

September 28, 1966

Chief Frank C. Ramon
Police Department

Dear Chief Ramon:

I have your complete report and comments on the problem of homosexuality in the city. The picture you paint is a discouraging and sordid one, and I certainly have no suggestions to make to help resolve the situation.

If you feel that action through the Liquor Control Board will be helpful, you certainly have my authority to take whatever steps are necessary to receive such help.

It would look like your department is doing everything possible to reach the hangouts of these people. But, as is well recognized, the incidence of this problem is far greater than generally understood; and in most instances, as I understand it, these people create no problem whatever for society or for anyone outside of perhaps their own family circles. Those few, however, who do either engage in illegal activities leading to serious crimes, or who gather in public places to the extent of becoming a nuisance, do create a problem and a real dilemma, as indicated by your report.

I am a little surprised, however, that any impression should be out that Seattle is soft on, or tolerates, these gathering places. If there is any basis for this and there is anything we could be doing to indicate that we are not tolerant or soft in this area, certainly we should be taking such steps. I would assume that a certain amount of close surveillance, even to the point almost of harassment of the most troublesome and noisome establishments, might have some effect to discourage the inflow of these people to Seattle. By whatever means -- this we must accomplish.

Please keep me advised.

Sincerely yours,

J. D. Braman
Mayor

JDB:al