



"In here there are no strangers...

Sisters Of The Road

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



## For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Michael Buonocore, Associate Director (503) 222.5694 x 23;  
[Michael@sistersoftheroad.org](mailto:Michael@sistersoftheroad.org); 133 NW Sixth Ave., Portland OR 97209; fax  
(503)222.3028; [www.sistersoftheroad.org](http://www.sistersoftheroad.org)

### **SISTERS OF THE ROAD AND STREET ROOTS DELIVER 2,000 POSTCARDS TO CITY HALL ASKING FOR REPEAL OF SIT-LIE & ANTI-CAMPING LAWS**

**Portland, Oregon (June 4, 2008)** – Street Roots and Sisters Of The Road will present a projected 2,000 postcards to Portland City Council on Wednesday, June 11 at 9am which ask for the repeal of the sit-lie and anti-camping laws. The postcards are signed by citizens who are concerned that the ordinances punish thousands of Portlanders who lack adequate, safe and affordable shelter.

Staff, board members, vendors and volunteers from Street Roots and Sisters will rally in front of City Hall at 9am before attending the 9:30 City Council meeting. At the meeting Sisters' Community Organizer Patrick Nolen will request the repeal of both laws and present a striking visual display of the postcards, which read as follows:

*Mayor Potter and City Commissioners,*

*Portland's sit-lie and anti-camping laws have been shown to target homeless people. Their enforcement is not only inhumane and immoral, it's unconstitutional. Period.*

*It's not fair to punish someone who doesn't have a safe place to sleep and rest. There are thousands of people who sleep on the streets of Portland every night. Where are they supposed to go?*

*Repeal the sit-lie and anti-camping laws. (14A.50.020 & 14A.50.030)*

*Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_*

After publicly resigning from the Mayor's Street Access For Everyone (SAFE) Oversight Committee on May 8, 2008, Sisters committed to working towards the repeal of both of the above laws. Their departure from the committee was prompted by the recognition that enforcement of the SAFE sit-lie law is clearly targeting homeless individuals.

Since that time, Street Roots and Sisters have been developing grassroots strategies to call attention to the injustices of these laws, and to ensure that the voices of concerned Portlanders are heard by City officials.

"It is cruel and unusual punishment to continue to criminalize individuals experiencing homelessness from sitting, lying or sleeping on public property when the City of Portland

can't offer any real, concrete solutions to the crisis until a projected 2015," said Street Roots' Director Israel Bayer.

Sisters and Street Roots have called on Portlanders to immediately contact their elected officials and demand the repeal of these ordinances.

*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.*

*ABOUT STREET ROOTS: Street Roots is a nonprofit, grassroots newspaper that assists people experiencing homelessness and poverty by creating flexible income opportunities. Through education, advocacy and personal expression, Street Roots is a catalyst for individual and social change.*

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