

GIVE US YOUR OPINION: RECONSIDERING THE DOWNTOWN ORDINANCES

Tensions have increased in the last few years because of laws that make innocent behavior criminal like sitting on the sidewalk, playing hackysack, being in a park after dark, sleeping on public property after 11 PM, etc.

These laws not only discriminate against poor people--who must live mostly in public spaces, they impact street performers, young people, elderly residents, and others caught in the "net" designed to discourage and drive away the visible poor.

We are considering a city-wide Initiative to repeal these laws and substitute mediation and consensual conduct codes or a lawsuit to overturn them

We are considering forming citizen review groups that will independently seek Public Records and provide oversight to a Police Department which is expending more resources on harassing the poor than on dealing with violent crime. Simply funding more cops without changing policies aggravates rather than resolves the problem.

We believe the presence of these laws and police policies not only hurt the groups mentioned above, but hurts the local economy by discouraging tourists and residents from coming downtown.

What do YOU think?

1. Do you support Vice-Mayor Coonerty's law that outlaws assembling or socializing public parking lots or garages? (MC 9.64.010)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

2. Do you support City Council's law that establishes "no sitting", "no political tabling", "no street performing with an open guitar case" zones around the new penguin statues—and on 95% of the Pacific Ave. sidewalk ? (MC 9.50.012)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

3. Do you support the police practice of ticketing musicians playing or singing political songs on a public sidewalk during the day if someone complains? (MC 9.36.020)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

4. Do you support Councilmember Don Lane's law making it illegal to smoke any substance (including medical marijuana) on Pacific Ave. and adjoining areas even if no one is complain (MC 9.50.050)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

5. Do you support the law, enforced by the Santa Cruz Police Department making erasable sidewalk chalking for art or political expression illegal? (MC 9.20.010)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

6. Do you support the anti-homeless Sleeping Ban, a law which bans all sleeping outside on public property in legally parked vehicles at night? (MC 9.36.010a)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

7. Do you support the law which makes it illegal to walk in a parade without a permit? (MC 10.65.030b)

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

8. Do you support cops shutting down the community-sponsored free movie, previously an 8-year-long tradition?

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

9. Do you support police harassment and disbursement of the 10 yr plus Wed afternoon Drum Circle?

Yes ____ No ____ Comment _____

10. Would you join a group devoting time and energy to providing oversight and initiative to restore a friendly and welcoming atmosphere downtown by reforming the laws and police practices that drive away performers?

Yes _____ No _____ Comment _____
If yes: Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Skills/Interests: _____

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