

Connect...with Real Homeless Civil Rights “No” to the Downtown Crackdown

Santa Cruz authorities in the “laid back” “liberal” Surf City

...still make all nighttime outdoor & vehicular sleeping illegal for its 1500-2000 homeless population.
...has emergency **walk-in shelter for less than 200 people** each night, ½ that amount on April 15.
...prescribe a **\$98 fine for those who sleep or cover up with blankets at night outside**, and a larger fine for those who “camp” at any time. Camping, according to the SCPD, is now sleeping beside your property.
...make three “unattended” citations a misdemeanor punishable by up to **\$1000 fine & 6 months in jail**.

The Santa Cruz City Attorney John Barisone

...has singled out two homeless musicians and **banned them from sleeping downtown** (as well as making it illegal on all other public property in Santa Cruz) in a civil injunction granted in May 2009.
...has **not convicted the two of any criminal offenses** during that period, and lost an attempt to jail the two for “contempt” when Judge Volkman dismissed 2 **false police charges from Officers Winston & Forbus**.
...the 2 still face a **June trial to establish a Permanent Injunction** against Sleeping at Night downtown.

Satirical Singers Supporting Homeless Face Massive Fines

... Police engage in one-sided enforcement of the “noise” code against street musicians and political activists on any complaint regardless of whether it meets the law's standard. On January 6, three singers (and one passerby) were given **\$445 tickets for singing a satirical song** mocking the Downtown Association and the City's anti-homeless laws. Officer Shoenfeld refused to take a counter-arrest for “false police report”.
... **Sgt. Michael Harms** has not yet clarified (after two months of Public Records Act requests) how loud is too loud for a downtown performer, why there is a different standard for taking citizen arrests from residents/merchants & homeless performers, & whether cops tell musicians to “move” rather than “play more quietly”.
... In late March, Barisone showed up in court with two witnesses, and three cops in a **full-scale attack on activist Becky Johnson for singing “Downtown”** at a protest against the escalating homeless death rate.

Michelle goes to trial Tuesday April 6th in Dept. 10 at 1:30 PM

Becky Johnson goes to trial Friday April 16th in Dept. 1 at 10 AM

Sleeping Ban, Sitting Ban, Property Seizure, and Hassles

...Police selectively enforce the absurd **“sit within 14' of a building, get a ticket” law** without warning or complaint as well as singling out peaceful spare changers with signs for “aggressive panhandling”.
...**Violent incidents by police officers and deputies** on the street, in the police station, and in jail cells is on the rise; Mayor Rotkin has declined to provide answers to questions about the use of tasers.
...Vice-Mayor Coonerty's “Parking Lot Panic” law prescribes **\$100+ fines for reading a book in your car or socializing in any public parking lot downtown**
...Mayor Rotkin endorsed **Chief Ranger John Wallace's policy of destroying homeless survival gear and personal property at campsites** after 3 days, in violation of state law and the Fresno **Kinkaid** decision.
...Police now enforce “trespass” laws at the Metro and in spaces open to the public regardless of the First Amendment's guarantee of public access. On Saturday March 13, **Sgt. Dan Flippo ticketed two ACLU activists** standing at the entrance to the downtown Trader Jo's for trespass. Mayor Rotkin claims Metro security guards have the right to order members of the community to leave the bus facility—even if they are committing no criminal activity. SCPD are directed to back up these **banishment**

orders with \$200+ tickets

Flyer by **HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom)** 831-423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B Santa Cruz, CA 3-31-10