

LAW & JUSTICE

Portland's Homeless Ordinance Ruled Unconstitutional

(AP)- The tension has returned to Portland sidewalks.

A judge recently tossed Portland's sidewalk obstruction ordinance, leaving police without the tool they've used to prevent the city's homeless people from sitting or lying on downtown sidewalks during the day.

The decision renewed the conflict between downtown retailers and those who contend homeless people have an equal right to the streets.

City commissioners approved the so-called "sit-lie" ordinance two years ago, but Multnomah County Judge Stephen Bushong ruled that the ordinance conflicts with the state's disorderly conduct law.

The state law prohibits blocking a sidewalk with the intent to cause inconvenience.

The city law didn't require intent, so it was much easier to enforce.

Kit Taylor reclines on a Portland sidewalk downtown. Up until last week, doing this could have gotten him a police citation.

JAKE THOMAS/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Greater St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church

3605 N.E. Mallory

Pastor Kimberly K. Black and the GSS church family cordially invite the City of Roses to come and worship with us as we celebrate our

25th Church Anniversary • August 14-16, 2009

Special Guest, Friday at 7:00 pm

Dr. Robert E. Houston Sr. - Frankfort, KY

Banquet Celebration, Saturday at 6:00 pm

At the Embassy Suites Portland Airport - 7900 NE 82nd Avenue

Bishop Alexis Thomas - Phoenix, AZ

(See banquet ticket information below)

Late Night Musical 10:00 pm at the

Embassy Suites featuring Portland's Finest

Gospel Artist Wilder Ward Jrs., God in

Charge, Grace & Mercy, New Testament

COGIC, St. Paul MBC and from Seattle WA,

Silent Praise Ministries

Sunday at 3:30 pm; Dr. A. Bernard Devers, I - San Antonio, TX

Banquet tickets \$60

Ticket Locations: Christopher's Gourment Grill, Earl's Barber Shop, Elements of Artistry, Geneva's Shear Perfection, McRae's, One Stop Records and Tondalayera Designer Salon.

For more information call 503-281-5200 or visit www.greaterststephenmissionarybaptistchurch.com



Musical Guest: Lady Tramaine Hawkins

Kroger Secures Settlement

Rack up another victory for Oregon Attorney General John Kroger.

Last week Kroger announced a multi-state settlement with DISH Network, LLC, a satellite TV provider that has generated hundreds of complaints from Oregon consumers.

The settlement resolves allegations from several states that Dish was involved in a number of shady activities that included: making telemarketing calls in violation of do-not-call rules, failure to tell customers the full terms and conditions of agreements, telling consumers



Oregon Attorney General John Kroger

misleading information about competitors products, charging customers' debit and credit cards without appropriate authorization, and others.

"Telecommunications companies ranked number one on the Department of Justice's Top 10 Consumer Complaints 2008," said Kroger. "For that reason, we have made telecommunications abuses one of our top consumer protection priorities."

Dish will pay out a total of \$5.99 million in the 46-state settlement. Oregon will receive \$125,000 of that.

Immigrant Deportations Up

(AP)- Federal officials say deportations from Washington, Oregon and Alaska are up by nearly 10 percent from a year ago.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also said that deportations of illegal immigrants with criminal records has

spiked by 50 percent.

For the first nine months of the federal fiscal year -- October through June -- more than 8,000 deportations originated from the Pacific Northwest. That compares to 7,345 in the same period last year. There have been bigger increases in

previous years -- for example, deportations between fiscal years 2007 and 2008 increased by 40 percent.

Illegal immigrants with criminal records now make up the largest share of the region's total deportations, at 60 percent.

Watch out for Car Scams

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers of a scam being perpetrated by hucksters looking to make a buck off your old car.

Con artists are running a scam that involves a new government program called the Car Allowance Rebate System. The program is intended to help people trade in their old gas guzzler for something more fuel efficient. If an older

car meets a set of requirements a dealer is given a \$3,500 to \$4,500 credit towards the purchase of a new vehicle, offsetting the cost for the consumer.

Fraudsters are using similar names to hook consumers into identity theft schemes. Consumers are asked for personal information, like social security numbers, in order to get a voucher or have their

name added to an application list that doesn't exist.

A car dealership registers with program, not the consumer.

To get accurate information, or to find out if your vehicle applies, visit www.cars.gov, or call 866-227-7891.

The BBB recommends that consumers avoid anyone who offers a money order, check or direct deposit to get the rebate.

Leader Tackles Disparities

Michael M. Ware, a local leader with decades of experience working with minorities groups in adult and juvenile justice systems, has been selected to chair a special task force created by Gov. Ted Kulongoski to address why Native American and African American children are over-represented in Oregon's foster care system.

The task force is made up almost entirely of members representing minority populations, includes state legislators, tribal leaders, law enforcement officials and child advocacy experts.



Michael M. Ware

Ware has directed community and family programs at Self Enhancement, Inc. for the past five years.

The governor's task force faces the daunting challenge of reducing the numbers of minority children in foster care. Today, African American children make up 2.3 percent of Oregon's child population, but they account for 7.3 percent of Oregon's foster care population. Native American children make up 1.3 percent of state's population, but they account for 10 percent of the children in state foster care.



Invites you to a special night with

Pastor Larry Huch

Larry Huch is the Senior Pastor of New Beginnings in Dallas, TX.

His international crusade ministry and television program,

Free At Last, reaches millions of households confirming the

success of their authoritative teaching on Generational Curses

to people from all social/economic backgrounds.

Friday, July 31st at 7pm



Irvington Covenant Church

4046 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. corner of NE Shaver and MLK

Infant and Toddler care will be provided • DOORS OPEN AT 6PM •

For directions or more information, call

503-488-5481 or log on to www.mfhmportland.com