

# WHY AN EMERGENCY MEAL NOW?

## **New and On-going Hostile-to-the-Homeless policies**

- x the life-threatening and unconstitutional 11 PM to 8:30 AM Sleeping Ban;
- x massive increase in police harassment of the visible poor in public spaces;
- x program restrictions which require homeless people to jacket themselves as mentally ill, disabled, alcoholic, or drug-addicted in order to get services;
- x curfews in all the parks along with unprecedented police-initiated stay-away orders
- x harsh prosecution of peaceful homeless activists; curfews around public buildings
- x profiling of homeless people, travelers, youth, and other low-income people on Pacific Avenue, along the levee, at the Boardwalk, and elsewhere

Social Service Providers, particularly the “Homeless Services Center”—which we call the Homeless Lack of Services Center [HLOSC] has either remained silent or colluded in these efforts. In May Coral St. Director Jannan Thomas announced severe cutbacks in services to folks outside including the meal, mail, shower, bathrooms, waiting list, and laundry programs for the general unhoused population outside. She also announced closure of three residential programs—the Paul Lee Loft, the Page Smith Community House, and the Resuscitation Program.

The HLOSC did this apparently feeling their \$3 million + budget did not have the \$300,000 or less—less than 10%—to keep the most widely-used and important programs open. These are meals, mail, showers, bathrooms, waiting list, and laundry.

The HLOSC declined to provide her budget for last year and projected budget for this year in spite of repeated requests. At its budget hearings, City Council declined to add an additional funding to its less than \$150,000 contribution, in spite of handing over \$25 million to the SCPD & \$1 million to the golf course. Juggling of funds, activist & client pressure, & private contributions may have restored funding for the Loft, Community House, and Resuscitation. But there has been no clarity on the restoration of the broader programs.

In the last year, city council & HLOSC staff have cut back homeless access and dignity:

- x A uniquely restrictive 24-hour Parking Ban on Coral St. with buy-in from HLOSC
- x An iron gate around the “campus”
- x Mandatory ID checks and badges
- x Increased First Alarm and police presence
- x Hostility to peaceful activists gathering complaints against the management
- x A budget that focuses on “access to housing” (though actual housing is not available)
- x Silence in the face of new laws and police practices harassing the homeless
- x Failure to consult the wishes of those being “served”
- x Priority to funding grants that phase out emergency services

**HUFF's objectives: to (a) advise HLOSC residents and supporters of the proposed shutdown of meals and other services to the broader homeless community, (b) advise them we are beginning a Community CampOut on July 4th--the procession to begin at the Main Post Office, (c) let walker and driversby become more aware of the situation, and (d) sign up volunteers for the July 4th CampOut, and so (d) encourage authorities to suspend enforcement of the laws against survival camping at least until such time as real shelter or housing exists for the several thousand people outside.**