



"In here there are no strangers..."

# Sisters Of The Road

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

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SISTERS ANNOUNCES ROLE ON MAYOR'S SAFE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Portland, Oregon (May 5, 2008)** -- Thursday, May 8, Sisters Of The Road will hold a press conference to announce and clarify its role on the Mayor's Street Access for Everyone (SAFE) Oversight Committee. The press conference will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue side of City Hall at 11:45am.

The SAFE Oversight Committee is charged with implementing and monitoring the SAFE Work Group's recommendations, including the implementation of a Day Access Center, providing adequate benches, providing public restrooms, and overseeing the change from an "Obstruction as Nuisances" Ordinance ("Sit-Lie" law) to a "Sidewalk Obstruction" ordinance.

Homeless advocates' continued buy-in is important on the SAFE Oversight Committee as it suggests that what is being done is a fair compromise among business advocates, the City, the Police Bureau, and homeless service providers to address "issues of livability" in downtown and the Lloyd District.

Sisters has been involved in the SAFE process since 2006. Sisters believes that a "Sidewalk Obstruction" ordinance unfairly targets people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Of the 88 warnings and citations issued between August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, 79 were given to people who were identified as homeless, "transient," or no address was listed.

Services such as a Day Access Center and public restrooms are greatly needed and should be linked to Portland and Multnomah County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness but not a "Sidewalk Obstruction" ordinance.

*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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