



City of Yachats  
PO Box 345 (441 Highway 101 N.)  
Yachats OR 97498-0345

541-547-3565 ofc.  
541-547-3063 fax  
[cityhall@YachatsMail.org](mailto:cityhall@YachatsMail.org)

COMPLAINT FORM - Nuisance, Land Use, or other Code Violations

Name of Complainant: Betty Johnston  
(Person filing this complaint)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 897 Phone Number: 541-547-4434

Name of Defendant: Not Known  
(Person against whom this complaint is made)

Address where violation occurred: Covered Structure behind Commons  
(Nearest house number or intersecting street, if no address)

I have reasonable grounds to believe that the named Defendant did unlawfully violate:

- ☐ Title 5, Chapter 5.08 – Nuisances – City of Yachats Municipal Code  
☐ Title 9 - Zoning and Land Use – City of Yachats Municipal Code  
☐ Title \_\_\_\_\_ - City of Yachats Municipal Code

I observed this offense at approximately 1:00 a.m./p.m. on the 25 day of Sept.

2017. (Multiple offense dates, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_)

This offense occurred within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yachats, Oregon, at this address: Ball Field - Play ground area between 4th & 6th

Or near this address or intersecting street: \_\_\_\_\_

Write a plain and concise statement of the facts constituting the offense: Arrived at site to walk the dog. The children were playing there with teacher Angie supervising. I noticed that in the building was in view that I had seen the previous day at the beach was now sleeping on a picnic bench w/ a blanket or something like a blanket. I was talking to teacher Angie & she stated that the

I further declare and certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further state that I understand that, as the Complainant, it may be necessary for me to testify in Yachats Municipal Court, as such.

Betty Johnston  
Complainant

9/28/17  
Date

PLEASE ATTACH ANY APPLICABLE PHOTOGRAPH(S)

NOTICE: Once filed, this document becomes public information, and may be used in Court.

Children were not permitted to go in the building because a man was sleeping in there. The children on occasion take their lunch <sup>there</sup> & have their lunch, but when people are in the building, meaning about or sleeping. Teacher Annie appeared to be always looking around her surroundings looking to see where her students were at all times.

# City Council Presentation

2017

The week of May 23 I was walking my dog on the Broadwalk Path to the ball park. I live on West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, a few feet from our property is the Broadwalk Path it is to the right, to the left is the Library path. I don't always walk, I drive to post office and then to the ball field to walk my dog. I am there for about 20 to 30 minutes. I am not only there for my dog to exercise, but I enjoy observing my surroundings. On numerous occasions I have seen cars or pick ups parked on the roadway between the ball park and the 501 Bldg. I often see the same car there from 1 to 3 days. One day I noticed two gentleman in a car, one in the drivers seat and one in the back where the seats were down. It looked like he was waking up from a nap. It was 11:30 or so. The fellow in the driver's seat had come to the car a few minutes earlier carrying a paper sack with foodstuffs in it. In my opinion it looked like food from our food pantry. Someone was walking in front of me and the driver opened the car door and ask the man for some money for coffee. The pedestrain said no. I walked the same direction and he opened the door again and ask me for money, I just walked on.

They got out of the car and walked to covered area. There were two other men standing inside the covered area. During this time I was busy with my dog, but I continued to observe the area to see if and what they were doing. They looked unkept and had paper sacks in their hands, putting it up to their mouth on occasion. I then went home.

At 4:30 - 5:00 I went back to the ball field, this time walking on the Broadwalk path. I walked about to the ball field and saw the same men standing under the big spruce tree where there are benches to sit on. My instinct was telling me that I should leave. I follow my instincts and took a quick turn right to the library path and walk to the playground where teachers and pre school children were. I told the teachers about the four men and suggested they not allow the children to go out in the woods that there were 4 men milling around. In my opinion, they looked unkept, being loud and drinking. I felt unsafe for myself and the children. I saw Kim leave in her car for the day and ask if she could talk to me for a moment. I told what I saw and she said to call Don, our code enforcement officer. I also saw Nancy leaving and repeated what I told Kim. She suggested I call the Sheriff.

