



# ARM the HOMELESS with cell phone cameras, community support and dignity

**PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM THE SANTA CRUZ THUGS?  
RECLAIM OUR HOUSING IN THE FACE OF MASS FORECLOSURES.**

**Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 2:00 PM**

**SubRosa Community Space - 703 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, California  
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**

## **HELP BRING BACK SANTA CRUZ**

“It has always seemed strange to me...The things we admire in men, kindness and generosity, openness, honesty, understanding and feeling, are the concomitants of failure in our system. And those traits we detest, sharpness, greed, acquisitiveness, meanness, egotism and self-interest, are the traits of success. And while men admire the quality of the first they love the produce of the second.”

**Cannery Row - John Steinbeck**

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**Help organize protection against the new rash of attacks on homeless people.**

**Start a Thug Watch Santa Cruz.**

**Learn more about the California Homeless Bill of Rights.**

**Discuss the formation of a Homes Not Jails housing occupation movement.**

**How can we respond to the growing knowledge that we are facing another Great Depression.**

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How can the authorities in Santa Cruz County close shelters and criminalize the homeless when we are facing a wave of anti-homeless violence while hundreds of houses sit abandoned. As the Armory is closing many of us will be facing dangerous conditions worrying that the police will arrest us for sleeping outside or worse risking injury from vigilante violence whipped up by anti-homeless attacks in the local media and from local political leaders. What is the Homeless Bill of Rights? Join us in seeking solutions to this crisis.

RealtyTrac reports on April 15, 2013 that 9.81% of the homes in the county are vacant. They point out that 1 in every 669 houses is foreclosed and empty with 21.4% of the homes owned by banks. At the same time they claim that unemployment in Santa Cruz County is 11.00%. County and city officials should be prosecuted for endangering the lives of our those that are living outside when it is clear no one should be homeless. Banks like Wells Fargo, Bank of the West, Bank of America and U.S. Bank are among the institutions that have robbed our community pushing for deregulation so they could speculate on products like credit default swaps and unsecured mortgages. We bailed them out while they continue to refuse to invest in our community. We have a right to this housing and if they will not return it to the families driven onto the streets we should reclaim it. It is time to bring back the affordable, humane Santa Cruz demanded by the John Steinbeck's of our community.

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## **BRING BACK SANTA CRUZ**