

SCPD: Serve the Whole Community

Help Provide **SERVICES Not SWEEPS** !

Police bulldozed tent-homes in and around the Benchlands after rousting 20 or more overflow residents from under the Water St. bridge and jailed a man who was told he moved “too slowly”. No decent alternate shelter was offered.

City Manager Matt Huffaker told City Council he would "demobilize" (i.e. remove) the Benchlands by summer's end. [See City Manager's Report at <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/home/showpublisheddocument/90079/637927271298530000>]

Residents reports **services have stopped**. These include trash pick-up's, and porta-potty cleaning. Water provision for drinking and keeping clean is grossly inadequate. The rodent problem affecting health there have been ignored.

City officials have aggravated **gross overcrowding** by forcibly moving hundreds of other campers into the Benchlands and then declaring they'll be evicted.

HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) demands:

(1) Shift funding from police sweeps to assisting unhoused folks with tents, fresh water, shower facilities, decent bathrooms, more space, and other essential amenities to support Benchlands residents and other encampments.

(2) Follow the law! The Martin v. Boise decision says no one will be threatened with removal from the Benchlands unless more suitable places are actually available—which they aren't. The COVID shelter-in-place guidelines—also need to be restored given the resurgence of variants.

(3) Provide oversight & action to end racial, economic, & class profiling -- particularly as it applies to disadvantaged minorities and unhoused folks.

(4) Act on real reforms demanded of other police departments in national protests, but ignored by the Santa Cruz. These involve transparency, accountability, & less lethal & violent ways of dealing with community problems.

More info: <https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2022/08/01/18851370.php>

Sign the **SERVICES Not SWEEPS** petition

