



"In here there are no strangers..."

Sisters Of The Road

...just friends we've never met."

For Immediate Release

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SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY WITH PROTESTORS AT CITY HALL

Portland, Oregon (May 6, 2008) – Although it is not a Sisters Of The Road action, Sisters supports the protestors camped out behind Portland's City Hall. Sisters believes the protestors are reflective of a growing number of people experiencing homelessness in Portland with nowhere to sleep safely and legally.

Sisters' Associate Director Michael Buonocore states, "While there have been some admirable efforts to mitigate this problem, the reality remains that there are not nearly enough shelter beds, transitional and affordable housing in this community, and people are criminalized for experiencing the outcome of this calamity."

In a letter sent April 30, Buonocore and Executive Director Monica Beemer urged Mayor Tom Potter and members of the City Council to open immediate, meaningful dialogue with the protestors and to take the following actions:

- Repeal the sit-lie and anti-camping ordinances, recognizing that Portland cannot yet house all its citizens and infringing on their civil rights adds insult to this injury.
- Resist the urge to only find shelter for those who are protesting now. Whatever help can, and should, be given to them is a bandage on a much larger wound. The group disappearing from the steps of City Hall today will not solve anything in the long term, and it will not be the last time this community raises its voice in protest to the conditions that lead to the current situation.
- Any long-term solution to homelessness requires a restoration of federal investment in affordable housing. Portland has the opportunity to recognize this crisis as one of national significance, and lead the call for action.
- Hold a truth commission at City Hall, where elected officials, law enforcement and the public can listen to the truths about homelessness from those who are experiencing it, and develop systemic solutions to address it.

ABOUT SISTERS OF THE ROAD: Founded in 1979, Sisters Of The Road uses non-violence to support community driven solutions to the calamities of homelessness and poverty. Sisters' cafe is open to everyone, serving low cost, hot, nutritious meals. Sisters also provides job training, support to parents and children, and innovative solutions to the issues surrounding poverty and homelessness through self and community advocacy.

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