

Sleeping Downtown at Night Now A Jailing Offense

Reject Downtown Association Bigotry:

Support a Tent City Here!

- **Join** homeless folks, their supporters, & those outraged at last month's court decision that made sleeping downtown a jailing crime for two homeless musicians Anna Richardson & Miguel de Leon.
- The Armory Winter Shelter closed April 15th. **Less than 10% of Santa Cruz' homeless population will have shelter this summer**, effecting 1500-2000 persons.
- **Official city policy** under Chief Ranger John Wallace is to **destroy homeless camps and property**. It does not offer alternative survival sleeping spots in violation of state law, constitutional dictum, and common decency.
- **Homeless people**, even those who sleep quietly and cleanly in their own vehicles, **face \$97 citations**, police harassment, hostile discrimination, theft and destruction of their property.
- **Three unpaid sleeping tickets** are now a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to **\$1000 fine and/or 6 months in jail**. This new law was supported by the Downtown Association and unanimously passed by the City Council in February.
- **An educational forum was recently successful** in restoring a positive relationship between Jack's Hamburgers (next to the Nickelodeon) and the homeless community after numerous complaints of discrimination. Jack's has reaffirmed its non-discrimination policy, mediated the problems, and readmitted those previously excluded.
- Solidarity in resisting the police attack on the Farmer's Market Drum Circle has kept it going every Wednesday. Two activists (Wes Modes and Jack Russ) still face significant charges and court dates for peacefully resisting police harassment there.
- Former Mayor Coonerty (of the Bookshop Santa Cruz) pushed through a law which bans public assembly of any sort in ten square blocks downtown (the city's parking lots). Reading a book in your own car is also a \$100+ crime.
- **The Sleeping Ban was abolished in Los Angeles, San Diego, Richmond, and Laguna Beach**. If other communities can act reasonably towards the homeless, Santa Cruz can be persuaded to do the same.
- The Downtown Association has taken the lead in supporting "Forbidden Zones" downtown (removing most public space for sitting, sparechanging, street performing, and political tabling).
- The Downtown Association & their City Council proxies (**Robinson, Coonerty, Matthews**) have led the crackdown on the homeless, **overfunding overpolicing downtown**.
- **Calvary Episcopal Church banned homeless** people from their lawn 5 days a week.
- Most recently, management at **Bunny's Shoes, El Palomar, Lulu Carpenter's, and Borders Books** have signed declarations supporting jail for the two homeless sleepers. It's time businesses who profit from the "progressive" image of Santa Cruz either get progressive or come out of the closet!
- **Tent cities exist** in other California cities (Ontario, Fresno) to protect and shelter those displaced by foreclosure, unemployment, disability, & housing shortage. In Santa Cruz homeless campgrounds are a crime.



What You Can Do...

CALL THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION... REGISTER YOUR DISAPPROVAL: 429-8433

CALL CITY COUNCIL... DEMAND SLEEPING BAN REPEAL: 420-5020

SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY TENT CITY IN SANTA CRUZ THIS SUMMER: 423-4833