

Request denied to slow Domino's

SHELTON, Wash. (AP) — The City Commission has rejected a request that it ban the 30-minute delivery guarantee that has helped make Domino's Pizza a national pizza power.

Jeff Farmer, who owns the local Domino's franchise and another in nearby Hoquiam, cited safety concerns in his bid for a city statute to nullify the delivery obligations in his contract with Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Domino's.

"Give an 18-year-old driver a time limit and nine times out of 10 he'll go an extra five miles an hour," Farmer had said.

At Monday's meeting, the commissioners praised Farmer for his concern, but said it would be inappropriate for the city to get involved in the dispute.

Mayor Joyce Jaros, one of the three commissioners, said a check with local law enforcement found no significant complaints about the delivery program, though she suggested the Legislature might want to take up the discussion.

Concerns about the delivery guarantee have been raised previously, but Domino's spokesman Tim McIntyre in Michigan said Farmer's bid for city intervention was "unique in my experience."

Commissioner David Kneeland had been un-

thused about the request, saying, "It isn't our job to legislate free enterprise."

Farmer said Domino's had advised him to adhere to the provisions of his contract, including the 30-minute delivery guarantee, or shut down.

McIntyre confirmed that Domino's officials reject any link between traffic accidents and the guarantee. McIntyre said drivers are not liable for late deliveries, and that the system-wide \$3 rebate for pizzas delivered after half an hour is considered a "cost of doing business," not a penalty for employees.

"We don't deny there have been accidents involving Domino's Pizza drivers, but we don't believe our 30-minute delivery guarantee is a cause," McIntyre said.

In May, leaders of four consumer groups wrote Domino's president, Tom Monaghan, and urged him to drop the guarantee or follow the lead of a franchise-holder in Spokane, whose outlet tries to meet the half-hour timetable but has dropped the rebate.

At least 250 lawsuits have been filed in Domino's-related traffic accidents, according to attorney Kenneth Behrend of Pittsburgh with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Mobley thinking about governor bid

SALEM (AP) — The man who made an independent bid for governor and succeeded only in dividing the Republican Party is thinking about making a second run for governor — as a Republican.

Al Mobley was blamed for draining conservative votes away from moderate Republican Dave Frohnmayer in a three-way race in 1990 that resulted in the election of Democrat Barbara Roberts.

This time, Mobley would compete with former congressman Denny Smith of Salem for conservative votes in the May 1994 primary.

Smith said his opposition to anti-gay rights efforts by the Oregon Citizens Alliance might be the reason Mobley is talking

about joining the race.

Mobley, 66, a retired engineer who lives south of Dallas, is a former official of the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

But Mobley denied that he was targeting Smith.

"There seems to be a waffling on particular issues," Mobley said. "I'm not pointing at Denny Smith, I'm pointing at the whole field of people who are thinking about, or are in, the race."

Mobley said candidates have failed to take a strong position on the anti-gay rights initiatives the OCA is sponsoring locally in Oregon towns and counties after voters rejected a statewide initiative last year.

Mobley said he supported the local initiatives, including seven that passed Tuesday in Jackson

County and the cities of Creswell, Estacada, Lebanon, Medford, Molalla and Sweet Home.

"I stand for no tax money to promote homosexuality, no teaching it in the schools and no minority status for homosexual behavior," Mobley said.

Smith, however, said he didn't see a need for the anti-gay rights measure the OCA hopes to place on the 1994 state ballot. It has been dubbed "Son of 9" after last year's Measure 9, which Oregon voters defeated.

Lon Mabon, OCA chairman, said the group did not solicit Mobley's candidacy but welcomed him as an alternative to Smith.

"He definitely stands with us on the issues," Mabon said.

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