

**From:** Don Lane <dlane@cityofsantacruz.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Petition City and County of Santa Cruz as SCCCC.org funders to require acknowledgement of my representation/advocacy  
**Date:** July 6, 2012 9:00:03 PM PDT  
**To:** "colby@docktorcat.com" <colby@docktorcat.com>

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**Dr. Colby**

**In response to your questions:**

*Do you and your government bodies care about the human and civil rights of disabled homeless people, those most likely to die on the streets of Santa Cruz County if they lack shelter?*

**Yes I do care about these folks and have been working on these issues for more than 20 years. Welcome to the battle.**

*Are you unmoved by the stories of Mr. Lazow, Mr. Skinner and Ms. Morgan?*

**I am moved by their stories. Stories like these have motivated me for many years and I continue to work on a wide range of homelessness issues week in and week out. I wonder why you are publicizing their names and their medical histories when this seems to violate their right to privacy. I am unable to work with you directly because you chose to work on these issues in a way that seems unproductive to me. It seems to me you are focused on making agencies look bad in order to achieve results. I chose to use a more positive approach. I've offered to speak with you directly about this but you have declined my offer.**

**Best wishes for success in your effort to obtain assistance for your associates. I will engage in that effort, as well, but will use a more positive approach with service providers.**

**Thanks**

*Don Lane*

Mayor  
City of Santa Cruz  
831-420-5022

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**From:** John E. Colby [mailto:colby@docktorcat.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 04, 2012 8:26 PM

**To:** Don Lane; Neil Coonerty; John Leopold; Ellen Pirie; Mark Stone; Greg Caput

**Cc:** City Council; John Barisone; Martin Bernal; Carol Berg; Ken Cole; Dana McRae; Rahn Garcia; John McCarty; Lester Davis; Richard Salom; Clifford Taffet; Helen R. Kanovsky; Ophelia B. Basgal; Maria F. Cremer; Kimberly Y. Nash; Nancy DeSerpa; Adam Spickler; James R. Grow; Neil Donovan; Deidre Swensnik; Michael Collier; Amy Chance; David Butler; Gretchen White; 4listens@kron4.com; assignmentdesk@kqed.org; contact@pacifica.org; Greg Archer; Alex Darocy; Terry Francke; Peter Scheer  
**Subject:** Petition City and County of Santa Cruz as SCCCC.org funders to require acknowledgement of my representation/advocacy

July 04, 2012

**Mayor Don Lane and City Council**

809 Center Street, Room 10  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Tel: 831.420.5020

**Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Tel: 831.454.2200  
Fax: 831/454.3262

via email to: [dlane@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:dlane@cityofsantacruz.com)  
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cc: [alex@alexdarocy.com](mailto:alex@alexdarocy.com)  
cc: [terry@calaware.org](mailto:terry@calaware.org)  
cc: [pscheer@firstamendmentcoalition.org](mailto:pscheer@firstamendmentcoalition.org)

re: Petition City and County of Santa Cruz as [SCCCC.org](http://SCCCC.org) funders to require acknowledgement of my representation/advocacy

**Dear Mayor Lane, Santa Cruz City Council and County Board of Supervisors:**

I am writing because three of the disabled homeless people I represent and advocate for have soon to expire stays at the Paul Lee Loft shelter operated by the Homeless Services Center (HSC). They are at risk of being put on the street again.

- **Steve Lazow, who is wheelchair bound and has a serious staph infection, could die or be a serious victim of crime, physical exposure and police harassment if he is put out. He takes opiate painkillers which would make him an attractive target for robbery, which he can't defend himself against.**
- **Ron Skinner is extremely vulnerable and cannot survive outdoors. He has serious emotional disabilities in addition to his physical frailty while using a walker. Again being on the street would mark him for criminal abuse, police harassment and present a danger of being exposed to the elements. He cannot fend for himself.**
- **Megan Andrea Morgan uses a walker and suffers from extreme fatigue and**

exhaustion. She takes a very strong opiate painkiller which would mark her for robbery outdoors. She cannot handle being exposed to the elements. She cannot defend herself. She cannot deal with being harassed by the police as she has already been at the Public Storage located at 1001 River Street in Santa Cruz. She is at risk of dying if forced outdoors.