I returned home to call the Sheriff. A Deputy Eldridge called me back. He suggested some things I could do about what I had seen. He also stated that he or another deputy would really try to patrol Yachats once a day by driving down the city streets. This could happen if there was no other business he had to attend to. He then suggested I call the regional State Parks and talk to them about signage that they have posted that addresses hours that park is open, (dusk to dawn ) or no overnight camping allowed.

Dennis Comfort lives in Seal Rock and is the Regional Director of State Park up and down the coast, from California to Washington. Dennis stated that the transient issue is a terribly big problem. As he went on he said that it was a 'social problem'. Some transients use our woods to defecate leaving there wiping materials wherever they are. I have seen this problem happening behind the playground and on the trail where benches might be. Also I have witnessed people in sleeping bags in the covered area sleeping on the picnic tables and using water and/or electrical outlets. The transients stay 1 night or 3 nights. When they leave they don't take their blankets or

their sleeping bags or trash. Don has picked up after them on many occasions. I have seen lots of gross stuff lying around this area. I have seen a teacher take a shovel and plastic bags wearing rubber gloves to pick up feces so the children don't step in it.

Mr. Comfort continued by saying that the state has tried to be compassionate with this issue, but to no avail. He said that idea doesn't work because they have been given blankets, then they leave them there where they sleep. They are given food and leave the trash where they ate the food.

His suggestions were: encourage people not to walk alone in the forest or enclosed areas, post when park is open or closed (dusk to dawn), set-up a task force, set up a neighborhood walk program or neighborhood watch wearing vests that identify the people and what they are doing in the area.

He also told me to call Bandon or Pacific City, these two towns have a huge problem with the transient population.

He also suggested that we make a call to J.R. the District Manager of State Parks and invite him to a meeting informing us what other cities do.

Many Yachadians do not frequent our recreational areas and do not realize that Yachats has a problem. I have seen 8 transients in one day around Yachats.

I do not want to be looking over my shoulder time after time wondering who is not far behind me and wondering if this person is a 'safe' person to be around.

Dennis Comfort 541-563-8502, cell 541-270-8661  
Sheriff Deputy Eldridge Newport



JUNE 4, The Eugene Register Guard printed an article. The title, "OREGON STUDENT'S SLAYING PROMPTS OUTCRY"

Haruka Weiser, a freshman at University of Texas from Portland was sexually assaulted and killed.

Alumni and parents of students there are demanding to improve safety by cracking down on homeless people, improving nighttime lighting and improving foot and bike patrols.

Some parents and alumni believe U of T bears a measure of blame for this act. Although the killer is responsible for the crime, UT is equally at fault for failing to provide a safe and secure environment.

One parent stated, "homeless predators who walk across campus at will, stealing, assaulting, urinating in public passed out on benches high or drunk, committing vandalism, etc". He further stated, "It was just a matter of time before a tragedy occurred".

A mother was quoted, "UT should improve lighting, clean up brush, restrict access to buildings and step up enforcement of laws against loitering, trespassing and public intoxication and urination".

Officer Carter, Chief of Police said, "It's not illegal to be homeless or transient" but rules and regulations are needed to keep our children and our citizens safe.

Homelessness is a societal issue that to be addressed collectively, law enforcement is not the solution. What can we do to make sure a tragedy will not happen here?



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department: Rules and Regulations

### Department

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vendors

### Address

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Ocean Shores/Scenic Waterways  
725 Summer St NE, Suite C  
Salem OR 97301

### Hours of Operation

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Contact

[park.info@state.or.us](mailto:park.info@state.or.us)

Phone: 503-986-0707

### Director's Office

Chris Havel, Director's Office Information, (503) 986-0722

Richard Walkoski, Americans with Disabilities Act and accessibility comments and questions. (503) 986-0748

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