

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
✓ John VANDENBERG	3291 NE Irving St, Portland 97232	john.vandenberg@klargvist.com
✓ JUDITH REESE	636 SE 45th ave pdx 97215	drmcakes@aol.com
✓ Robin Cook	3250 SW Vista Dr. PDX 97225	robin@robincook.net
✓ Teresa Ritchey	PO Box 1005 melina OR 97042	special+carriage@mskalla.net
wrong list RONALD CARRE	8108 NE 9TH ST. VANCOUVER, WA 98664	ronpcarre@comcast.net
✓ JAMES RUMGAY	15861 S Springwater Rd Oregon City OR 97045	jgrumgay@ccwebster.net
✓ Robin Corrigan	Friends of Ladd's Addition Gardens	corrigan@easystreet.net
✓ Dan Anderson	2417 NE Everett St. 97232	dananderson123@gmail.com
✓ Scott Beckstead	PO Box 288 Oakland OR 97462	sbeckstead@humansociety.org
✓ Jane Biczvete	3291 NE Irving St Portland 97232	jbiezvete@gmail.com

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Parsons, Susan

From: Nadine Zimmer [fornzimmer@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 5:23 PM**To:** Parsons, Susan**Subject:** Re: City Hall e address for testimony

I used to live in NYC and there has been a continuous battle with the drivers because they do not follow the rules and the ASPCA rarely enforces them. There have been many accidents in which horses have died and passengers injured.

If the carriage horse industry wants to do business in Portland, there must be regulations which will be enforced! (Who will be enforcing them?) The horses should not work if the temperature is above 90, or less, if the humidity is high. Low temperatures must also be considered and should, also, include the windchill factor. They must have rest periods, enough food and water, and should not carry more than four people. In addition, they should not drive behind buses or any vehicles that could "spook" them.

There have been many accidents in which horses have died and passengers injured.

I would prefer not to have horse drawn carriages in Portland (they are an anachronism), but since they will be here, the above mentioned, is the least we can do for them.

Nadine Zimmer
1312 NE 73rd Avenue
Portland

From: "Parsons, Susan" <Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov>**To:** "fornzimmer@yahoo.com" <fornzimmer@yahoo.com>**Sent:** Tue, January 11, 2011 4:47:35 PM**Subject:** City Hall e address for testimony

We spoke on the phone today. If you wish, please email me your testimony on the Horse-drawn Carriage Regulations, by 9:30 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, January 12th). I will forward your email to the Council members and include your testimony in the record.

Regards,

Sue Parsons

Assistant Council Clerk

City of Portland

503.823.4085

Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

January 4, 2011

Submitted by
Judith Reese 1/5/11

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I were married in downtown Portland at the First Baptist Church on August 1, 2009. We live in Tampa, Florida, so I had to plan the wedding from afar. Approximately one month before the wedding I contacted The Golden Times Carriage Service company by phone to inquire about their services. The company did not have a website and I did not find much information about it on the web, but I assumed it was a reputable company because I obtained the contact information from a list of recommended wedding vendors by a high-end hotel in downtown Portland.

I spoke with a man by phone at Golden Times Carriage Service, presumably the owner. We agreed on a fee of \$250 for approximately two hours with the carriage on the wedding day. The carriage was to arrive at the church at around 4:00 PM, and after the ceremony it would travel to and stop at various downtown locations for photo opportunities with our photographer before delivering us to our reception site on the 900 block of SW Yamhill St. around 6:00 PM.

Unfortunately Portland saw an unexpected, record-breaking heat wave on our wedding day. After the wedding ceremony my husband (180 lbs), our photographer (approx 170 lbs plus the weight of his equipment) and I (125 lbs) boarded the horse-drawn carriage as planned. The carriage had a capacity of four passengers plus two more on the driver's bench. I was obviously caught up in the moment and didn't have a chance to get a good look at the horse before we boarded the carriage, but I do remember that the female driver had a larger body habitus and I briefly wondered if one horse could handle our load.

Within half of a block of departing the church at approximately 5 PM, the horse stumbled. My husband voiced concern that there may be something wrong with the horse, but I attributed the stumble to the horse being startled by a passing vehicle. During the course of the next hour we made several stops for 10-15 minutes at a time for photos, and I did not notice any further distress in the horse at that time. It was unbearably hot, and we stopped to drink from street-side water fountains to relieve our thirst. The horse was never offered shade or water.

