

Exhibit "A"  
Port Commission Regular  
Meeting of Sept. 1, 2009

Nickelsville  
P.O. Box 2548  
Seattle, WA 98111  
(206) 450-9136

September 1, 2009

The Honorable Bill Byrant  
Seattle Port Commission President  
Port of Seattle  
Terminal 67  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear President Byrant:

It has been a disappointing week for Nickelsville.

Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> was a day of great hope. Four Nickelodeons had met with Seattle Port Commissioner Gael Tarlton and several of your leading staff people including Mr. Kurt Beckett. Also at the meeting were Duwamish Chairperson Cecile Hanson, Church Council of Greater Seattle Executive Director Michael Ramos, Lutheran Public Policy Institute Executive Director Paul Benz and Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives Frank Chopp.

We are grateful to the Port for meeting with us on several occasions, and responding to our proposals. Thank you.

At the end of the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting Commissioner Tarlton agreed to bring a simple proposal back to the Port, and encourage its serious consideration.

That proposal would have granted two additional months for Nickelsville at Terminal 107, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> month if serious and massive efforts to find a permanent site for Nickelsville had occurred without success. At the end of those 3 months, Nickelsville would move - whether or not a permanent site was available to move to.

We believe this proposal addressed concerns the Port had with our earlier offer of a 3 Month Temporary Use Agreement. Speaker Chopp had guaranteed his involvement, particularly in assuring that the legality of this action was clarified by the legislator. Nickelsville also committed to leaving Terminal 107 at the end of the term regardless of whether a permanent site had been procured or not.

Finding a permanent site is not easy, and both Terminal 107 and other unused Port Property are suitable. Yet we were willing to take a chance and give up

considering the Port as a serious permanent site in exchange for up to 3 months of peace and no conflict with a property owner.

Last Tuesday we received notice that our proposal had been rejected, and that the Port intended to sweep Nickelsville from Terminal 107 on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The press release that announced the planned sweep continues to confuse our true needs and intentions: It again says that Nickelsville is looking for a donation of land, money or services. This is false - we just want temporary use of land to get through a real emergency. When the emergency is over the temporary use ends.

Equally frustrating is the continued pretence that the Port lacks legal authority to let us survive, temporarily, at Terminal 107. Not only does the State Constitution explicitly allow municipal corporations to help the poor and infirm, but no State Official has seconded the claims that other laws prohibit the Port from helping us stay together and safe.

Port actions themselves have made obvious there is no legal barrier to allowing poor people (with no other option) to temporarily survive on Port Property: First, notice of trespass was posted on July 24<sup>th</sup> that Nickelsville had to leave in 3 days.

This was followed by notice that a Court Order would be obtained, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, to give us the boot. Then this action was dropped and we were ordered gone by August 21<sup>st</sup>. Now the date to sweep Nickelsville is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Our desperate efforts to stay together and safe are being 'put up' with for over two months (from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>) already!

The other side of the coin is to ask why, if a permanent location can be found, haven't we found it since July 23<sup>rd</sup>? We can truthfully say that if we haven't had to spend the last two months fending off being swept, we probably could have!

What Nickelsville needs to find a permanent site is several months of hard work focused on this goal, and finding a property owner who understands that helping homeless people to survive is a worthy use of property.

We fear that what we have received instead is a month of chaos, distrust and contention.

We will do our best to find a permanent site as soon as possible, and cooperate with all those sincere about assisting us, but it is highly doubtful this will succeed by the end of September.

For this reason we are calling on you to keep an open mind. Please learn more about our efforts. Find out why we are insistent on not being scattered to the winds to join the several thousand other homeless people sleeping alone and isolated under bushes and bridges in King County.

Two years we were greatly impressed when Commissioner Creighton took the time to stay with our friends at Tent City3 for the night. You are welcome to join us for an evening if you wish, or simply meet us there for a briefer time. We would also be glad to meet you elsewhere at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr & Mrs. Beaver's

Reggie Hette

Michael D McCoy

Walter Sheff  
DADDY CONTEH

Jayne Jamison

Linda Duncan

Jim Christensen Jr.

Rev. Sig W Bailey

Angelina Bailey

Carayna Dalgard

Robert L. Miles

Raymond P. Smith

Loreen & Larry Poole  
(cat & Buddy My Dog)

Richard K. Gilbert

LISA Ewing

Patricia Cross

David F. ...

Michael ...

~~Allen Hogeweide~~

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Athena Sims

Joe R. Raley

Alejandro Portillo

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Mr & Mrs. Beaver's

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Michael D. McCay

Walter Sharp

DADDY CONTEH

Maureen Janjeron

Linda Duncan

John Christensen, Jr.

Ron Lajoie Bady

Angelina Batty

DeWayne Taylor

Robert Lang Miles

Alexandro Portillo

Loreen Mass Poole  
(cat & Buddy my Dog)

Richard A. Gilbert

Lisa Ewing  
Peter Gross

Samuel  
Michael Heister

~~Allen Hogeweide~~

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John Rosaly  
Raymond Pflitz