

Bud O

Neil / COPE
F.Y.I.
(draft)



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BUD OSBORN WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO MAVERICK COP GIL PUDER AT UBC

"Police Constable Gil Puder was one of the most courageous people I have ever known," says Bud Osborn, COPE/GREEN candidate for City Council. "He was a hero because he dared to speak frankly about the police department's serious problems with handling drugs."

As an activist for improved housing and health policies in the Downtown Eastside, Bud Osborn will pay tribute to the late Gil Puder during his address at UBC at 3:30, Wednesday, November 17 for the UBC Geography Department.

As guest lecturer for a symposium on urban geography, Osborn will reaffirm the importance of Puder's career as the maverick cop who ran afoul of then-chief constable Bruce Chambers in 1998.

Despite the police chief's memo urging him not to speak at a conference called Sensible Solutions to the Urban Drug Problem unless he changed his message, Puder went ahead and criticized 'police drug experts' for using 'smear tactics and conjecture' in their anti-drug speeches to school children.

Puder publicly stated that marijuana should be legalized; he also called for the decriminalization of heroin and opiates for medicinal purposes. A 17-year veteran of the VPD, Puder died this month of cancer at age 40. Osborn last met with Gil Puder when they spoke together at a UBC Forum on Decriminalization of Drugs in October.

"Gil Puder's example of steadfastly standing up for ^{COPE/GREEN} commonsensical solutions to our shared drug problems has directly influenced and inspired me," says Osborn. "It will be a privilege for me to recognize his life and work on Thursday."

"Gil Puder paid an enormous price for trying to help this city. He was harassed and persecuted. His honesty and integrity will be sorely missed."

For information about the UBC address, call UBC Geography professor David Ley at 822-3268. COPE/GREEN www.vancouvervoice.com. TEL: 709-0299.

The Committee to elect Bud Osborn to Vancouver City Council ☎ 802-1761