

Becky Johnson, HUFF: Wanted to assess problem. Took photographs. Found vacant parking lots and structures. Vast majority of people were parking cars and coming and going. Hasn't found a problem. Statistics don't support this ordinance. This ordinance is promoted by bigots. Feels staff is exaggerating. Doesn't feel crime will be stopped by this ordinance. There will just be fewer law abiding witnesses.

Bob Patton, Human Rights Organization: Spoke regarding most vulnerable, homeless and poor. This law is overly broad. Needs more specific due notice of what will be an actual crime under this law. HRO has spoken with commission members and staff and CPVAW. It has supplied DTC with questions to be answered. Glad to hear PD statistics, they have made two requests and been denied access. Asked DTC to answer the HRO's questions before making a decision.

Bernard Klitzner, HRO: Concerned with poor and homeless. They will be most affected by this ordinance. This is another case of you picking on them. They will just move somewhere else. This law will do no good. It won't solve anything. Come up with something more creative, community peace volunteers could come in and talk to people and inquire as to why they are doing what they do. Many people feel the Police are part of the problem. Stop picking on poor people and get to the root of the problem.

Sherry Conable: There is a human need to feel safe. Has traveled and lived in Third World countries. The perception of safety is subjective. Is disturbed by the perceptions that precipitated the development of this ordinance. There has been a very concerted effort in Santa Cruz to make homeless people feel uncomfortable. DTC doesn't have enough information to support a decision at this time. One obvious way to decrease this is to have Police presence more often in the garages. Thanked staff for pointing out that the garage staff isn't specifically targeting the poor and homeless.

Michael Paoli: This is a good law for keeping crime out and bad for conversing. While fighting for freedom abroad were taking away freedoms here by making pointless laws.

Alexander Tsunami, homeless: Where can the homeless go to sleep, stay dry, not get into trouble. Ten minute law intent may not be directed at the homeless but they will be the most affected by it. Didn't choose to be homeless, it just happened. Just wants a safe place to be.

Robert Norse, HUFF: This is a law about homeless people. Thanked Parking Maintenance staff. This isn't a community problem, it's a problem of lack of support and staffing for enforcement of current laws. City has refused to fund campground. People are inconsiderate. There is no documentation of a crime problem. We all belong, the problem is to use these spaces appropriately. This law will not be enforced against middle class people. Will raise protest if this law is enacted. Asked the DTC to be independent.

Keith Holtaway, Downtown Association: DTA met Tuesday March 14 and addressed this ordinance. The DTA generally supports this ordinance but will wait for further information before taking a formal stance.

Chair Shattuck returned the item to the DTC.

Commissioner Bisbee moved to continue the meeting to March 23, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Seconded by Commissioner Hoffman.

The motion passed 6/0.