

Pledge info

Everyone needs to sleep at night, homeless people perhaps more than anyone. Santa Cruz has harsh laws that criminalize homeless sleeping on public property, making it **illegal to sleep on any public property between 11 PM and 8:30 AM**. In February the Santa Cruz City Council made this law harsher by ruling that **three citations for sleeping (\$97 each) unpaid** would result in a more **serious crime punishable by up to \$1000 and 6 months in jail**.

In May, City Attorneys Susan and John Barisone in collusion with various downtown merchants, police officers, and city employees successfully imposed an **injunction against two homeless musicians**. Since 2007 they got more than **fifty tickets for sleeping in the downtown area**. They **now face immediate jail if they fall asleep at night in the downtown area**; even though sleeping anywhere in the city is illegal. There is shelter space tonight for less than 10% of the homeless.

Many major California cities (**Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Richmond**) have eliminated their **nighttime sleeping bans**. It is time for Santa Cruz to do the same. **Businesses that support this change should be rewarded; those that collude in denying basic human rights should be avoided.**

Flyer by HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) 831-423-4833 www.huffsantacruz.org 309 Cedar PMB #14B Santa Cruz, CA 6-04-09

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