

# Say NO to Vigilante & Police Violence

The Winter Armory Shelter is closed. Waiting lists for temporary shelter are full. Police, politicians, and NIMBY's are increasing their hate propaganda against homeless people as "illegal campers".

**Meet at Sub Rosa Cafe Wednesday April 17th 10 AM**

**Discuss what steps to take next to secure survival sleeping spots.**

+++ **Anti-homeless City Council laws** have intensified over the years. These include the Sleeping Ban, severe restrictions on Sitting, Spare-changing, Performing, & Political Tabling downtown, permit parking only in many neighborhoods, new anti-homeless restrictions in the public libraries, "no loitering" in public parking lots, curfews & smoking bans in the parks and on the levee. City Council members have been nearly unanimous in supporting these targeted laws. There are **no** plans for expanded subsidized housing, low-income campgrounds, or even live-and-let-live survival camping rules on any official agenda.

+++ **Falsely connecting homeless people with "crime"**--such as the Shannon Collins slaying and the Baker-Butler-Goulet shootings--prompted massive sweeps of homeless campsites, destruction of homeless property, and massive over-policing of the downtown area where many cops often set upon one individual.

+++ **An upsurge of NIMBY (Not-in-my-backyard) bigotry** from *Take Back Santa Cruz* and others blaming crime on homeless people is likely to result in more intensified police abuse of homeless people and enabling of East Side gang thugs repeatedly assaulting and macing some homeless people in the last week with police response to the victims "maybe you should leave".

+++ **MC 6.36.055** now requires dismissal of all camping tickets if you are on the waiting list of the River St. Shelter or the Paul Lee Loft. **Sign up on a waiting list** for the Paul Lee Loft or the River St. Shelter at the *Homeless (Lack of) Services Center [HLOSC]* at 115 Coral St. **weekdays 9 AM -5 PM**. More info: 458-6020.

+++ **Request a receipt or written evidence** that you are on the list. Ask for and write down the name of the person putting you on the waiting list, giving (or refusing) you the receipt, as well as the date and time.

+++ **You are not obligated to go into the shelter** if you are on the waiting list. Putting your name there simply requires all camping ban tickets be dismissed under MC 6.36.055.

+++ **You will not be taking up the place of someone more elderly or disabled**—when your turn comes up, and you do not appear, your place will be taken by the next person.

+++ **Given the increase in violence and police harassment**, it is wisest to form small groups of people to camp in, with at least one person having a cell phone with audio or video capability. A camera or a phone can be a potent weapon against "troll-busters".

+++ **If ticketed by a police officer in spite of your documentation**, note their badge number and name—requesting to speak to their superior officer before signing the ticket. Be calm and non-confrontational. Contact HUFF at 423-4833 or [info@huffsantacruz.org](mailto:info@huffsantacruz.org) or meet at the Sub Rosa Cafe Wednesdays 10-noon.

+++ **Note any property taken by police** and request a specific receipt from them. Ask others to witness the incident. Having a video or audio description of this police theft as it happens can be helpful.

+++ **Take Photos, audio, & video** police behavior whenever possible, noting time, place, and names. Post accounts on Facebook, Twitter, *S.C. Indymedia*, *Free Radio Santa Cruz*, and elsewhere. Contact *HUFF*.

**Community members: Loan a cell phone or camera to ward off vigilante violence, and discourage improper police behavior.**

**Join the *Survival Campsite Network* thru *HUFF* to help!**