

# Takeaways & Notes from the Last City Council Meeting

Stolen from Roadway Reggie Meisler

1. The city is spending about half of the infrastructure money on just one year's worth of operating expenses that it should just continue paying for itself.
2. The city is also spending significant sums of money on hiring positions for the Santa Cruz Police Department and Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Dept (2x Community Services Officers, 1x Vehicle Abatement Officer, 2x Mental Health Liaisons). Santa Cruz Cares and others pressured them in public comment to not fund police positions, particularly positions with the expressed purpose of doing harm to the unused, using literal Homeless Infrastructure funds. They didn't listen to that demand.
3. The city is also spending nearly half a million dollars on "legislative advocacy" which seems like it should be illegal, per the CA constitution. Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 5, 8314 (a) It is unlawful for any elected state or local officer, including any state or local appointee, employee, or consultant, to use or permit others to use public resources for a campaign activity, or personal or other purposes which are not authorized by law.
4. One of the city's priorities in their Homeless Response Plan is to sweep the Benchlands. Despite this, they also simultaneously reference the Benchlands as "shelter space" which they say gives them the right to move forward on enforcing CSSO.
5. The city's stated focus on "temporary shelter" and "opportunities to exit homelessness" are in direct conflict with the goals of their primary nonprofit partner Housing Matters, whose focus is "permanent supportive housing" (which is obviously evidence-based).