

June 19, 2022

To whom it may concern:

In 2017 I opened the doors of my business, Wolfgang's Thirst Parlor Tap House, at the corner of 1st and Washington St. Before I had even opened the doors, I was threatened and harassed by a homeless man. He said he wanted to punch me in the face for what he called "An Abomination" to God, I guess. From that point forward he would pass my business and give me the two-handed fingers. He was intimidating to my customers. He even had a confrontation with a couple of guys leaving my establishment and ended up brandishing a knife and stabbing their tire.

Then there was the drug induced female who proceeded to remove all of her clothes in the parking lot across the street from Wolfgang's for all the world to see.

Then there was the steady stream of transients pulling their wagons in searching for bottles and cans all night long. Not to mention going through my trash cans. I watched on my cameras one man steal a brand new, never used pop up tent we just purchased. One of them decided to build a little room out of our tables located in our tent and do drugs.

Some would park their broken down, out of gas vehicles in my parking lot, needing gas money. I have to admit, I did give one of them gas money, only to see him show back up.

We had our patio heaters stolen on several occasions. One time they broke apart out tent legs, damaging the tent and used the legs to damage the cameras we had posted up all around the building, and then stole another patio heater. This was especially frustrating because we were in the middle of COVID19 and struggling to keep our doors open and our employees working. We had to pay for new cameras and repair our tents and patio heaters that ended up damaged.

In January this year I bought and moved into the old Harold's Jewelry building; kitty corner from the police station. It wasn't long before the homeless would show up, sleeping between my outdoor tables and chairs and taking apart & going through the cigarette disposal ashtray.

One evening one individual came into my new establishment during an event I was hosting and proceeded to rant and rave how he owned this place and built it and that it was his mother's house. After a few minutes of trying to convince him to lease, I was forced to gently escort him out of the building. He grabbed one of my shuffleboard pucks on the way out and threw it out in the street. He went across the street and laid in the door way of that building shouting non sense. People were on their way to the movies and trying to walk away from him and protect

their families from him. He was frightening to the children. The police showed up about 20 minutes later and issued him a No Trespass and escorted him down the street.

About a week later we had a woman sleeping outside between the tables. We asked her to leave and she did.

Then there is the lady who walks down the streets shouting Oh God, Oh God, Oh God. Well, the other day she shows up at my business. She goes into the restroom and rearranges all the wall hangings and left a note tucked away behind one of them. She left her jacket, hat and a vehicle title in the bathroom before leaving. My staff called the non-emergency number and a police officer knew her and found her and gave her a No Trespass.

Now I notice a man sleeping in the doorway of the US Bank. He also sleeps on the bridge across from my business. He was sleeping on the benches in that little sitting area that just got put up across the street where people can sit and have coffee or lunch.

He and his buddy like to smoke pot there, even though it is illegal.

This homeless, transient situation is not getting better. We moved down town hoping to contribute to the revitalize downtown Stayton project.

I see a lot of parents taking their children to dance class and people going to the theater, and my customers and my neighbor's customers having to deal with them. I don't feel this is a safe situation nor a pleasant experience for our friends and family.

In my opinion, the enabling of these homeless by giving them hand outs and food does not help.

I don't have the answers but I do know the answer that could help, but it is not enforceable.

These people need help!

Our down town needs to be safe and healthy in order to thrive.

Alan F. Bender

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