

Bad Law Coming Up for Final Vote Tuesday at City Council

“You've been sitting in your car for fifteen minutes: time to leave.”---Coming soon from a friendly cop, merchant, downtown host, or parking lot worker, the new Parking Lot Trespass Law

On Tuesday October 23rd on its afternoon agenda (probably around 5 PM) ,
the Santa Cruz City Council will give final consideration to its Parking Lot Trespass Law.

- This law **bans traditional socializing in downtown public parking lots**, making it illegal to be there at all unless walking directly through, or parking a car or bike.
- Those legally parking would be **required to leave within 15 minutes** (30 minutes if disabled).
- The fine for violating this law would be **more than \$100** with no jury trial permitted.
- The law covers **20 surface lots**, banning public assembly & traditional socializing in more than **5 blocks** of previously public city space with **no study of the impacts** on innocent behavior.
- Figures show **no special crime problem** in the parking lots compared to the downtown generally.
- **Vice-Mayor Ryan Coonerty** , the Santa Cruz Police Department, and other social conservatives created this law to make the downtown “safer and more appealing”.
- The law bans **Food Not Bombs** meals, drum circles, & all non-vehicle related activities entirely.
- This “no loitering” law **targets homeless and counterculture people** (though its authors deny it).
- It **impacts everyone** and implicitly allows police **massive selective enforcement powers**.
- The **police did not provide** the required formal **6-month review** of an earlier law banning the public from parking garages and parking lot #9.

Tuesday October 23rd around 5 PM

Santa Cruz City Council Chambers at 809 Center St.

Call the Council at 420-5020. Urge Madrigal & Reilly to change their votes; Support Rotkin & Porter who voted against it.

E-mail the entire Council at citycouncil@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

Join a Pacific Ave. Park-In Protest Saturday 10-20 Anytime all day¹

Tuesday 4 PM Free Meal & Meeting at City Hall

Eat and Chat with the Targets of This Law: Homeless People Living in Their Vehicles,

Santa Cruz has walk-in emergency shelter tonight for 40, a homeless population of 1500-2000, and a city law that makes sleeping illegal at night on city property. Those whose housing is their vehicle will now be banned from downtown parking lots & forced to move to less safe, more vulnerable street spaces.

¹ Thanks to Chuck Huddleston, who will be parked in his black GMC van conversion, chatting and loitering in different parking spots. He invites you to bring your own weathered vehicle, come down, and do the same!

