

JAIL FOR A COURAGEOUS ATTORNEY AS POLICE CRACK DOWN HOMELESS REFUGEES FACE CITATIONS, PROPERTY SEIZURE

+++ Attorney and activist **Ed Frey** was sentenced to 400 hours of Community Service, then 6 months in jail when he refused that & probation--all for an extended peaceful protest in 2010 which provided shelter and toilet facilities for 50-60 homeless people a night—something the City refused to do.

+++ **Frey was ordered to jail 9 AM August 8th** . Judge Moody refused Frey time to prepare a Writ, nor leave to represent his homeless client **Gary Johnson** on Aug 24.

+++ The **PeaceCamp2010** protest was a **response to judicial persecution of Robert “Blindbear” Facer**, a 63-year old Amish minister cited for sleeping on the beach. There was no available shelter for 95% of the homeless in Santa Cruz at the **Homeless (Lack of) Services Center [HLOSC]**. Facer recently died of heart failure after several years of persecution from city attorney **John Barisone**.

+++ Santa Cruz--unlike San Diego and Los Angeles--has a **Sleeping and Blanket Ban** which criminalizes homeless people at night for survival camping. Fines for violating MC 6.36.010 range from \$100 to \$200. When sent to collection, additional fines and penalties are added. Since homeless people have to sleep every night and have no legal shelter, they often disregard these tickets.

+++ **The HLOSC refuses to give out letters to court** acknowledging their Paul Lee loft shelter is full. (It also has a 2-6 week waiting list.). Repeated appeals to HLOSC Executive Director **Monica Martinez** and **Mayor Don Lane** (also on the HLOSC Board of Directors) have had no impact.

+++ A Lane City Council law makes ignoring 3 citations a separate misdemeanor-- punishable by up to 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine. A second law makes every subsequent infraction of any kind an automatic misdemeanor. Authorities have recently declared they are stepping up enforcement of these anti-homeless ordinances. Homeless people report massive ticketing and sweeps of homeless camps in the last 2 weeks. The police report nearly 200 citations & over 60 arrest using their **snitch hotline**.

+++ To avoid being sued and in response to the PC2010 protests, Barisone pushed through City Council an ordinance which purports to immunize homeless people from citations if they have signed up for the HLOSC waiting list (MC 6.36.055). It is unclear whether this ordinance is being fairly and fully enforced, but Martinez refused to give out receipts indicating folks are on the waiting list. It also seems to be an unconstitutional grant-magnet device which requires homeless people to join a private organization in order to protected from prosecution.

+++ Meanwhile **Judge John Gallagher** has punished Johnson, the homeless PeaceCamp2010 activist with a 2 year jail sentence (suspended) for sleeping with a “Sleep is Not a Crime” sign outside the courthouse this winter on a bench. **Activist Linda Lemaster faces jury trial October 14th** for falling asleep in the same protest in August 2010 and faces 6 months in jail. Johnson faces an additional 6 months (not suspended) for participation in that protest. **He returns to court and jail August 24th**.

***As with the **Santa Cruz Eleven** (charged with fabricated felonies and misdemeanors for a peaceful vacant bank occupation last winter), Frey, Johnson, and Lemaster are being **targeted for their political activities** not for any actual crime. Homeless sleeping and protesting the sleeping ban are now crimes.

Support Frey and Johnson at 831-479-8911

Support Lemaster's Pre-trial Writ appeal at 831-423-4833

Stop the Attacks on Homeless Camps: Call Lane at 420-5022

Flier by Norse of HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 7-24-12