

Pledge and Protest at Bunny's Shoes

Police continue to harass homeless musicians **Anna Richardson and Miguel de Leon** – who have no legal place to sleep at night--for the "crime" of sleeping after 11 PM under the City's medieval MC 6.36.010a (the homeless Sleeping Ban).

Bunny's Shoes, property managers at **Borders** and the **Palomar Hotel**, and Manthri Srinath, owner of **Lulu Carpenters**) all contributed to a discriminatory court Injunction, granted last month by **Judge Paul Burdick**. This injunction **bans Richardson and de Leon** from sleeping anywhere in a park or on the sidewalk in the downtown area on pain of jail. **City law** additionally **bans** them from **sleeping** anywhere on public property **outside** in Santa Cruz **after 11PM**. This injunction doesn't ban real criminal conduct or nuisance behavior like littering, trespassing, disturbing the peace, urinating, defecating, etc. Simply **sleeping becomes a jailing offense**.



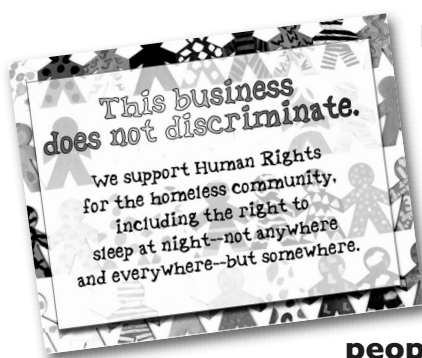
The impact of the decision expands far beyond these two performers, since there are **1500-2000 homeless in Santa Cruz of whom less than 10% have shelter throughout the summer**. Homeless people face **\$97 citations**; police harassment, theft and destruction of their property; and discrimination. They face exclusion from other public spaces such as the lawns of Calvary Episcopal Church and city parking lots and garages; which tourists, residents, shoppers can use freely.

SCPD officers Winston, Warren, and Wilson selectively enforce laws such as the "no dogs downtown" ordinance — targeting homeless youth & exempting tourists. Chief Ranger John Wallace and the SCPD despoil and destroy homeless survival camps in the Pogonip and near Emeline St.

It is piling absurdity upon cruelty to ban sleeping downtown on pain of jail, yet allow no legal place for homeless people to sleep. **MC 6.36.010 is a Homeless Sleeping Ban** which makes all nighttime sleeping illegal outside on public property already; Judge **Burdick's Injunction – supported by Bunny's Shoes** – adds a jail penalty to the downtown area for this homeless couple.

We ask merchants to display the **Pledge on Human Rights and Harmony** in their windows or in their stores to clarify their position to potential customers. So far about 1/3rd of the businesses downtown have been approached.

Bunny's management was personally approached this week. We asked they respect the need and right of homeless people to **sleep not anywhere and everywhere but somewhere** in Santa Cruz at night. We asked them to post the pledge on their window or in their store in a visible location. Bunny's have so far declined to do this, citing "company policy".



We respect the right of Bunny's to manage its own business. However the **Bunny's Injunction supports police action against the homeless on public property throughout the downtown simply for sleeping — a necessary and involuntary function**. We believe Bunny's needs to hear from the community as does every business that supports this kind of **"get-out-of-town" bigotry**. The pledge we ask business to support reads: "This business does not discriminate. We support Human Rights for the homeless community. In particular, the right to sleep at night – not anywhere and everywhere – but somewhere."

Downtown businesses: Let us know you **oppose turning homeless people into criminals for sleeping**. Whatever position you may have taken in the past, do the right thing now.

Community and customers: to advise the community and their customers that they no longer favor – whatever position they may have taken in the past – turning homeless people into criminals for sleeping – something over which they have no control.

**Support businesses that display the pledge!
Reward businesses with the clarity & courage to speak out;
Question those that don't.**

**More information can be found on-line at:
<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/06/18/18602497.php>**