

IMPORTANT UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES & COMMUNITY

- ❶ ***WILL YOU*** help rollback this attack on the rights of the entire community and end these curfews?

In the last two years NIMBY's have undertaken a massive smear job against unhoused & poor people in our town. Using Drug War "needlemania" hysteria & propaganda stats that treat camping as a crime, right-wing bigots have created curfews in the parks, the beaches, city hall, the library grounds, and the riverbank.

- ❷ ***WILL YOU*** support a moratorium on laws that punish sleeping outside or in vehicles at night as proposed by the Santa Cruz American Civil Liberties Union?

Instead of acknowledging the emergency need for shelter, sleeping space, or housing for several thousand homeless outside, media mudslingers have turned facts on their head by defining survival sleeping as a crime.

- ❸ ***WILL YOU*** act to defend the few possessions homeless people have in their makeshift campsites at night and on their persons during the day?

Cities like Fresno have been the successful target of lawsuits against their police for seizing and destroying homeless property—something that is routinely done here.

- ❹ ***WILL YOU*** restore the public space to the community by eliminating "forbidden zones" & "move-along" laws?

The City Council last year eliminated all but 1% of the downtown sidewalks for traditional non-commercial Free Speech activities such as vending, performing, sitting, sparechanging, & political tabling.

- ❺ ***WILL YOU*** help reestablish police priorities to focus on real crime instead of having police act as a quasi-military auxiliary with intense focus on "crimes" such as "sitting", "sleeping", and "smoking"?

Police, security guards, and yellow-jacketed "hosts" now patrol Pacific Avenue in record numbers, swarming to mob "undesirable" poor people in a concerted effort to effect economic anti-homeless "cleansing" downtown.

- ❻ ***WILL YOU*** support immediate renter protection, stabilization, and/or rent control laws as well as penalties for vacant property speculation here?

Rent profiteering against residents and businesses alike has become second nature in Santa Cruz.

- ❼ ***WILL YOU*** take time out of your day to document police overkill and abuse as well as support a community effort to prevent Ferguson-style police rioting here?

Community control of police is an ever more important issue as police departments across the country, including ours become more militarized and insulated from public input and transparency.

- ❽ ***WILL YOU*** stand up for unpopular positions even at the cost of alienating the established political and economic powers in town?

In the end, it's not politicians, bureaucrats, experts, & leaders who can make real change, but principled individuals in the community itself.