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MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE - WASHINGTON

City v. Willis

Supreme Court of Washington, En Banc - July 21, 2016 - P.3d - 2016 WL 3960848

Defendant was convicted in the Municipal Court of begging. Defendant appealed.

The Superior Court affirmed. Defendant filed motion for discretionary review, which was granted. The Court of Appeals affirmed. Defendant filed petition for review, which was granted.

The Supreme Court of Washington held that provisions of ordinance prohibiting begging at freeway ramps and major intersections were facially overbroad.

Provisions of municipal ordinance prohibiting begging at on and off freeway ramps and prohibiting begging at major intersections were facially overbroad. Provisions applied to locations likely to have sidewalks, which were traditional public forums, and provisions imposed content-based speech restriction in substantial number of public forums in violation of First Amendment.

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