

Sleeping Downtown at Night Now A Jailing Offense

Reject Downtown Association Bigotry: Support a Tent City Here !

++++ **Join** homeless folks, their supporters, & those outraged at last month's court decision making sleeping downtown a jailing crime for two homeless musicians Anna Richardson & Miguel de Leon.

++++ The impact of the decision expands far beyond these two, threatening **1500-2000 homeless in Santa Cruz of whom less than 10% have shelter** throughout the summer.

++++ **Homeless people**, even those who sleep quietly and cleanly in their own vehicles, **face \$97 citations**, police harassment, theft and destruction of their property, and hostile discrimination.

++++ Official **city policy** under **Chief Ranger John Wallace** is to destroy homeless camps and property and offer no alternative survival sleeping spots in violation of state law, constitutional dictum, and common decency.

++++ **Three Sleeping tickets** unpaid are now a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to \$1000 fine and/or 6 months in jail. This new law was supported by the Downtown Business Association and unanimously passed by the City Council in February. The Armory Winter Shelter closed April 15th.

++++ Educational **protest was recently successful** in restoring a positive relationship between Jack's (the hamburger joint next to the Nickelodeon) and the homeless community after numerous complaints of discrimination there. Jack's has reaffirmed its non-discrimination policy, mediated the problems, and readmitted those previously excluded.

++++ **Solidarity** in resisting the police attack on the Farmer's Market Drum Circle has kept it going every Wednesday. Two activists (Wes Modes and Jack Russ) still face significant charges and court dates for peacefully resisting police harassment there.

++++ Former Mayor **Coonerty (of the Bookshop Santa Cruz)** pushed through a law which **bans public assembly of any sort in ten square blocks downtown (the city's parking lots)**. Reading a book in your own car is also a \$100+ crime.

++++ The **Sleeping Ban was abolished in Los Angeles, San Diego, Richmond, and Laguna Beach**. If redneck and yuppie communities can act reasonably towards the homeless, Santa Cruz can be persuaded to do the same. The **Downtown Association** has taken the lead in supporting "Forbidden Zones" downtown (removing most public space for sitting, sparechanging, street performing, and political tabling downtown).

++++ The **Downtown Association** & their City Council proxies (**Robinson, Coonerty, Matthews**) have led the crackdown on the homeless, overfunding overpolicing downtown. **Calvary Episcopal Church** joined the cavalcade of cruelty by banning homeless people from their lawn 5 days a week.

++++ Most recently, management at **Bunny's Shoes, the Palomar, Lulu Carpenter's, and Borders Books** have signed declarations supporting jail for the two homeless sleepers. It's time businesses who profit from the "progressive" image of Santa Cruz either get progressive or come out of the closet!

++++ **Tent cities exist** in other California cities (**Ontario, Fresno**) to protect and shelter those displaced by foreclosure, unemployment, disability, & housing shortage. In Santa Cruz homeless campgrounds are a crime.

CALL THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION--REGISTER YOUR DISAPPROVAL: 429-8433
CALL CITY COUNCIL--DEMAND SLEEPING BAN REPEAL: 420-5020
SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY TENT CITY THIS SUMMER: 423-4833

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