

EUGENE, OR – Four individuals cited with second-degree trespass charges have had their cases dismissed by the Eugene Municipal Court. Three of the four were delivering food and supplies to unhoused people at the time of citation by Eugene Police. The fourth, a stroke survivor in her 70s, was living in a tent when she was charged.

“I am dismissing this case because this is justice,” said the judge while dismissing the unhoused woman’s charge.

Reid Kajikawa, Director of Training at Public Defender Services of Lane County, said in a public comment that the number of trespass cases involving people sleeping on the streets has tripled between Jan-May of 2025 compared to the same months in 2024.

Over the past few years, the criminalization of homelessness has escalated to include people doing outreach. Outreach workers and mutual aid volunteers distributing food and supplies have increasingly faced trespassing charges, many of which remain active.

One individual charged with trespassing in the second degree while handing out food is scheduled to go to trial at Eugene Municipal Court on June 11th.

Read more about repression in Mutual Aid:

- Three arrested after protesting inhumane sweeps at a city council meeting in July 2024

- Police threaten Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, a group providing meals at Washington Jefferson Park