

Restoring Privacy, Decency, and Accessibility

Reforms for Survival Campgrounds

- *The Salvation Army* 1220 River St. has been in operation since early May, serving 61 people, at a cost of \$50,000- \$75,000 per month. While an alternative to having one's tents and property taken by police or rangers outside (in spite of the ***Boise v. Martin*** decision), the River St. Camp has restrictive regulations.
- These regulations implicitly suggest its residents require special controls. They provide a demeaning model and narrative which, unless corrected, may badly impact future campgrounds.
- Activists from the ***California Homeless Union, HUFF, Food Not Bombs, & Conscience and Action*** have met and conferred with **Captain Harold Laubach, Manager Eric Snickars, and Captain Marcos Marquez** to resolve concerns that seem unnecessarily restrictive to our organizations.
- Some of those regulations have been modified after confrontation and negotiation with *Army's* management. But issues regarding severe visitor restrictions, resident access, lack of shielding from heat, no refrigeration, lack of showers, & lack of due process for residents are serious problems.
- *Salvation Army*-run shelters are also severely limited in the numbers they serve (less than 150, and have high barriers to admittance. They serve mainly as a justification for the City's criminalizing of those not in shelters (1000-2000), which is the overwhelming majority.
- Our organizations do not claim to represent the residents of the River St. Camp nor speak on behalf of the general homeless community. We do believe that uncorrected Campground policies severely disadvantage and even derogate homeless people and demand that real changes be made.
- We have raised many of these issues as far back as May without much success; we do so now again.
- **Given the complete absence of available shelter or housing for the overwhelming majority of those NOT in the various shelters, the SCPD must not cite or harass under the "no trespassing on public property", "closed area", "public nuisance", "blocking the sidewalk", or "illegal lodging" laws for simple resting, sleeping, or camping on public property. These laws are now used in place of the Camping Ban at the whim of police against those simply trying to survive.**

Immediate Changes for the River St. Campground

- +++ Shielding for tents against the heat, refrigeration for food, decent drinking water, and regular showers without delay
- +++ Privacy rights to residents by allowing them to receive visitors in their tents
- +++ In-and-out access by foot instead of requiring special (expensive) transport
- +++ Weekly reports on the number of vacancies, waiting pool size, and camp needs
- +++ Laundry access or vouchers addressing the needs of all rather than a few in camp
- +++ Meeting space and incentives for a camp council of residents
- +++ A due process for appealing punishments such as exclusion from the camp
- +++ Eliminating curfew restrictions so as to treat residents as adults rather than prisoners
- +++ Budget transparency that clarifies how much is being spent for what facilities & services

Flier by ***Conscience & Action, Food Not Bombs, HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) & the California Homeless Union*** 831-431-7766 www.huffsantacruz.org 8-28-19