

## **In the Midst of a Declared Crisis: Business-As-Usual Criminal Neglect of Homeless Health May Mean Sickness for the Rest of Us.**

Speech to City and Santa Cruz City Council 3-10-20

We need bathrooms and handwashing stations for those outside. Earlier the City's Avoid the Obvious machine spun into action. Councilmember asked: Will closed and locked bathrooms be reopened? Will facilities be placed at the Coral St. and Post Office encampments? You know, to slow the spread of the Corona virus. City Manager Bernal ducked, reassuring but avoiding specifics. Cummings—whose vote closed down Loudon Nelson bathrooms last year—said nothing.

Public Relations massagemaster Susie O'Hara slid around the issue. No timeline for restoring 24 hour bathroom access. It's a County matter, she reassured. Bernal interjected we'd have to wait for state and federal funding before addressing the obvious in the midst of a declared City and County emergency. City Attorney Condotti closed the things down saying that the whole discussion was off-topic.

The out-of-county Real Estate speculators have all but won the Recall to remove two questioning voices. Any challenge to the well-oiled "Muzzle the Poor" machine will be smeared and spent out of power when not evaded and dodged at City Council. Whatever the cost to the health of the community, to renters, students, & those being priced and driven out of town.

On Monday cops directed the Post Office encampment to disappear or face jail and property seizure. This violates state law and federal court decisions. Cops threatened more than 20 people there. Some of them already denied Armory shelter access. And only 6-12 spaces Armory spaces were offered.

Police aren't waiting for Condotti's slamdunk reinstatement of the Camping Ban next Council meeting. Mills police with his expanded force of rangers threatens to destroy homeless property to keep the poor moving along. Do we care about justice and the rule of law? Then we must document these attacks. Stop, watch, video, share, post. It's not just justice or compassion—but crazy denial of bathroom access is a threat to all of us.