

## **Proposed Homeless Bill of Rights May Provide New Legal Protections Meanwhile: Witness & Document City-Wide Attacks on the Homeless**

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano's AB-5, the Homeless Person's Bill of Rights and Fairness Act, asks police & municipalities to respect the rights of homeless people:

“No person's rights, privileges, or access to public services may be denied or abridged because he or she is homeless, has a low income, or suffers from a mental illness or physical disability...Every person in the state, regardless of actual or perceived housing status, income level, mental illness, or physical disability, shall be free from specified forms of discrimination and shall be entitled to certain basic human rights, including the right to be free from discrimination by law enforcement.”

A hopeful but limiting provision of the bill states:

“Every person in the state, regardless of actual or perceived housing status, income level, mental illness, or physical disability, shall be free from all of the following: ...Any type of discriminatory treatment by law enforcement, public or private security personnel, business owners, property managers, or BID agents, including, but not limited to, harassment, intimidation, or selective enforcement.....Unreasonable searches or seizures of his or her personal property, including property stored in vehicles, tents, grocery carts, bags, or any other carrying or storage device, if the intervention of law enforcement is based upon the actual or perceived housing status, income level, mental illness, or physical disability of the person in possession of the property.”

**\*\* Support Briana Brewer**-facing 6 months in jail /\$1000 fine for protesting abuse (“disturbing the peace”) by Denise, the “Hospitality” worker, targeting Briana for a service dog and giving away Xmas wreaths for donation downtown. A judge dismissed previous “dog tickets” by Denise, Sgt. Bush, and his officers apparently angering the Pacific Avenue Pooch Patrols.

**\*\* Support Brent Adams**—facing hundreds of dollars in fines for observing police (“sitting near a building”) engaged in “sitcrime” harassment downtown. Brent is also a member of the SC-11.

**\*\* Report Sleeping Tickets;** ask the Homeless (Lack of) Services Center for a written form showing you are on their Waiting List if you've signed up, or for a statement that their shelters were full on the date you received a ticket. **Check in with activists Monday evening 5-7 PM at the Red Church.**

**\*\* Share info & food with Food Not Bombs Sat Dec. 15 4 PM at the Main Post Office.**

**\*\* Check [www.huffsantacruz.org](http://www.huffsantacruz.org)** for updates & debates. **Check in with HUFF Wed 10 AM-noon Sub Rosa Cafe at 703 Pacific.** Free coffee; lots of chatter.

**\*\* Phone in reports to *Free Radio Santa Cruz* at 831-427-3772 or HUFF at 423-4833.**

**\*\* Act to Restore Regular Use of Public Spaces Arbitrarily Closed to Repress Protest.**

**\*\* Post Written & Video Reports on Facebook, [www.indybay.org/santacruz](http://www.indybay.org/santacruz) etc.**

**\*\* Volunteer to fight the Campaign to Scapegoat and Sweep Away the Poor: 423-4833.**

**\*\* Fill out specific complaints against abusive SCPD, Host, or First Alarm Goonsquads.**

**\*\* Contact Steve Pleich's *Homeless Legal Assistance Project* at 466-6078 with reports of police abuse or confiscated property. New SCPD property pick-up times: Tue/Thur 12:30-2:30 PM**

**\*\* Support the Santa Cruz Eleven at [www.santacruzeleven.org](http://www.santacruzeleven.org)** Prospective benefit Sunday January 6th. Time TBA Next court date: January 7th 9 AM

**COMING UP: 5:30 PM Monday December 17th: Public Safety Committee Scapegoat-arama on “Illegal Campsites”. Drop in on the Bigotocrats at Work at City Council Chambers 809 Center St. Be ready to face *Take Back Santa Cruz* & other hostile activists.**