

An artist going by the name Frank Furter has been creating scarecrow installations downtown to raise awareness about the sit-lie ordinance. This scarecrow on the corner of 5th & Morrison is holding a sign that states: "Sit-lie: This city-wide ordinance was deemed unconstitutional by a circuit court. Sit-lie in unity to the Supreme Court. Freedom for All."

PHOTO BY FRANK FURTER



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with campers, all things considered," says Jarvis Allen, a JOIN outreach worker.

"Southeast hadn't been taking any consistent action regarding whether or not (tents are) allowed," Kruger says. "Southeast has, over time, chosen to do it one fashion, and Central Precinct has been doing it slightly differently."

Kruger refused to call Central Precinct's method of dealing with camps "strict," or describe it with another adjective.

"I would say that what we're doing is trying to develop a consistent approach to dealing with the camping population on both sides of the Willamette River," Kruger says.

Beginning the morning of June 30, officers began patrolling the area around St. Francis and Water Avenue, another area where campers congregate.

Dave Bailey, 50, who is homeless, said 10 unmarked squad cars parked around St. Francis that day. Sometimes shaking tents to wake people, officers told people to pack up their camps and move or be cited for

violating the anti-camping ordinance and have their property seized.

"They're trying to get us out of the river area," Bailey says. "They're moving people en masse."

Bailey also said that the officers were asking people who were parking and sleeping in their cars to move them.

"This (sweep) definitely has a different tenor than in the past," says Allen. "The police have made clear to people that it's going to be a different approach as well. They're not going to tolerate the structures and tents anymore."

"Today, if you went around St. Francis, there isn't a tent to be seen," Castlio says, with some amazement and relief in his voice.

Castlio doesn't see the recent sweep as ratcheting up of enforcement, but rather the result of more resources and manpower now that inner southeast Portland is consolidated into Central Precinct.

"It's been managed differently," Castlio says. "I think the management here has just put a plan together and implemented it. I get the impression that this is going to be more of a constant, and not a sporadic

thing."

The Portland Police Bureau announced earlier this spring that it would reduce the number of precincts from five to three. The consolidation is projected to save the city \$3.6 million.

Campers aren't the only population to feel the effects of inner southeast Portland being policed according to Central Precinct's policies.

Romeo Sosa, the executive director of VOZ, the migrant worker's advocacy organization that operates Portland's day labor site on Grand Avenue, says he's afraid that the staff change will erase years of work by VOZ to create a dialogue with officers and improve the image of the day laborer.

"Not every one of them are drug dealers. Not every one of them drink. Not every one of them is loitering," he says. "The perception of the police is that all of them are the same."

"We want to cooperate," Sosa continues. "We're still confused with who is going to work with us still."

While Kruger did not say that those populations would be more of a target of

police scrutiny in the past, he did say that crime issues prevalent in Southeast Portland — drug dealing, car prowling and small thefts — were related to the presence of those groups.

"There are criminal problems with the transient nature of the people coming in and out of that area," Kruger says.

Marc Jolin, JOIN's executive director, thinks the police will have to take into consideration the differences between downtown and Southeast Portland in order to fairly respond to campers and other groups. With less foot traffic and the different combination of businesses and residential areas, inner southeast Portland is affected differently by camps, homeless individuals and other groups also found downtown. Jolin also says that there is less competition for public spaces than in downtown.

"Over time, there might be some recognition of the dynamics of homelessness and camping in downtown and Southeast," Jolin says. "It remains to be seen how that plays itself out."

Summer Love

By Kareem Ali

Even
Below blue twilight
Your kisses arrived in glazed heat
And orphaned olive branches

Beyond
The flame and flutter
Of exhausted doves

The aroma of your eyes
Was carried upward
Surfing a locust of wind
Then surging
Past a nectar of clouds
Into a final trellis of stars
Rising



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