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## SUBURBAN LIQUOR BAN NEEDED URGENTLY

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**Primary Petitioner:** Zachary James Widener  
**Total Signatures:** 10

**Presented by:** Zachary James Widener  
**Contact Officer:** Macaela Flanagan  
**Director Responsible:** Greg Orchard

### Recommendation

That the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee:

1. Receive the information.

### Background

1. The ePetition "Suburban Liquor Ban Needed Urgently" was initiated by Zachary James Widener on 8 August 2014 and closed on 8 November 2014. In February, the petitioner requested a month's extension and the ePetition was live from 11 February 2015 till 11 March 2015.
2. The purpose of the ePetition is to include Suburban Business Districts, ie Brooklyn Shops, and all areas in reduced speed zones (30 kph) to be included in the city wide Liquor Ban area.
3. The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 10 signatures.

### Officers' response

4. Officers made contact with Mr Widener on 18 March after being made aware that he was planning to present his ePetition to Committee. Officers provided him with an overview of the process and a meeting occurred on 13 April.
5. Mr Widener explained that the situation is specifically in relation to one individual who is well-known to local businesses, the Police, and Brooklyn residents. According to Mr Widener, the individual spends many days from sunrise to sunset drinking on the public benches in Brooklyn. Mr Widener has owned a business in Brooklyn since 2009 and states this problem has occurred throughout his tenure.
6. Mr Widener said he has been in touch with social service agencies regarding the individual. He has been told that outreach work is being done with the individual, however Mr Widener says he heard the same thing when he enquired five years ago. Mr Widener is also frustrated with the ability of the Police to do anything about the situation, as he has been told that if the individual isn't committing an offence (eg bodily fluids), than the Police have little ability to address the situation.
7. Mr Widener states his frustrations are shared by the other businesses in the area, though he does not have the support of the Brooklyn Residents' Association.

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8. The Council's contact centre has no record of anti-social behaviour/alcohol related calls in Brooklyn over the past year. Local Host observations also support this view, though state that the individual Mr Widener speaks is well known to the Local Hosts, and requires their attention in Brooklyn and other suburbs.
  9. Team Leader City Safety will get in touch with Mr Widener to provide information on other initiatives underway (in Kilbirnie, for example) that help to combat this type of problem.
  10. Officers encouraged Mr Widener to continue documenting the problem through photographic evidence and documented interactions/meetings with other concerned members of the public should he wish to build a case for an alcohol control amendment. Mr Widener was informed that the next scheduled review of the alcohol control section of the Council's consolidated bylaw is in 2018.
  11. Officers provided Mr Widener with guidance with regard to alcohol control areas (liquor bans) that states:
    - there is no set criteria by which the alcohol control area is modified;
    - an alcohol control area extension is only one intervention that can be used to address anti-social behaviour;
    - officers make a recommendation to Committee to either support or not support a request for an alcohol control area based on a variety of elements, including evidence from the community, Police, Council recorded data, and previous policy decisions; and
    - working through this process takes time.

## **Attachments**

Nil