



Several representatives from Jamestown testified before the state Health, Education, and Welfare Committee in favor of a bill banning alcohol advertising on billboards. Shown here, from left, are Laura Hosley, Rep. Bruce Long, Jessica Bucklin and Eric von Hohenleiten.

Island teens testify at State House

By Adrienne Downing

The debate over acceptable standards for alcohol and tobacco advertising has gone on at the national level for a few years, but the discussion moved closer to home Jan. 30.

A group of Jamestown students went to the state house to testify in favor of H-7173, a bill introduced by Rep. Bruce Long (R-Jamestown, Middletown), which would ban alcohol advertising on billboards.

Long got the idea for the bill after attending a Jamestown Substance Abuse Task Force meeting where several teens opened a discussion about a beer advertisement on a billboard visible from the bus route to North Kingstown High School.

"I felt that if it was important enough for them to bring up for discussion at the meeting, that it was important enough for me to take their concerns seriously and try to do something positive about it," Long said. "When you see something wrong, you need to step up and do something about it."

Two Jamestown teens, Jessica Bucklin and Eric von Hohenleiten, spoke in favor of the bill, in addition to Task Force Coordinator

Laura Hosley.

Testifying in front of a committee can be a daunting task for adults, but for the teens speaking in front of bill opponents, including Steven Brown of the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as representatives from Anheuser-Busch, McLoughlin-Moran, and billboard company Lamar, the pressure is immense.

"The kids did not have to speak up in such a scary situation," Hosley said. "They were a little nervous, but once they started speaking they sounded great."

Long said 25 people were present to testify or view the hearing, which is an unusually high number, and the hearing lasted approximately one hour.

"The committee listened to them and they were impressed with their comments, their demeanor, and their maturity," Long said.

Other community task force coordinators, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, RI Student Assistance Services, and some concerned citizens also stated that they were in favor of the bill and some testified before the committee.

"Rhode Island fortunately has been the recipient of \$2.54 million in funding this year to work

on substance abuse prevention issues," Hosley said. "However, it wouldn't even be enough to buy a 30-second ad for the Super Bowl. This is what we are up against."

In the end, the bill was held for further study because of Constitutional issues surrounding the case. "The bottom line is that this is a business issue and the courts are supporting the right to free speech," Long said.

Long, however, sees the opportunity to work with the billboard and advertising companies proactively to bring about a good outcome for everyone involved. "I think that even though the bill did not go through, it has created a way for us to dialog with the companies that have billboards in critical areas and ask if they will voluntarily restrict alcohol advertising in sensitive areas," Long said. "If we can't get it passed legislatively, I hope we can negotiate to bring about positive change."

Hosley also said that she saw the upside of the process despite the outcome.

"Bringing the issue to the table and seeing it through is success in itself," Hosley said.

Gaynor named to head capital emergency management agency

Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline appointed retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Peter T. Gaynor to lead the Providence Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security.

The highly-decorated Marine was once responsible for managing the operations for the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and for the security of the President of the United States at Camp David.

Gaynor brings unprecedented global emergency management experience to the Providence city government. Mayor Cicilline said he is confident that Lt. Col. Gaynor will take PEMA to a new level of professionalism, which will only strengthen the city's emergency response efforts.

Lt. Col. Gaynor retired from the Marine Corps after 26 years of wide-ranging experience in a number of high-intensity leadership positions, including directing around-the-clock operations of the Marine Corps' Crisis Response Center.

Colonel Gaynor and his wife Sue live in Jamestown and have one daughter, Grace. He began his new position as the director of PEMA on Feb. 25.



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JAMESTOWN WINE & SPIRITS

**NEW HOURS: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 9 pm
Friday & Saturday 9 am - 10 pm, Sunday 12 - 6 pm**

WEEKLY SPECIALS

- Sam Adams 2/12 Case.....\$27⁹⁹
- Miller Chill Case.....\$15⁵⁰
- Coors Light 20 Pack Btls.....\$14⁹⁵
- Saranac 12 pack Btls.....\$12⁹⁹
- Yellowtail Pinot Grigio 1.5 L.....\$9⁹⁹
- Stephen Vincent Sav. Blanc 750 mL.....\$9⁹⁹
- Frontier Red Blend.....\$9⁹⁹
- Mark Shiraz (from Australia).....2 for \$20
- Pepperwood Grove All Mix 750 mL.....3 for \$20
- Kendall Jackson Red Varietal.....\$19⁹⁹
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OPENING RECEPTION

Friday March 28, from 6 to 8pm
Show dates: March 28 through April 9
SCHOCK GALLERY East Ferry, Jamestown

OUR MISSION

We believe art transforms lives.

Our mission is to create an enriching environment that inspires creativity through the active participation in the arts for all who seek it.

Our goal is to unite our community by embracing the arts. JAC will provide space for education, performance, and exhibition, as well as opportunities for our community including employment, mentoring, outreach, internships and patronage. By creating the Jamestown Arts Center we can enrich our essential self-worth individually and collectively for years to come.



DETAILS

Entries must be in a 10" x 10" format, no more than 2" deep (framed or unframed). All work must be wired and ready to hang. Prizes will be awarded.
Drop off: Wed, March 26 from 10 am - 6 pm
Pick up: Wed, April 9 from 3 - 6pm
There will be a fee of \$5 for each submission, with a maximum of 3 pieces per artist. Family Membership of \$25 is optional, but encouraged, as well as any donation to help us build a home for the arts in Jamestown.

For more information email us at www.JamestownArtCenter.org or call Elizabeth Cogdon (401) 662-6163