To our dismay, the horse stumbled again as we were approaching our final destination on Yamhill St. I heard the driver say to the horse, without any inflection of sympathy or sorrow in her voice, "Oh not

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now, don't do this to me now..." In retrospect, I believe from the driver's tone of voice that she was not even slightly surprised at the horse's physical incapacity. Suddenly the carriage rocked violently and my husband, the photographer and I scrambled out of the carriage as quickly as possible. The horse, Balatare, had collapsed in the street with the yoke of the carriage still attached. My first thought was that the horse had broken his leg, and I burst into tears. There are no words to express how suddenly I felt selfish and regretful at having been involved in asking that poor horse to haul us around downtown in that heat. My husband and I were immediately whisked away by family, and I was told by family that the horse had made a full recovery - that he had fallen but was uninjured. It was a lie that was intended to spare my sorrow and to salvage the mess that had become my wedding day, and I believed it at the time...

Two weeks later upon landing at a U.S. airport, I turned on my cell phone for the first time since departing for our honeymoon abroad. That is when I heard a message from Judy Reese of Dream Cakes, and I learned the awful truth about the dismal fate of Balatare. I was devastated. If I could turn back time I would have never hired a horse-drawn carriage for our wedding day. Although I consider myself a 'horse person,' I was ignorant to the dangers that carriage horses face in their work. My only consolation in this disastrous situation is that Balatare's tragic death has alerted the public and the authorities of the city of Portland to the vital issue at hand, and that action is finally being taken to prevent future harm to other working horses in the city.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Gerges

23713 Acorn Hill Dr.
Lutz, FL 33559
(813)503-8217

P.S.

Of note, I never heard from the owners of Golden Times Carriage Service after this tragic incident, although they did indeed cash our check for \$250 a few weeks after the wedding.



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www.judyreese dreamcakes.com

Submitted by
Judith Reese
1/5/11

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Mr. Dufay,

I have been requested to send you a statement regarding my experience while visiting my niece in Portland.

I have had several conversations with Judy Reese of "Dreamcakes" in Portland after the death of "Balatore" on Aug. 1st, 2009.

My name is Corby Wallace. On August 1st, 2009 I was visiting my niece, Jennifer Curtis for her wedding in Portland on that day. After the wedding ceremony the wedding party and all the guests stepped outside the church to see her take a carriage ride through downtown Portland. I noticed the horse and carriage outside waiting and my first re-action was shock for my niece as the horse was obviously skinny, dirty and very old. I am very experienced in the horse world as I have owned and shown horses all my life. I went to the horse and looked him over, petted him (he was cranky), checked his teeth and could tell he was quite old. It was a very hot humid day and he was sweating, dirty with a very bad coat condition, the base of his tail area was rubbed raw, he was underweight and I knew he did not feel well. I asked the woman driver if he was her horse and she stated "yes". I told her I didn't think he felt well and she stated she knew it was pretty hot out that day but this was his only job for the day. She also stated they had already come quite a distance from the barn where he lived so he was already tired. I was so upset I had to walk away and almost went into tears. I considered asking my niece to not take the carriage ride but was afraid of ruining her excitement. When they left for the ride I could clearly see the horse was struggling and the driver/owner popped the whip several times to make the horse proceed. It was heartbreaking for me and other members of the wedding group could see this. Later that evening, I was told the horse had actually collapsed during the ride and died in the street!!! The doorman working at our wedding reception stated he witnessed the horse collapse and attempted to help the horse as he was thrashing about and still attached to all his rigging and his tongue was hanging out. This is disgusting and was totally preventable. My niece was so upset as she was in the carriage at the time the horse collapsed and could have gotten injured and was a horrible thing to witness. She felt so responsible for hiring them but the responsibility falls on the owner. I wonder how many times this poor aged, sick horse had to work without any compassion from the owner. Is it all about money? I was told she owned other horses as well. Are they being neglected also? I strongly feel the owner should have been cited, fined or not allowed to continue in this profession. I was also informed the owner knew the horse had a terrible disease called "Cushings", but knowingly still used this horse for difficult work. I hope the city of Portland will at least mandate regulations for any future prevention of animal cruelty in this business. The loss of this horse, "Balatore", which obviously led a long hard life, will hopefully help the future of any other horses in this business. Please help. Someone needs to speak up for the animals.

Thank you,

Corby Wallace
P.O. Box 134
Oakridge, Or 97463
541-914-1069



Submitted by Judith Reese 1/5/11

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