

S.O.D.A. **Serve Our Dog Areas**

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Kevin Brown, Director, KC Parks & Recreation
King Street Center – Suite 700
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

December 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Brown:

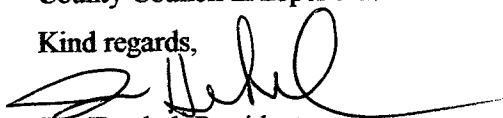
I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate S.O.D.A.'s support for the institution of a "parking violation fee ordinance" at Marymoor Park.

The \$1.00 Parking Fee was instituted in 2003 in response to the 2002 \$52 million deficit in the King County County Budget. County Executive Ron Sims with the support of the council decided to generate revenue for the maintenance and operation costs of the King County Park System by instituting profitable money raising ventures that were supposed to be operated like "businesses". Everything was put in place for a Parking Fee revenue program at Marymoor EXCEPT for "enforcement". As a result, over time, a great many park users have become complacent and ignore paying the parking fee. The result of this has been frustration and anger on the part of park users who ARE paying the fee and more importantly, the loss of a great deal of revenue that is needed for King County Parks.

In 2003 when the Parking Pass sales first started, S.O.D.A. sold 559 passes and generated \$35,980 for King County Parks and \$3,859 for S.O.D.A. to use for Dog Park maintenance. This was when people thought that the parking fee was going to be enforced. We sold 259 passes in 2004, 234 in 2005, 194 in 2006, and 184 in 2007 – progressively less each year as Park Users realized that there was no enforcement and there were no consequences for not paying the fee. In 2008, after Park Personnel started collecting parking money as people entered the Park on weekends, our Parking Pass sales came back up to 233 passes. It is our belief that Parking Pass revenue would jump drastically if enforcement was instituted – in addition to benefiting King County Parks, S.O.D.A would be equally rewarded as the sale of Annual Parking Passes is our biggest fund raiser.

It is estimated that Marymoor Off-Leash Dog Area alone has over 800,000 visitations per year. As one of King County's most popular destination recreation areas, people travel from all over Western Washington to utilize Marymoor Park. If it is the intent of King County to operate the Parking Fee Program as a money generating "business" as was originally intended, then it only stands to reason that a "parking violation fee ordinance" must be initiated in order to ensure the maximum amount of revenue and profitability. Additionally, an enforcement program would provide a sense of equity to those Park Users who have been purchasing Parking Passes and paying the fee on a regular basis. The level of credibility and fairness of the Parking Fee Program would be greatly elevated. I encourage you to bring this matter to the attention of the King County Council in hopes that an ordinance can be instituted as soon as possible.

Kind regards,



Jim Trockel, President
S.O.D.A. (Serve Our Dog Areas)