

## Declaration of Paul Rachuy Brindel

1) My name is Paul Rachuy Brindel. I am employed as the Program Director of The Shelter Project, a program of the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz Co. Inc. (CAB) My business address is 501 Soquel Ave, Ste E Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062. My responsibilities at CAB are to manage four programs that serve homeless people and people at risk of becoming homeless in Santa Cruz California. I have directed this program since 1983. These programs include: 1) Emergency Shelter for people being released from the hospital with no place to recover; 2) Emergency Rent and Mortgage Assistance to prevent homelessness; 3) a voicemail system for homeless people to use for finding jobs, housing, and to maintain contact with social workers and medical professionals; The Shelter Hotline, providing information about services for homeless people in Santa Cruz County.

2) I am aware that the *Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project, Year 14, 2008*, prepared by Applied Survey Research for the United Way of Santa Cruz County, reported the homeless population of Santa Cruz County to be 2,789, 82.6% of which were unsheltered and 17.4% of which were sheltered. (page 225) The Year 14 report went on to provide the names of emergency shelter programs in Santa Cruz County and number of beds available at each emergency shelter. The total number of emergency shelter beds, reported by the Year 14 report, varied from between 203-223 beds in the summer and 316-346 beds in the winter. (Page 226)

3) In addition to having general knowledge of homeless issues in Santa Cruz due to my professional work, I was a member of the Santa Cruz Homeless Issues Task Force from August 16, 1999 to April 11, 2000.

4) The Santa Cruz City Council chartered the Homeless Issues Task Force to study issues related to homelessness in Santa Cruz and make recommendations to the City Council based on our findings related to the development of year round shelter for all segments of the homeless community; opportunities for improving currently provided services; and the rights and responsibilities of homeless persons.

5) The task force consisted of eight people, appointed by the Santa Cruz City Council, possessing knowledge of homeless issues in Santa Cruz.

6) On April 11, 2000, the homeless issues taskforce released its final report. That report is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

7) The Task Force studied the camping ordinance that remains in place today. Members of the Task Force were provided with background materials including the documents from the City Council subcommittee that reviewed the camping ordinance in 1999. Exhibit A, p. 2. We asked the Council to move quickly on matters we considered to be urgent, driven by humanitarian and moral concerns, without waiting for our final report. The first immediate recommendation that our report offered based on our findings was that the city should repeal the camping ordinance since the City could not provide enough appropriate indoor shelter and those sleeping outside are subject to threat of citation and arrest

and the threat of violence. Exhibit A, p. 3 This circumstance has not changed significantly since 2000, and remains a problem today for the same reasons.

8) The Homeless Issues Task Force also made several recommendations to the City to mitigate and alleviate the large number of unsheltered homeless persons in Santa Cruz. These recommendations included but were not limited to the following: (1) expand use of the Armory beyond the five month period which it was then and is now open. Exhibit A, p. 6-7; (2) Use the vacant bay at the Homeless Services Center as extra shelter space. Exhibit A, p. 8-9; (3) establish safe sleeping zones in city parks on a rotating basis. Exhibit A, p. 9-10; and (4) establish a safe and legal vehicular sleeping program Exhibit A, p. 11-12. These recommendations were all supported unanimously by task force members. The Homeless Services Center has begun to make use of the bays mentioned above for emergency shelter beds. However, most of these recommendations were not enacted by the City. In my opinion there continues to be insufficient legal and adequate sleeping space for homeless persons.

9) Finally, it is my opinion that sleeping outdoors and engaging in other acts related to homelessness (possession of a large amount of personal items, sleeping near food and services, etc.) are not nuisance behavior under the circumstances but are instead necessary acts of survival where homeless persons face insufficient resources, services and particularly shelter space.

I, Paul Rachuy Brindel, do hereby declare under penalty of the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct. Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009 at Santa Cruz.

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Paul Rachuy Brindel