City Council’s “More Cops, Less Care” Program

(Proposals passed by City Council on 2-25, 3-9 proposed additions in italics)
++ Exclusion of survival camping from Moore Creek, Arana Gulch, Moore Creek, & Delaveaga Park
++ Extending exclusion to sidewalks near state Parks, on Swanton Blvd., & in Beach Flats & Beach Hill
++Destroys current unhoused mutual support communities and prevents future ones.
++ Criminalizes survival camping for hundreds outside where they currently camp
++ Recites the various false excuses for eviction made to Judge Van Keulen which she rejected.
++ ignores the latest federal court decision rejecting the “no day camping” laws in Sausalito and protecting the Dunphy Park encampment there (Case 21-cv-01143-EMC: Sausalito/Marin County Chapter of the California Homeless Union et. Al v. City of Sausalito et. Al) as well as the San Lorenzo Park case
++ Reestablishes penalty for disobeying “don’t sleep here” instructions as misdemeanor jailing crime.
++ Penalizes houseless individuals with infraction citations, misdemeanor charges, seizing of personal belongings, arrest, and forced removal. (MC 6.36.070(a))
++ Daytime camping ban retains old 6.36.010c criminalizing intent to remain overnight
++ Warning required before citation doesn’t require that the unhoused person be guaranteed access and/or transportation to either a shelter bed or a safe sleeping spot. (MC 6.36.070(a))
++ Written “assistance” literature does not require cops to call shelters to see if space available.
++ Prohibits daytime survival camping on any public property (MC 6.36.040(f))
++ This ban actually a “daytime public resting ban” for those having their property with them.
++ Adds restrictions for consensual private property camping including “public or private nuisance or other matters offensive to persons of ordinary sensibility”. (MC 6.36.030(b))
++ Grants the City Manager [CM] powers to prohibit survival sleeping during all hours wherever they see fit, including all parks with unspecified “open spaces” exceptions (MC 6.36.050(c)).
++ Requires sleeping spots be cleared of both debris and personal belongings daily (MC 6.36.060(f))
++ Limits space to 12’ X 12’ per person unless majority have a Qualified Disability (MC 6.36.060(g))
++ Treats those surviving outside as dangerous and undesirable to be excluded from most public spaces. ++ Deceptively reassures “no enforcement before resources” but focus is overwhelmingly on penalties.
++ Suggest major crime problem, with no evidence, ignoring closed restrooms, no trash pick-ups, etc.
++ Bans electrical taps (MC 6.36.060(c)) And fires, except in city-authorized pits.
++ Unspecified timeline for completion of a safe sleeping program means no such spots or services will likely be available for the majority of those outside. . (2-25 motion)
++ No funding or resources are allotted for services of any kind though staff is directed to ensure a “balanced approach” and report back in 9 months. (2-25 motion)
++ Missing are updates on the “navigation center” program, the “housing first” model, the City/County 2X2 Committee, the “stepped sheltering/housing approach” from the Continuum of Care. (2-25 motion)
++ Does NOT provide additional sanitation of waste management services, health, or mental healthcare services moving services, housing alternatives or other social service.
++ Removes campers, RVs and cars from the prior ban, but suggested restrictions and prohibitions are likely to appear in the future. 5 Vehicles per church lot allowed, but no waiver of insurance, registration.
++ Lets CM okay camps in closed areas of open spaces with daytime access denied with no specifics.
++ Requires C.M. to provide overnight safe sleeping spaces for 150 people in parking lots or elsewhere from 8 pm to 7 am but no deadline set as to when they will function (MC 6.36.050(d))
++ “Solutions” are tickets out of town (Homeward Bound), transitional housing, case workers “help” for housing & jobs, more talk with County bureaucrats, more staff reports in a month or two. (2-25 motion)

At the 3-9 meeting, City Council ignored most public input (both positive and negative). They passed the ordinance 6-1. A second round of even more restrictive amendments will return in the next few meetings.

Flyer by Nors of HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B S.C. 3-9–21