



Mmm, peeves by Rev. Jim

I know, I know, looks like another boring old “I got hassled in one way or another, I got pissed, and now I’m hoping you’ll get pissed too” screeds coming down the pipeline. Yawning right there with ya, pal.

Bear with me for just a sec. Since the previous Wednesday when I saw the window banner, I had been getting really psyched up for Taco Tuesday (apparently an international food deal phenomenon of which I knew nil - hard to believe, considering just how close I keep my ear to the tracks for food bargains). This is \$1.25 fish tacos at 4 EC's Rubio's. In a hurry, I locked up to the pole right outside the restaurant - easy outs and right in view - rather than lock inside. The guard (ooh, guess what) starts right in with the "You can't lock up there" spiel, I return the "Actually I know I can, call your supervisor to come meet me and my tacos," spiel, and go inside. It was a little surprising to spy an SFPD flatfoot moments later, through the window, checking out the bike.

What the eff? I held off the taco order and went right outside. “Hello officer, my bike, etc., etc.”

“Your bike? Good, it’d be good for you to move it, we were about to lock it up.”

Some backstory now - back in my SFBMA XO tenure, we were working on a general info handbook. I boiled down lots of codes (thanks Lon Cook!) into a digestible amount and kept it kicking around. A few years later, they got aggro over at 215 Fremont. The facilities manager tried to demand that I lock up to the (pretty inconvenient) bike rack around the side. I had to write the management to complain that he would not even let me lean it against the light standard out front. The codes cited:

**California Uniform Vehicle Code
[CHAPTER 11 - RULES OF THE ROAD,
Article XII. Operation Of Bicycles,
Other Human-Powered Vehicles, And
Mopeds, 11-1211:**

[illegible]

BICYCLE PARKING: (a) A person may park a bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device.] and
San Francisco Municipal Code [Article 12 - Parking Meter Regulations, 219.2. SIDEWALK PARKING OF BICYCLES AND MOPEDS: It shall be permissible for any person to stop, park or leave standing any bicycle or moped, on any sidewalk, provided that such bicycle or moped shall in no way obstruct the sidewalk nor inhibit the forward progress of any pedestrians thereon. (Added by Ord. 479-85, App. 10/18/85)]

Back to today. Officer Steve at 4 EC was actually very nice. He got calmly and guilt-inducingly upset when I called him a lackey. Eventually I complimented him on his calm demeanor and conflict resolution skills. He solved the situation by making me feel guilty about the "lackey" comment and for giving the \$8/hour guard a hard time. I completely lost track of his "lock up my bike" phrase. Unfortunately, a copy of that letter to 215 Fremont management was in my binder the whole time, but I forgot it was there. Dang. I could have shown Officer Steve that he was indeed acting contrary to the law which he was forsworn to uphold. And there were still fish tacos in need of attention.