

Crap from CACH Means the Community Must Step Up

CACH [Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness] offers no survival assistance as the worst weather hits. Just ideas for the City Manager to put on a future agenda. After the winter toll of suffering when Council returns 2nd Tuesday in January:

CACH says: 2 portable toilets. We say (and I suspect I speak for HUFF) : open the damn bathrooms in parks, Louden Nelson, and set up immediate portapotties at survival encampments. As NIMBYs use cops and rangers to chase homeless around the city stealing their survival gear as they go, move the portapotties as well.

CACH says: maintain the segregated-from-the-homeless Louden Nelson bathrooms. We say: remove the iron fencing around Louden Nelson, fire Supervisor Iseth Rae who pushed the phony anti-homeless narrative and open the damn bathrooms.

CACH says: continue the costly River St. campground; I say: spend the \$99,000 per month on 1000-2000 outside, not just 60 people.

CACH says: open a winter shelter I say: More talk and a little late. Winter is here and Council's retiring to its warm bedrooms.

CACH says: relocate shuttle pick-up site to an indoor or sheltered location. We say: open the parking garages for shelter throughout the winter and demand police lay off.

CACH: expand CACH with a member; We say: disband CACH, let CACH members publicly denounce this fraudulent diversion of community attention and demand real action on the Glover recommendations of last spring.

CACH; "improve communication:" We say: stop "communicating" & start acting.

CACH: facilitated community meetings We say: homeless input—talk to the real stakeholders; stop pandering to housed bigots, frightened NIMBY's, & developers.

CACH; one RV sewage dumping site We say: sure, and stop harassing RV's whose only crime is parking on public streets.

For anyone out there who really cares: support direct action groups *like Food Not Bombs, Warming Center, Day/Night Shelter, and the Santa Cruz Homeless Union*. Give directly to homeless people themselves not poverty pimps. Keep your ears perked for the next mass survival encampment and support individual camps now.

The CACH resolutions are a bad joke. The Watkins minority, incoming Mayor Cummings and Brown refused to restore public comment time, cut short group time. Reject the usual empty promises & chatter from City Council and take action ourselves.