**My questions:**

**Do you and your government bodies care about the human and civil rights of disabled homeless people, those most likely to die on the streets of Santa Cruz County if they lack shelter? They are likely to be murdered or seriously injured by criminals robbing them. Are you unmoved by the stories of Mr. Lazow, Mr. Skinner and Ms. Morgan?**

**Please read the following Indymedia news articles about these three disabled homeless people:**

**<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/06/11/18715157.php>**

**<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/06/19/18715777.php>**

**<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/06/26/18716362.php>**

**<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/06/29/18716565.php>**

The Santa Cruz Counseling Community Counseling Center ([SCCCC.org](http://SCCCC.org)) which runs the River Street Shelter has through Community Support Services (CSS) Director Betsy Clark, denied these three disabled homeless individuals' reasonable disability accommodation requests for me to represent and advocate for them. On their own they risk, which has happened before, being put on the street between periods of shelter — they are chronically homeless and the homeless service providers at the HSC campus

have been derelict in not placing these three individuals who represent the most vulnerable of the homeless population on the course to (semi) permanent housing.

Please review the recent email which I received from [SCCC.org](http://SCCC.org) CSS Director Betsy Clark, copied below.

Please inspect the certificates authorizing my representation/advocacy and the immediate disability accommodation requests Mr. Lazow, Mr. Skinner and Ms. Morgan made to River Street Shelter Program Manager Tracey Heggum. They may be viewed using the following links to Google Docs.

Certificates authorizing representation/advocacy:

<http://tinyurl.com/6pk6or2>

<http://tinyurl.com/8xzfrcu>

<http://tinyurl.com/7wmgt3y>

Mr. Lazow's immediate disability accommodation request:

<http://tinyurl.com/6lrd68t>

Mr. Skinner's immediate disability accommodation request:

<http://tinyurl.com/bmb5vbj>

Ms. Morgan's immediate disability accommodation request:

<http://tinyurl.com/7weyxrt>

To my understanding, the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center is violating not only the terms of its subgrants/contracts with the City and County of Santa Cruz, but also its requirements for its funding coming from federal grants from HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I have pending Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with these two federal agencies about the River Street Shelter. Soon I will possess all the funding documents for the River Street Shelter.

Clearly — you can consult with your own counsel — the River Street Shelter and the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center are violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 (of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and the federal Fair Housing Act. These violations may leave the City and County of Santa Cruz in violation of some of these acts as well. The actions of Ms. Heggum and Ms. Clark may also place the City and County's federal funding at risk.

I plead with you to require [SCCC.org](http://SCCC.org) CSS Director Betsy Clark to recant her denial of Mr. Lazow's, Mr. Skinner's and Ms. Morgan's immediate disability accommodation requests for me to represent/advocate for them. If this doesn't happen, these three extremely vulnerable disabled people are likely to be on the streets within a week's time.

Thank you for seriously considering what I have explained, acting with the utmost urgency to protect the human and civil rights of disabled homeless persons Mr. Lazow, Mr. Skinner and Ms. Morgan. I appreciate a prompt written response regarding this petition to your respective government bodies.

Sincerely yours,  
John E. Colby, Ph.D.

email: [colby@docktorcat.com](mailto:colby@docktorcat.com)

telephone: 831.471.9767

cellphone: 831.419.1521

fax: 831.218.4121

postal address:

849 Almar Avenue, Suite C-242

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Betsy Clark <[Betsy.Clark@scccc.org](mailto:Betsy.Clark@scccc.org)>

**Date:** July 2, 2012 5:57:51 PM PDT

**To:** "[colby@docktorcat.com](mailto:colby@docktorcat.com)" <[colby@docktorcat.com](mailto:colby@docktorcat.com)>

**Subject:** your ADA requests

Hello John,

The reason I have not called you back or otherwise responded to your repeated emails, is that I am not really comfortable speaking with you directly when you are accusing us of violating the ADA and violating individual's rights. You are accusing us of unlawful actions and this is not something I can discuss informally with you. I am also not clear on the legality or purpose of the documents you are sending us. Since they are not actually power of attorney documents it is unclear to me whether it would be appropriate or legal to speak with you as a representative of these individuals. However, I am more than happy to speak with any of them about any issues regarding the shelter if they would like to contact me directly.

**Betsy Clark, MSW, Director, Community Support Services**

[betsy.clark@scccc.org](mailto:betsy.clark@scccc.org)

831-459-0444, ext. 203

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