

Communication: Blocking off the public right of way under the burnside bridge

Until just a couple months ago, the sidewalk under the burnside bridge downtown had been blocked off with caution tape for 3.5 years.

This was the time when Mayor Hales initiated street sweeps. I was sleeping under the burnside bridge at the time and I watched as this caused a massive influx of people- more than could fit. This caused the violence which transpired, not just allowing people to sleep there.

A few years ago a breakthrough international study was published on violence between chimpanzees. The reason it was such a big deal was because the parallels to humans were clear; chimpanzees are the only other known hominid to commit homicides. What the study showed was that violence increased not just with numbers, but more specifically along with availability of resources. With homelessness this proves true, but fundamentally there is nothing wrong with large numbers, and I ask you to keep this in mind when dealing with homeless Mayor Wheeler.

That central sidewalk used to be a place of refuge for strangers. We had a system in place; people were out of pedestrians way, central city cleaned up in the mornings, and I remember less trash.

Today it is the opposite; you have small pockets of often degenerative and territorial groups who obstruct a heavily trafficked MAX stop. I don't even feel comfortable going there.

Recently I obtained a copy of the lease agreement for the parking lot underneath the burnside bridge. In it, it clearly states that that sidewalk is not included in the lease and that PBOT administers the public right of way, but PBOT did not even have a permit on file and the use of yellow caution tape is not permissible.

In response to this they did take the tape down, but the cops are still applying the law in a subjective fashion on behalf of the UO foundation who has been illegally blocking off that [center] sidewalk for the last 3.5 years. This is the same company who tried to change the Made In Oregon sign back in 2008. It seems they'll do whatever they are allowed to get away with in that area.

The lease stipulates the city need only vote to take that parking lot from them.

Considering how we just had a mayor who prided himself on spending more money on the issue that he arguably did not understand, we don't need to spend so much on the issue a diamond in the rough is right under our noses.

The Burnside bridge offers overhead protection from the rain, it is centralized next to resources, and if that parking lot or at least that sidewalk next to the parking lot is again utilized then it could accommodate many people in a way that is unobtrusive and inoffensive to pedestrians. Lastly it provides an accessible place where homeless and middle class can interact, and when you have that you have understanding rather than resentment growing between the two, without that your job basically becomes impossible.

Thank you

Wayne Wignes

wwignes@pdx.edu

Davis, Meghaan

From: wayne W <wwignes@pdx.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Davis, Meghaan
Subject: Re: FW: Communication request

Yeah that sounds good. Thanks.

On Fri, Nov 18, 2016 at 11:24 AM, Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Does January 11th work for you? That is the earliest slot available.

Meghaan Davis

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The City of Portland, Oregon

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130

Portland, OR 97204-1987

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Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: wayne W [mailto:wwignes@pdx.edu]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 10:58 AM
To: Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Communication request

Early January would be preferable. I am waiting on PBOT to check on a permit that would be relevant to this.

Thanks.

Wayne

On Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 2:19 PM, Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

The earliest communication slot we have available is December 7th, 2016 I can put you down there or would you like a later date.

Thank you,

Meghaan Davis

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Meghaan.davis@portlandoregon.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: wayne W [mailto:wwignes@pdx.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 1:09 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony <CCTestimony@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Communication request

I'd like to schedule a communication regarding the [illegal] blocking of a public right of way underneath the burnside bridge.

Thanks

Wayne Wignes

111 w. burnside

Portland, OR 97209

Request of Wayne Wignes to address Council regarding illegal blocking of a public right of way under the Burnside Bridge (Communication)

JAN 11 2017

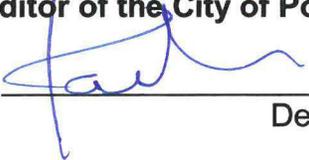
RESCHEDULED TO JAN 18, 2017

JAN 18 2017

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JAN 03 2017

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		