



111 SE Belmont Street
Portland, Oregon 97214
Belmont & Morrison LLC

October 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Sidewalk Ordinance, Homeless Campers and Beyond in the
City of Portland

As a concerned citizen, property owner, challenged businessman, and developers of older historic structures in city cores, we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our elected officials. These are trying times for all cities and the businesses that try to support these economies, and Portland is no exception. Needless-to-say, these times are also trying for our elected officials as they attempt to balance seemingly impossible budget deficits in addition to administrating the

overwhelming yet routine tasks that are necessary to keep our cities strong, safe and clean.

Our elected officials we know grapple with the "sidewalk" situation. I urge the Mayor and Council Members to consider the following points related to future voting opportunities that may impact this very important topic.

Over the past three and a half years, in the immediate area surrounding our business at 111 SE Belmont Street and 122 Morrison Street, we have been working diligently with your police department, the sheriff's department and the CEIC to change the dynamics of our street scene since the opening our new business in July of 2010. We can report that the situation has gotten minimally better as a result of a concerted effort lead by our team at Rose City Self Storage, and I, but unfortunately, without a stronger ordinance, we fear the streets will be overrun with campers and vagrants and all the illegal trappings that come with the territory (trespassing, thievery, graffiti, camping, drug use, drinking in public, defecating and urinating in public, littering, etc.)

We have taken it upon ourselves to attempt to clean the streets and the railroad tracks for one block in every direction from our building. The policemen who have been patrolling this area for years as well as our adjacent property owners say it has never looked so good after we apply ourselves to diligent cleaning and management of the persistent issues of the homeless campers etc. We spend an incredible amount of time daily picking up hypodermic needles, feces, toilet paper, trash, cardboard, old furniture, large boulders and chunks of concrete that

are used to hold down tarps and tents, liquor and beverage containers of all shapes and sizes, shopping carts, leftover debris from camping, etc. We wash the sidewalks, streets, and other areas that are used as "Street Urinals".

In our opinion, the current state of affairs exists because the problem is complicated, cities are notoriously slow in dealing with these kinds of problems for obvious reasons, and it is just easier to push the issue to different parts of the city when one particular area gets too much attention. In other words, out of sight and out of mind.

We are urging the city to put an ordinance into place that clearly defines what is allowed and what is illegal. Once in place, we hope our police can be given clear direction as to what they can do, and they need to be empowered and given tools to deal with their reality. Just the other day as I was personally cleaning the streets and sidewalks prior to one of our Charity events benefitting Mercy Corp, I witnessed an enclave of campers and squatters yelling and screaming at four policemen who were simply attempting to get them up and moving. I dare say that if I yelled and screamed and made accusatory statements to policemen like the illegal campers were doing, I would likely find myself in jail! I assume the only reason they did not go to jail is because there is no clear direction or empowerment at the street level for the officers. They need your continuing support.

Camping, sleeping or loitering on the streets should be illegal. If allowed, these activities limit the rights of the other folks and businesses in the surrounding areas.

How long are we going to ignore the feces, urine, soiled toilet paper, needles, trash, etc.? Isn't this a very serious health issue for our city? Where are the health advocates? Is it ok to take down your pants or hike up your skirt and urinate or defecate in plain daylight for anybody to see, let alone innocent children? Believe me when I tell you that in our immediate area, this behavior can be witnessed hourly. The results are there every morning for inspection.

The negative effects on our businesses are inexcusable. Our business at 111 SE Belmont Street, like all businesses, is image driven. The success of our business is directly proportional to how comfortable, confident and safe our clients feel about us and our location. How can we create the appropriate environment for our business when outside my door, campers are sleeping, panhandling, defecating, urinating, yelling at policemen with apparently no consequences, and countless other negative effects. It is difficult, if not impossible, to succeed in this kind of atmosphere.

The negative effects on tourism are also inexcusable. If our streets and sidewalks are not reclaimed from the campers, sleepers, and loiterers, I would say it won't be long before the situation brands Portland as an undesirable place to live, visit, and do business.

As a developer of old and historic buildings, we will look to communities in the future that manage their streets and sidewalks in a manner that is consistent with conducting business. To that end, why are there not large pieces of property that can be set up and dedicated for use by the folks who find themselves in the outdoors? If the city were to put a few places together, our policemen could then mandate relocation to

a certified campsite in lieu of citation (which, we know, seldom does any good since the street folks simply fail to appear). In fact, one police van could roam the streets, answer calls from concerned citizens about encampments and violations, and then simply pick up the folks and transport them to a certified site or get them moving. Each incident would be noted and names would be maintained. Repeat offenders would be given legal options; either move to one of the certified sites where the activity would cease to be illegal, move on out of town, or go to jail.

In summary, the situation is getting worse as word spreads thru the street culture that Portland is a great place to live outdoors on public and private land. There is an abundance of warm food, a police force with no empowerment, and a political environment that simply looks the other way while the topic is debated ad nauseam. If steps are not taken to put a very tough yet straightforward ordinance into place that creates legal options to replace illegal, undesirable and unhealthy activities, we are essentially and consciously allowing the situation to worsen. At some point down the line, let's not all look back and say we should have done something. Now is the time to do it. We need your help!

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Timmons", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Timmons

503-927-6350

Property Manager with Rose City Self Storage & Wine Vaults









Moore-Love, Karla

10-29

From: Scott Timmons <stimmons@wcselfstorage.com>
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 8:04 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: City Council Testimony Request.....

Good morning!

Could you please help me with how and when I might be able to testify before the City Council at the next opportunity regarding the Portland Police efforts in the Central Eastside dealing with the homeless/camper issue.

This is a very important issue with our business and I would like to make sure that I pursue opportunity to offer input, support and feedback!

My contact info is below.

Thank you very much!!

Scott Timmons
District Manager - West Coast Self Storage
503-927-6350
stimmons@wcselfstorage.com

1114

Request of Scott Timmons to address Council regarding police efforts in the Central Eastside dealing with the homeless/camper issue (Communication)

OCT 29 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed OCT 24 2014

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. Novick		
Hales		