

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: margosian2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 6e, SPRAB Recommendations
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 11:09:28 AM

Dear Mayor and Council:

I want to thank the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their excellent recommendations to improve park usage and permitting. I agree with all the recommendations and hope they can be adopted by the Council.

I would, however, like to suggest an amendment to the second recommendation "Reporting Acts of Discrimination."

I am reminded of the incident that took place at a Riverfront Park on May 1st, where my friend Les Margosian attended a gun rights rally, (as an observer and not a participant) and was intimidated by Proud Boys who forced him to leave the event. I'm sure this was traumatic for him and totally uncalled for, since he was just sitting in the amphitheater observing the goings-on. I think what happened to Les would not accurately be termed "discrimination," so it don't think it would be covered by the second recommendation. That being the case, I would like to offer this amendment to the SPRAB recommendation for your consideration:

"Reporting acts of discrimination **or intimidation** . It is not clear what options park users have in instances in which they feel threatened or discriminated against. The City should at least be able to track such occurrences and should set up a hotline with language similar to the below that is posted at key locations in City parks.

Discrimination **or intimidation**: The City of Salem values all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, domestic partnership, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or source of income. If you believe that you have been ~~discriminated against~~ **subjected to discrimination or intimidation** by another park user or by a City program, activity, or facility; or if you desire further information, please contact the Public Works Department at 503-588-XXXX."

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim

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