

# No Police State in Santa Cruz !

## Questions for Candidates & Community

### **❶ Will You demand an end to the after-dark curfews in Santa Cruz?**

To make parks and greenbelt areas inhospitable to homeless people with no other places to sleep at night, NIMBY lawmakers have made all parks, the levee, and Cowell's Beach "forbidden zones." In response to peaceful protest, being on the City Hall or library grounds was also made a "trespass" crime. Using Drug War "needlemania" hysteria & inflated police stats that label camping a crime, a costly and phony "Public Safety" scare campaign has increased fear and hatred of the poor.

### **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 redefining 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 targeting blankets, bedding and other survival gear.

### **❹ Will You restore the public space to the community by eliminating "forbidden zones" & "move-along" laws downtown and elsewhere ?**

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

### **❺ Will You help reestablish police priorities to focus on real crime instead of having the 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. Living here has become prohibitive for those who work here. For the poor, affordable housing is a vehicle—which is illegal.

### **❼ Will You take time out of your day to document police overkill and support regular community street presence to stop Ferguson-style police barbarity 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 and be a whistleblower even at the cost of alienating the established political and economic powers?**

The political structure resists real change. In the end it's principled individuals in the community & dissenters inside the power structure like Snowden, Assange and Manning that provide the passion and tools for change. Those hoping to "infiltrate" the power structure usually find it infiltrates them