

**PEDESTRIAN PLAZA CODE**

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

NAME (PRINT)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ Mike Jenkins Mike Jenkins	no	
✓ Keoni Wachsmuth		
✓ Mack Jemlli		
✓ Azim Patel		

**Parsons, Susan**

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**From:** Wayne Wignes <wwignes@pdx.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 13, 2017 2:20 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 915; PUBLIC PLAZAS (8/16)  
**Attachments:** TESTIMONY\_915.docx

I may not be able to make it this week. In either case, it may be preferable to communicate this before wednesdays meeting so here is my testimony for item 915; establishing public plazas.

Thanks.

Wayne Gazzola

Testimony: Ordinance 915

8/16/2017

I'd like to draw the council's attention to the agenda which claims it intends to DEFINE pedestrian plaza, yet the proposed definition (17.43.020 below) gives absolutely no concrete definition. The only definition offered is "Pedestrian plazas are places designated by the City of Portland as unique places". What is "unique" and who is the "city of Portland"? There is no assurance that these definitions are not in fact changing along with a few select investors interests when they happen to be on good terms with some local politician.

Furthermore, via what process is "making accessible the ability for the community, property owners, and business owners to create their own unique spaces" accomplished?

political and biological sciences alike support what a profoundly important dynamic shared space plays in affecting group dynamics and leverage of average citizens within a society. Granting local property and business investors such power to control public space should not be taken so lightly and expounded so vaguely.

Food cart vendors have clear guidelines, definitions, and limitations such as 24 sq. feet of operation (17.26.130). Yet public plazas seemingly have no restriction other than that the sidewalk needs to be 8 ft wide for them to occur (17.25.060). Beyond this, it seems to be up to the engineer to decide. Granted they likely do have codes guided by safety, but safety is not all that needs to be considered. This is public property and the public should be assured it is not being given away as free retail space for businesses without assurance that they too benefit from it.

Property owners own their property not the public sidewalk. They enjoy the privilege to do business in a central location, not to control and/ or so influence the functioning and culture of such location (beyond their property line).

Making this an official part of city code rather than a one time deal for ankeney alley opens the gate for the tool to be misused. In particular – to acknowledge the elephant in the room – there are in my experience local investors who attend ONI meetings and attempt to paint an illegal and dangerous picture of transients. It is a fine line between something being used to create a space enjoyable to the public and it being a tool for a few select people who do not in fact represent the whole of a given neighborhood let alone city. And downtown truly is to be considered part of the city as a whole – not as its own neighborhood dictated by the locals.

Wayne Gazzola

#### REGULAR AGENDA

**\*915** Adopt new Portland City Code to **define** pedestrian plazas and establish prohibited conduct; amend associated codes for sidewalk cafes, sidewalk vendors and sidewalk use (Ordinance introduced by Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Saltzman; create Code Section 17.43; amend 17.25.020, 17.26.020 and 14A.50) 10 minutes requested

**ORDINANCE No. 915...**

6. In conjunction with pursuing the demonstration project for Ankeny Plaza, PBOT is completing a citywide livable streets strategy allowing for and making accessible the ability for the community, property owners, and business owners to create their own unique spaces. This citywide approach will be brought to City Council in October 2017

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**17.43.020 Pedestrian Plaza Defined.** Pedestrian plazas are places designated by the City of Portland as unique places where licensed businesses and pedestrians come together. They are not parks. Therefore, sitting or lying down is not allowed. Travel through pedestrian plazas should be unfettered, however, conduct incidental to travel, such as speech or expression, is allowed if it is performed in a reasonable amount of time that does not detract from the enjoyment of the plaza by all persons and if it is done in a manner that is consistent with the use of the plaza as a unique place conducive to pedestrian enjoyment.