

## **8.29.11 Update – Next Stand-in at the Acropolis on September 9th**

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***Neighbors in the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood will hold a Stand-in at 8325 SE McLoughlin Boulevard on Friday, September 9 at 6pm. Parking is available along SE Umatilla, Tenino, SE 23 and 21 Streets just west of McLoughlin Boulevard and south of SE Tacoma.***

Sellwood-Moreland residents and businesses have experienced harassing behavior emanating from Acropolis and Blush, and with the news that Casa Diablo (a vegan strip club currently operating in NW Portland) planned to open next to Acropolis, 70 residents wrote letters to OLCC and ONI, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement which monitors liquor licenses in Portland. OLCC delayed issuing the Casa Diablo license and will hold a hearing in October to consider the matter. All these clubs – Blush, Acropolis, and Casa Diablo – have trouble controlling their patrons who use surrounding private property as their bathroom, engage in sex and drug use, litter, and park on residential streets making lots of noise when they exit the clubs at 2-2:30 AM. In addition, the clubs turn up the bass on their stereo equipment ignoring neighbors' requests to obey the noise code.

Blush owner, Ram Makboul, parks and stores cars directly in front of neighbors' houses – neighbors who have asked patrons to not block sidewalks. He tells police he is just trying to avoid confrontation, yet he has shone lights above legal luminescence into neighbors' windows, aims video cameras into neighbors' windows, and accused one neighbor of trespassing after he invited this neighbor into Blush to discuss neighbors' concerns. Makboul, who owns a house in Beaverton, has been in the news before in regards to OLCC, and is related to Dean MacBale, owner of the Dolphin clubs, who was accused of unlawful sexual penetration in May, and resisting arrest and DUI in March. MacBale is also under investigation by the IRS.

While you may consider Acropolis a Portland icon, people living in an apartment complex near the club complain of customers parking on private property, urinating on private property, engaging in sex on private property, theft, noise, and propositioning girls returning home from school in the middle of the afternoon. In addition, Acropolis borders Johnson Creek, and a visit there on Friday revealed a person who claims he is the "maintenance man" for Acropolis living in a tarp-covered lean-to on the banks of the creek. Neighbors also allege Acropolis dumps garbage in the creek, and have videotaped Acropolis cooks urinating into the creek while drinking beers on their breaks from cooking those famous Acropolis steaks.

Casa Diablo has similar complaints against its club in NW Portland, and faced a citation from the City of Portland for a time/place/manner violation. The owner, Johnny Zukle, avoided this citation by transferring ownership of the club to a friend.

Steve Pharo, executive director of OLCC, visited with neighbors living near Blush and Acropolis to understand neighbors' complaints about the harassing behavior emanating from these clubs. OLCC only has the authority to deal with alcohol-related issues (i.e. OLCC cannot address illegal parking or

garbage dumping per se), however, Steve Pharo will meet with the owners of Acropolis and Blush to address neighborhood concerns.

***Please join SOS Oregon on September 9th on the east side of town. Email [help@sosoregon.org](mailto:help@sosoregon.org) if you are interested in carpooling.***

***The next west side Stand-in will take place on the First Friday of October – the 7th.***

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***ONLY STANDING TOGETHER CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***