Restore Friendly Sidewalks Downtown

We urge City Council to abolish the ordinance that persuaded Frank Lima ("The Great Morgani") to leave Pacific Avenue. This is the "Display Device" Ordinance (MC 5.43) which makes 95% of the sidewalk "forbidden zones" for friendly community use. Violating it results in a fine of more than $300. A second ordinance, the Sitting Ban, criminalizes performers, artists, and others who sit directly on 90% of the downtown sidewalks and is regularly used to threaten or cite with the threat of hundreds of dollars in fines.

The sidewalks are a community resource. So are street performers, vendors, and the many different kinds of people who socialize and linger there. Obstructing the sidewalk is already a crime, should an issue arise of someone intentionally blocking the way & refusing to move. Over-policing & over-lawyering the sidewalks has driven away good performers & good people.

Enforcement of the two ordinances, whether through citation or threat, needs to be suspended immediately. If some sections of the ordinances need to be retained, the details can be worked out through public hearings at the Downtown Commission, the Arts Commission, and other community groups at the same time as friendly public spaces are restored downtown.

- ***You do NOT have to be a city resident, registered voter, adult, or non-felon to sign, just a concerned person.***
- ***Please include contact information and skills to help with subsequent action such as a lawsuit, peaceful protest, boycotts, theatrical satire, letters to the media, call-in's to City Council etc.***
- ***PLEASE PRINT, DO NOT SIGN carefully and clearly. We do not need actual signatures.***

Name	Phone/E-Mail	Comments	Wish to be contacted for future action?