

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Supreme Court rejects review of Inland Octopus case

The decision marks an end to the state judicial process for the downtown toy store mural.



U-B file photo: Customers step out of Inland Octopus beneath the store's multi-story artwork and on to Main Street in Walla Walla Thursday morning. After a legal battle toy store owner Bob Catsiff has lost his battle, challenging the constitutionality of the City of Walla Walla's sign code. Matthew B. Zimmerman

WALLA WALLA — The saga of the purple octopus sign may be coming to an end.

The Washington state Supreme Court on Wednesday denied a petition from Robert Catsiff, owner of Inland Octopus, to review a Walla Walla Superior Court decision against his attempt to retain the mural.

Catsiff had claimed the city's sign code infringes on his right of free speech, is overbroad and vague.

The Superior Court judgment issued by Judge Donald W. Schacht in June 2011 rejected Catsiff's claims and stated the city's wall-sign size and height restrictions and permitting requirements are constitutional, valid and enforceable.

Catsiff appealed Schacht's decision to the Supreme Court, which denied his petition for review.

Catsiff commissioned the giant purple octopus sign at his leased toy store at 7 E. Main St. on Labor Day in 2010. He didn't have a permit and the city ordered him to remove the mural or bring it into compliance with the sign code's size limitations.

The city ordered a \$100-a-day fine beginning Oct. 14, 2010. The fines have continued to add up while the case has gone through the courts and are now at more than \$72,000.