

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Good morning, Mr. Mayor and members of city council. My name is Crystal Vaughan. I am here to express my concerns about Portland's sit/lie ordinance which I first was made aware of two weeks ago on June 9th, 2011.

My three year old son and I decided to attend the rose festival fair and watch the military ships arrive. We traveled by max train and took the stroller. Five exhausting hours later we decided to start home. I pushed my son in his stroller another 1/2 mile to the max stop on 6th street in front of pioneer courthouse. I needed to sit down and the only bench was in use so I sat on a one foot wall in front of the courthouse. I sat there so as not to obstruct pedestrians and to keep my son as far away from the speeding trains as possible. It was the safest place to sit.

Less than a minute later a police officer sternly approached us and barked "you are not allowed to sit there!" so I then sat on the sidewalk up against the wall. The officer then yelled "You're breaking a city ordinance! You are not allowed to sit down!" I feared what would happen if I didn't comply so I stood until our train arrived.

I have the following concerns regarding the sit/lie ordinance after having read its final draft.

1. It states that the purpose of a sidewalk is to move pedestrians without obstruction yet no where does it mention waiting at a bus or train stop without a place to sit.
2. Only a person's luggage or deliverable merchandise is considered as not being a public nuisance. Does that mean my child in his stroller is a public nuisance? or is my child considered luggage or merchandise?
3. This ordinance states that you must be 8 feet from the frontage line of a building on a sidewalk 10 feet or wider. This would mean my child and I be directly in the path of pedestrians and next to the street with speeding trains and buses.
4. This ordinance places tension between police officers and citizen who have committed no crime or misconduct and who are not obstructing pedestrians.
5. This ordinance does not solve any existing social problem and takes money away from much needed social programs.
6. This ordinance does not allow a person the basic human right to sit down when needed unless its a medical emergency

For these reasons this ordinance shows its lack of integrity and justification.

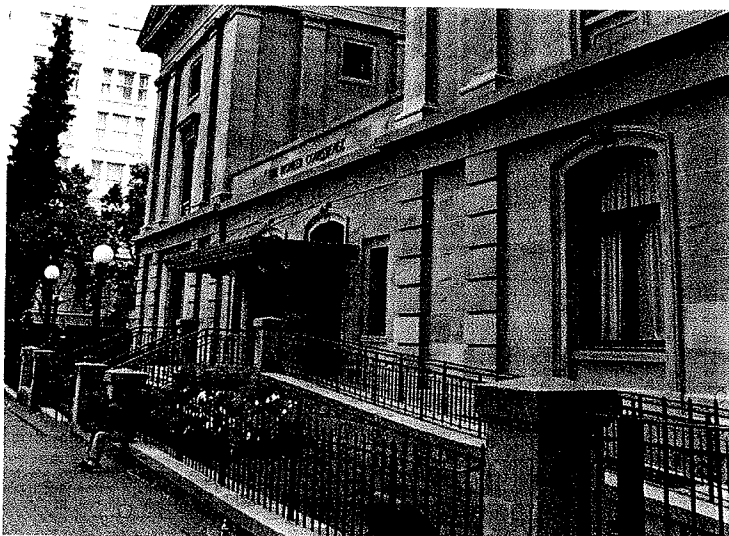


photo of Pioneer Courthouse showing wall and sidewalk where mom and three year old son were approached by police officer.

Matasar, Emily

2

**From:** Crystal Vaughan [ssmomcrystal@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 12:12 PM

**To:** Matasar, Emily

**Subject:** sit/lie ordinance complaint

Dear Emily,

I believe it was you I spoke with on the phone. My name is: Crystal Vaughan  
my address: 5440 SE 87th, apt. B  
Portland, Oregon 97266

my phone is: 503-278-1475

I would like to speak before city council regarding my personal experience regarding the sit/lie ordinance and how I feel it was unjustly applied towards my three year old son and I on June 9th, 2011 in downtown Portland. You mentioned June 22, 9:30 am for me to appear. I can be there at this time if still o.k. with you and just need directions or anything else you think I need to know as this will be my first experience there. Looking forward to coming.

Sincerely, Crystal Vaughan

6/10/2011

625

Request of Crystal Vaughan to address Council regarding the sit/lie ordinance  
(Communication)

JUN 22 2011

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed JUN 17 2011

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Susan Parsons*

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		