

Owner of wives' home out of order Council ejects shelter head

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HACKENSACK — Sandy Ramos, owner of a shelter for battered wives, was ejected from council chambers last night for speaking out of order.

Ms. Ramos, owner of the embattled Shelter Our Sisters (SOS) center, offered little resistance as Patrolman Ray Kenny removed the 35-year-old woman from the chambers after she tried to address the City Council during its work session. Such sessions provide no opportunity for public participation, according to Wysocki.

Ms. Ramos had criticized the council for trying to close her shelter at 133 Cedar Ave. She said the city's action has

forced battered wives to seek refuge in motels or sleep in cars.

Under a temporary restraining order, SOS is limited to a maximum of eight persons based on the city's occupancy requirements. Although Ms. Ramos violated the order last Friday, the day the order took effect, she subsequently complied on the advice of her attorney, Dennis O'Leary.

Ms. Ramos said last night that O'Leary feared Superior Court Judge Theodore W. Trautwein, who originally issued the restraining order, would levy severe fines if she defied his ruling.

Meanwhile, it is costing the city about \$130 a day to house four of the women from the shelter and their eight children

in a local motel. How long the city will continue paying the bills will be determined Thursday when City Atty. Seymour Chase seeks a permanent restraining order in state Superior Court.

Chase and O'Leary are expected to square off in court over the constitutionality of a zoning ordinance providing that no more than three unrelated persons may live under the same roof.

Ms. Ramos was cited for violating the ordinance, and with overcrowding and operating a business in a residential zone, after city officials found 17 people living in her four-bedroom home. She has been summoned to appear in Municipal Court May 5 on the additional charges.