

Link Up, Speak Out, Stop the Sweeps

Where did the money go?

Have a cup of coffee and a pastry with us at City Hall.

Ask the City Council and Its Staff What the Hell is Going on?

Tell the Deaf-to-Compassion Bureaucrats the Score!

Coming Soon

Koffee Klatch at City Council

- **What gives?** Group Encampments & Single Survival Campers now face “Move to the Benchlands” orders from SCPD & Cal-Trans. Yet the Benchlands is scheduled to be “cleared” this summer, according to the March 3 report to City Council from **City Manager Matt Huffaker** .
- **Camping Ban Ready to Rampage** The new camping ban (the CSSO MC 6.36 law) prohibits putting up a tent or laying down a sleeping bag during the night if there is either “an overnight sanctioned sleeping location or available 24/7 sanctioned sheltering location” for 150 people. The OVO [Oversized Vehicle Ordinance] threatens those in RVs and cars.
- **The new Ban requires carrying your possessions and bedding** with you through the day if and when limited storage facilities are “available” if you can’t or won’t use their facilities.
- **New Camping Ban Being Enforced** The 3-3 City Manager’s Homeless Quarterly Update & Encampment Management prepared by Homeless Response Manager **Larry Imwalle** states “Until additional programs are operational, the encampment at the Benchlands in San Lorenzo Park continues to serve as an alternate location for individuals as the CSSO is enforced in other areas of the City, such as recently closed areas at Lot 27 (northeast corner of Laurel and Front Streets) and behind the Santa Cruz Memorial cemetery. Benchlands...[will be] closed in Summer 2022.” [City Council Agenda 3-8]
- **City Authorities are happily violating the *Martin v. Boise* court decision** which supposedly protects those outside, given Santa Cruz’ failure to establish shelter,

campground, and storage facilities. The woefully underfunded and crowded Benchlands has longstanding health and safety problems that the City has ignored.

- **Illegal sweeps have been standard policy** as hundreds were driven from the Pogonip, the encampment along Coral St., the “Housing Matters” corner along Hiway 1, the Hells Trail, Camp Paradise, the 2nd Hells Trail Sweep, the Levee Sweeps, and recent the Branciforte Creek sweep. Huffaker’s expanded emergency powers are a special threat.
- **Camping Ban Enforcement Without the Camping Ban** City anti-homeless authorities have long used other laws than the Camping Ban to harass, threaten, and displace those surviving outside such as “blocking the sidewalk”, “closed area”, “public nuisance”, (spurious) “fire danger”, & other pretexts. Bucks for bullying instead of for real services is the true crime.
- **Community and SC Union Support** stopped the San Lorenzo Park clearing in the Winter of 2020. Resistance works if folks organize, do outreach, and educate the community and the neighborhoods. It takes housed and homeless in community to beat back the bureaucrats.
- **Legal and activist action** established and fed the Benchlands encampment with little support from the City other than insufficient portapotties, closed bathrooms, fenced off areas, threats to those seeking to escape the winter flooding, one water faucet, and phone charger.
- **City Council and City Staff** are betraying even those in the community who want the homeless gone. The Benchlands was never presented to the community for discussion and input. There has been no clear accounting of where funding for those outside has actually gone. Endless promises by former assistant City Manager **Susie O’Hara**, former City Manager Martin Bernal, and the current crew of **Lee Butler, Matt Huffaker** and **Larry Imwalde** have been outrageously optimistic in their claims and inaccessible on the details.
- **Real services that might deescalate or assist** folks with disabilities, mental crises, drug recovery are woefully underfunded. Policing services get extra funding.
- **The City should not be cooperating** with the new “Normal” which requires those outside to be grouped under “mentally ill”, “drug abuser”, or “service-resistant” labels to receive basic aid. Gov. Newsom’s latest “obligation to accept shelter” and “forced treatment” proposals are an ominous direction that needs to be fought. Inclusion, not coercion!
- **HUFF opposes City laws (CSSO and OVO)** that punish those outside for being homeless. **We oppose compulsory treatment** and feel **existing laws, properly enforced, are adequate** to deal with real health and safety concerns.

Come Demand Real Answers
Huddle at City Hall Until They Provide Them !
Time and Date to be announced.