

# Suppressed Video Shows Vigilante Abuse & Assault

On March 16th, a journalist videoed members of a group calling itself *The Clean Team* abusing a homeless man, apparently as a regular part of their hunt for needles and trash. Some of the people in this video have been here, shaking cans of needles, successfully demanding harsher police behavior against survival campers. This Council, the SCPD have responded to their shrill bigotry with new anti-homeless laws. They have helped generate an unprecedented level of hatred & fear in the community against vulnerable poor people outside.

**This video was suppressed** after being posted on You-Tube and in Santa Cruz Patch. It is again available at <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2013/05/15/18736901.php> The picture and sound are intentionally distorted to conceal the identities of the abusive individuals on the video. The person who shot it reports threats and fears reprisal for publicizing the abusive activities of groups like *The Clean Team & Take Back Santa Cruz*. The difficult-to-hear soundtrack is clarified in a transcript on the other side of this flier.

Subsequently **Ken Collins** has admitted being the individual who can be seen verbally abusing and actually physically assaulting the homeless man in a sleeping bag. It is my understanding that **Lynn Robinson** was present on this “clean up” expedition; perhaps she will explain her participation today. **Pamela Comstock** is a co-founder of *Take Back Santa Cruz*, a group that Clean Team activist **T.J. Magallanes** has accused of taking over these “cleaning” expeditions.

**Robinson, Comstock, Mayor Bryant, and most of the City Council** have become part of an ongoing coalition increasing police and vigilante power against homeless people. The poor who live outside have become a phony “Public Safety” target. The homeless community, whether in the library, on the levee, at Cowell's Beach, in San Lorenzo Park, in the Pogonip—are sought out, maligned, and targeted as part of a sweeping new campaign of criminalization.

The SCPD has taken no action. As in the case of **Officer Vasquez** dropping a handcuffed **Richard Hardy** face down to the sidewalk, we have heard nothing.

It is my hope that by showing this video, which the Council saw weeks ago and has done nothing about, I can encourage the public to turn back this tide of toxic bigotry. I encourage everyone to **use the video capability of your cell phone** or camera to document what police and vigilante trollbusters are doing, post these videos, and restore the honor and decency of Santa Cruz.

## TRANSCRIPT OF THE CLEAN TEAM AT CARBONERA CREEK MARCH 16, 2013 VIDEO

Ken Collins: Are they stolen? They're yours? You brought these? Is that all your garbage laying around in the river and all around you? You want some bags to help pick it up?

Man in Sleeping Bag: I've got a bunch of trash bags.

Ken Collins: Well, fuckin' put the trash in the bags, dipshit!

Man in Sleeping Bag: I do!

Ken Collins: No you don't

Ken Collins: So right now we're at one of these encampments, and you can see they're not living a really clean life style; they don't really care about the environment They're leaving junk everywhere. They're throwing garbage. They're throwing needles everywhere. They just ignore us. They don't care.

Hello, I'm talking to you. (pokes man in a red sleeping bag with a long 'trash clutcher'). I want to ask you some questions."

Man in Sleeping bag: Don't touch me! (visibly disturbed) You got a lighter?

Ken Collins: No I don't have a lighter. I've got some garbage bags if you want to help...

Man in Sleeping Bag: Want me to come to your house and start picking through your shit?

Ken Collins: You probably do. You probably come and pick shit out of my fuckin' driveway and my bikes and my skateboards all the time.

Male Clean Team Member: You already took my wetsuit.

Man in Sleeping Bag: Well, you guys have a nice day.

Ken Collins: We are trying to. But this is not what we wanted to do on a Saturday. I want to ask you, what you what do think we could do....

Man in bag: You're not getting any more answers out of me.

Female Clean Team Member 1: Please help us, dude.

Ken Collins: What happens if ah...Fuck, dude it can get pretty gnarly dude, I know some guys who want to fuck you guys up. (Clean Team members laughing and heckling in the background)

Ken Collins: Where you from? If you were from here, you'd have a little more respect for the environment, I assume. So you just steal every night, get your junk, and just leave garbage everywhere. Is that how you work? Do you have any respect for yourself? I mean seriously...

Female Clean Team Member 2: Where did you steal that Santa Cruz hat from? You wear that Santa Cruz hat with pride, and you do this in Santa Cruz?

Female Clean Team Member 1: Thanks for helping us out.

Ken Collins: You don't pick up your garbage. I mean look at this fucking mess.

Female Clean Team Member 3: This isn't going to last much longer.

Female Clean Team Member 1: We'll be coming back.

Female Clean Team Member 4: I'll come back every day!

Female Clean Team Member 2: I'm sick of parasites destroying the beauty of this place.

Female Clean Team Member 1: We can't even bring our kids down here.

Ken Collins: I say just we just get a bucket and throw water on him.

FOR MORE ON THIS ISSUE, GO TO <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2013/05/15/18736901.php>