



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Commissioner Leonard Statement RE: Schumacher Furs
March 30, 2006

I find the recent actions of the Schumacher's very unfortunate, as they only perpetuate the problem with the protesters that they supposedly wanted my help to solve. I have come to the conclusion that they have chosen this path as a method of generating free advertisement for their business, and in fact are not interested in resolving the issue with the protesters.

The details of my involvement in this situation are as follows:

On March 23, 2006 I received an email from Linda Schumacher, owner of Schumacher Furs, asking for my assistance in resolving a situation between her business and protesters who she asserted were harassing their business, employees and customers.

As I consistently do when a citizen contacts me, I looked into it, contacting Commander Dave Benson of the Portland Police Bureau, who Ms. Schumacher listed as part of the problem. Based on her statement to me, I was very concerned and contacted the Police.

What I learned was that the Portland Police Bureau went out of their way to work with the Schumacher's on a solution to the issue, giving them several options which included a civil injunction, as well as suggesting that the Schumacher cease their consistent engagement of the protesters which included posters hung outside their business which stated the following:

All Protesters Should be!

**Beaten
Strangled
Skinned Alive
Anally Electrocuted**

Another poster had a picture of a protester with the words:

Poster Boy for Birth Control

After my own investigation, I wrote Linda Schumacher a letter on Saturday March 25, 2006, raising my concern that she and her husband chose to engage the protesters in this way, and offered my advice that they stop engaging the protesters in any way because it only fuels the energy of the protesters, and works against any effort the Police could undertake.

The Schumacher's chose not to even respond to my advice regarding ceasing any engagement of the protesters, and declined my invitation to meet with the Police to identify a solution. Instead chose to go to the media and portray themselves as faultless victims in this situation.

A copy of photographs of the posters and my email exchange with Ms. Schumacher are below:



-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Schumacher [mailto:lschumacher@schumacherfurs.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 11:13 PM

To: Leonard, Randy

Subject: RE: today

We talked to the lovejoy clinic and it cost them over \$500,000.00 to get an injunction. We don't have that kind of money otherwise we would do it.

From: Leonard, Randy [mailto:rleonard@ci.portland.or.us]

Sent: Sat 3/25/2006 9:31 PM

To: Linda Schumacher
Subject: RE: today

Linda-
I have communicated with Commander Dave Benson regarding your concerns.

I am very concerned about the issues you raised with me and, unfortunately, from the information I have received it appears that some of the problems you are having with protesters are exacerbated by the confrontations representatives of your business, including Mr. Schumacher, have had with the protestors.

According to Commander Benson;

"Schumacher's always gets a little extra attention from the protestors because he verbally engages them in sometimes a spirited discourse. To date, no other retailer is getting weekly protests."

In addition, Commander Benson told me that

"I/we met with Mr. Schumacher early on. He came to our weekly problem solving meeting with his attorney, Greg Oldham and we spent some extra time develop solutions. Laurie Abraham from the DA's office suggested that they seek a civil injunction similar to the one sought by the Lovejoy Surgicenter and awarded by a court. To date, the Schumacher's have not pursued this option."

I am particularly disturbed that you have posted banners inside your store that appear to taunt the protestors outside (please see attached photos).
One poster says

All Protesters Should be!

Beaten
Strangled
Skinned Alive
Anally Electrocuted
Another poster has a picture of a protester with the words

Poster Boy For Birth Control

You certainly have the "right" to display these posters in your windows, but you must know that by doing so you only antagonize the protestors and, as a result, they become as interested as you and Mr. Schumacher are in proving they are "right".

Neither the police bureau nor my office can assist you if you are not willing to accept our advice on a strategy that helps us help you cause the protestors to lose interest in targeting your business.

Similar businesses to yours that were subject to the same kinds of protests have followed the police bureau's advice and, as a result, the protestors have moved on.

This series of confrontations between your business and the protestors is deeply troubling to me. I am concerned that your actions and then the reactions of the protestors is escalating to a much more serious level.

You and Mr. Schumacher cannot control the rights of protesters that peacefully gather to protest your business. However, you can control how you react to it.

I recommend that you reconnect with Commander Benson and follow his experienced recommendations.

I would also urge you to instruct everyone that is associated with your business to cease engaging the protesters on any level. If the wrong combination of personalities begin confronting one another a horrible outcome could be the result. While you may not agree with me now, I can assure you that you will regret not having followed this advice if someone -on either side- ends up being hurt no matter who is "right" or "wrong."

I am attempting to give you my most thoughtful advice. I hope you accept it in the vein I am making it. I truly want you and Mr. Schumacher to be able to conduct your business in as healthy an environment as is possible.

I have copied Jim Redden and Phil Stanford of the Portland Tribune. Apparently, someone from your business let them know I was discussing this issue with you so, as a courtesy, I am copying them on this email.

Please let me know if I can provide any assistance to you in helping you implement the recommendations I have made to you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Randy Leonard

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Schumacher
To: rleonard@ci.portland.or.us
Sent: 3/25/2006 7:03 PM
Subject: today

Briefly,

The police officer today refused to enforce a stalking order that a judge had issued. He went out and talked to the person and left. What is going on. I have the law printed up in regards to stalking orders and the police are suppose to arrest the person. We are very frustrated. The same person was in front of our store earlier in the week and our employee called again. They never showed. When we called later we were told they guess it slipped through the cracks.

Linda Schumacher

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Schumacher
To: rleonard@ci.portland.or.us
Sent: 3/23/2006 3:20 PM
Subject: laws being broken

We have been heavily protested since Nov. We have on film, red paint being thrown on our property. Our building being written on .ALF written

on our building. Consistent trespassing. Our employee being assaulted. He got a stalking order and when we called the police that that person was here, they never responded. I have talked in lengths with the manager at Nordstroms and when their property was chalked, the police responded and that person was arrested. Why don't we get the same treatment? They are allowed to block our entry. We have everything documented. Our security officer has talked to the police on numerous occasions and we can't get the law enforced. Why not. I could go on in regards to this. We have been told it is legal for them to follow us and tell us they are going to kill us and burn our house down. We pay our taxes and just want to run our business. The protestors are not going away but at least the law can be enforced. Commandor Benson says he supports the protestors!

Thanks for your time.

Linda Schumacher