

Say NO to Laws that Punish the Poor

Ryan Coonerty's Policies & Keeley's City Council Laws Hurt Everyone

Some Coonerty History

- Councilmember Coonerty backed the 15-minute Trespass law making downtown city parking lots forbidden zones unless walking through or parking or retrieving a vehicle. This was a thinly-disguised anti-homeless measure. It was passed with no serious discussion of alternative solutions; no recognition of the drastic change in traditional Santa Cruz policy; and inadequate documentation the supposed “crime” need.
- Throughout two terms of City Council from 2004-2012, Coonerty has supported the Downtown Ordinances expanding police powers for such crimes as sitting within 14’ of a building; holding up a sign asking help after dark”; sitting, standing, or gathering in a public parking for more than 15 minutes; falling asleep on any public property (11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.).
- Coonerty helped reduce public comment time at City Council to obstruct attempts by activists of many stripes, but especially homeless activists. The Council diverted funding from shelter and survival services to harsh and futile “drive ‘em out of town” police solutions.
- As Mayor, Coonerty:
 - Voted on May 10, 2011 to defeat a resolution supporting AB 1081, The Trust Act, which would have had the city opt out of the "Secure Communities" program in Santa Cruz County. This federal program was forced on local jurisdictions and reportedly was responsible for the mass deportation of innocent people, including homeless community members.
 - Repeatedly violated the spirit if not the letter of the state Sunshine Act which required his public appearance schedule to be made available to the community.
 - Refused to divulge his calendar of past meetings with lobbyists.
- Coonerty has supported harsh changes in city law that intensified penalties like the infraction “crime” such as ‘sitting on a public bench for more than an hour” to misdemeanor status when repeated with a one-year-in-jail possible penalty.
- As Mayor, Coonerty repeatedly violated the spirit if not the letter of the state Sunshine Act and make his public appearance schedule available to the community.
- As Mayor, Coonerty refused to divulge his calendar of past meetings with lobbyists as requested.
- While Vice-Mayor Coonerty signed an official letter banning peaceful activists from his Bookshop Santa Cruz for holding peaceful demonstrations on the public sidewalk outside the Bookshop.

The Grim Record of Santa Cruz City Council

- Shrinking the performance, vending, and political space for tabling on Pacific Ave. until state vending law protections preempted the Council, which then turned to “pay to play” regulations for handicraft vendors.
- The City’s vast grant of authority to the Parks and Recreation Dept. allowing it to declare huge swaths of the City (including the entire Pacific Ave. a “park” subject to ranger patrolling and restriction, all at the whim of City Mangler Matt Huffaker.
- The infamous “exclusion before trial” police-initiated stay-away orders allowing escalating bans in parks under MC 13.08 for minor infractions, historically proven to have been used primarily against the unhoused.
- Council indifference or collusion in the cut-off of services by *Housing Matters* on April 1st (more accurately known as *Funding Matters*) denying water, showers, toilet facilities, electrical hook-up’s & more.
- Implicit support for Huffaker and his homeless Czar Imwalle’s destruction of the Benchlands community and subsequent survival gatherings to make mutual and community support of those outside even harder.

- The City's failure to keep open the peer-run *MHCAN*—as part of its apparent plan to make the city “less welcoming”
- The City's cruel and arguably lethal sweeps—on Coral St. and the river levee—under the fake authority of the 2022 Camping Ordinance—which technically requires adequate shelter and storage not being provided.
- The Council-authorized SCPD practices which take and destroy rather than store and return homeless property in the continue sweeps apparently designed to terrorize and remove a class of people—poor people.
- Anti-homeless landscaping of medians designed to run off survival-support-seeking sparechangers with signs along with a “no pausing on the median” city ordinance clarify the City's malice towards the visible poor.
- Fences, seizure of homeless property without receipts, pressure to herd homeless into the few prison-like shelters, a harsh law forbidding peaceful panhandling in most times & places....& more
- In spite of the crying need as the City police regularly destroy homeless shelter and community, City Council has refused to fund adequate emergency and winter walk-in shelter.
- Coonerty's sometime boss, San Jose mayor Mahan has passed the dangerous “shelter or jail” law—though without adequate shelter or services, of course.
- Wasted funding on services limited to “cash cow” homeless and phony “pathways to housing,
- Absence of accessible porta potties, serviced trash cans, & clean water access (restoring drinking fountains around the city).
- Expensive police sweeps & surveillance technologies to reassure the rich and frightened, but removing privacy for the community especially those outside.
- Ignoring exorbitant rents, inadequate wages, and largely absent renter protection as the war economy heads for a cliff.
- Sitting on their hands as landlords throw many Palomar tenants under the bus and Trump-initiated Section 8 cut-offs loom.

**High-end housing, high-rises and corporate deals means little
as rents explode and more locals flee or join the homeless on the streets.**

Politics as usual & endless wars, give us soaring food & gas prices.

Waiting for the next election is an invitation to failure.

Demand the basics so all of us can survive the coming years.

Talk against genocide abroad is crap when we fund “social cleansing” at home.

END THE WAR AGAINST OUR POOR AT HOME!

Roar loudly or whimper alone.

**If you observe or are made aware of abusive behavior against unhoused people
either by government authorities, businesses, landlords, or others, please give
a call to *HUFF*.**