

A Letter from Alicia Kuhl of the Santa Cruz Homeless Union

The City ruined any chance of Solidarity Day when they closed **Camp Phoenix** yesterday without any notice, and again lied to the Community about putting those people into shelter. A few got a motel vouchers, but most got nothing. The action that happened yesterday was contrary to the statements put out by City officials, and the Police Chief all week.

We cannot trust them.

The **Santa Cruz Chapter of The California Homeless Union** is disgusted by the action taken by the City to close **Camp Phoenix** yesterday without notice, and subsequent lies to the Community about providing shelter to the residents of Camp Phoenix. It was a violation of **Martin v Boise**.

Just Disgusted! Another missed opportunity to work with us, after we reached out to you. We have been asking for over a year now, the **Santa Cruz Homeless Union** and **Food Not Bombs** has repeatedly offered to manage a camp, and requested a space to do it, and the City has ignored our multiple requests. Instead we have less winter shelter (floor mats) than last year. This is a crisis.

We refuse to wait for the City to take action, or give permission. It would be nice, but it's not happening and people will die this winter if we do nothing.

We are in the process of discussion of a new location (or two) as we speak. We know a few people got a two day motel voucher, but most were just displaced again, and the rain is coming soon. We will have a safe space set up before Thanksgiving, and we will all enjoy a meal, and be Thankful. With, or without the support of the City of Santa Cruz.

To reach the **Santa Cruz Chapter of The California Homeless Union: (831) 431--7766**

- 1.) We demand that **all charges be dropped against Lucero Luna** for false charges of trespass, and anything associated to the removal of her from Camp Phoenix.
- 2.) We also demand **an immediate City Sanctioned piece of property that we can use for a survival encampment** Managed by **Food Not Bombs** and directed by **Santa Cruz Chapter of The Homeless Union President Alicia Kuhl**. But make no mistake this is not an offer of settlement as to the legal issues that are arising out of this sudden closure.
- 3.) That you immediately get to work on those list of **10 Deseire Quintero Memorial Demands** for the immediate health and safety of all of the homeless, and vulnerable people in Santa Cruz.