

Library Board to Consider Restrictive New Policies that Impact Homeless People (& You)

Monday December 3rd 6:30 PM , the Library Joint Powers Authorities Board meets at the new Scotts Valley Library (251 Kings Village Rd.) to consider imposing **new harsher policies regarding sleeping in the library, "smelling bad", service animals, & unattended property.** Libraries are a last refuge for homeless people and folks should demand expansion not contraction of access there.

LACK OF SPECIFICS IN STAFF REPORT (<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2012/11/30/18726836.php>)

There are **no stats in the staff report itemizing the number of complaints received in the last year about the offending behaviors, how many people have been suspended or appealed, and why the current policy isn't workable.**

It's similar to what happened when the law banning people from assembling in parking garages and lots was passed at the behest of outgoing Council member Ryan "Constitution for Dinner" Coonerty. No indication of a greater crime problem, but more police power to harass---now being selectively used to target "suspicious" people (i.e. poor and homeless people).

EXPANSION OF EARLIER CRACKDOWN \$80,000 funds a First Alarm goon patrolling the library and grounds, provoking complaints from one homeless patron that the burly wannabe cop followed him into the restroom to monitor his weewee. Benches have been removed. The area around the library has been made a "no trespass" zone after 9:30 PM--part of the "make Santa Cruz less welcoming to people experiencing homeless" agenda. Police and security thugs can now interrogate, hassle, cite, and or arrest if homeless don't show proper respect and deference and jump through the right hoops for being there.

PART OF A BROADER CRACKDOWN There is a **four-fold increase in ticketing** and concurrent **survival gear destruction** against homeless people on the levee, in the parks, and in the Pogonip (to respond to bogus security concerns). Also new: **the anti-Occupy curfews at City Hall, the County Building, and the Courts**, the new forbidden zones adjacent to the levee, as well as the creation of 14' "no go" zones around the big red Imagine anti-panhandling meters downtown, This library crackdown adding new library rules is another fashionable attack on poor and homeless people.

FIGHT BACK **Demand restoration of the library as a welcoming space!** Document and make public the real complaints and delay until homeless people and advocates can be contacted and consulted. And until real information is available about the real need for them.

HUFF resolution: **Attend the next two meetings of the Board**, The new policies fundamentally change the haven-nature our libraries have come to function as in a world of ever diminishing social services where need is increasing, not diminishing. **Rules against backpacks, smells, sleeping, use of public space after hours etc. need to be carefully assessed.**

Send a letter **this weekend** to the members of the Board:

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