNOWINGLY TRANSPORTS ANY PERSON TO ANY PLACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING ANY SUCH ACT OR WHO KNOWINGLY RECEIVES OR AGREES TO RECEIVE ANY PERSON INTO ANY PLACE OR BUILDING OR BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING ANY ACT, OR WHO KNOWINGLY PERMITS ANY PERSON TO REMAIN IN ANY SUCH PLACE OR BUILDING FOR SUCH PURPOSES, OR WHO DIRECTS ANY PERSON TO A PLACE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING ANY SUCH ACT, OR IN ANY WAY AIDS OR ABETS OR PARTICIPATES IN THE DOING OF ANY SUCH ACT.

Section 1. Every person who:

- (a) Aids, offers or agrees to commit or commits any lewd or indecent act or any act of prostitution; or
- (b) Offers to secure or secures another for the purpose of committing any act of prostitution, fornication, assignation or for any other lewd or indecent act with any other person; or
- (c) Is in or near any thoroughfare or public place for the purpose of inducing, enticing or procuring another to commit an act of lewdness, fornication or unlawful sexual intercourse; or
- (d) Knowingly transports any person to any place where he may commit, or for the purpose of committing any lewd or indecent act or any act of prostitution; or
- (e) Knowingly receives, offers or agrees to receive any person into any place or building for the purpose of assignation or of performing any act of lewdness or fornication, or knowingly permits any person to remain there for any of such purposes; or
- (f) Directs any person to any place for the purpose of committing any lewd or indecent act or any act of prostitution or fornication; or
- (g) In any way aids or abets or participates in the doing of any of the acts prohibited by subdivisions (a) to (f) of this ordinance.

Is guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable upon conviction by imprisonment in the city or county jails for a term of not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days or by a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars (300.00) or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 2. The provisions of this ordinance shall be construed and interpreted as cumulative and selective and not as a repeal of any ordinances or statutes now existing upon the same subject matter of which may be in conflict with any of the provisions hereof.

Section 3. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or citizen is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision, or application thereof, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 4. WHEREAS, the immediate operation of the provisions of this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Commission approval by the Mayor, and publication and posting as required by law, and is hereby exempted from the referendum clause of the City Charter.

FILE NO. 179594

Copy

OF

as reported to Mayor Devin from the
Chief of Police relating
to means for better control of the
venereal disease problem.

1/4/44 - Van Sledright
1/11/44 - let to Mayor
1/21/44 - up 1/1/44 - @ 1030 3.7
CR-4327

FILED Jan 3 1943

W. C. THOMAS
CITY COMPTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY J. P. Barnes DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED
JAN 3 - 1944

REFERRED

REPORTED

REPORTED

REF. FOR ORD.

FEB 7 - 1944

TO FINANCE
PUBLIC SAFETY

TO

REPORT ADOPTED

REPORT ADOPTED

C. B.
ORD.

DISPOSITION
ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. President:

Your

Finance and Public Safety

Committee

to which was referred the within

Report

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend that

the same be placed on file.

Fin.
CHAIRMAN

PS
CHAIRMAN

