

# Action Now for Winter Homeless Survival !

**In response to obstructive developments at the City Council level, Conscience and Action, and HUFF are inviting the community to show up and speak out at 6:15 PM Tuesday February 12th in the City Hall Courtyard. The theme of the gathering is "Have A Heart: Stop Treating Those Outside As Criminals!" Joe Schultz of India Joze will be providing food and drink. The entire evening session will address Homelessness when folks can speak--hopefully for more than 2 minutes per speaker. There will also be the usual Oral Communications period beginning at 7 PM.**

Councilmen Chris Krohn and Drew Glover and their interns worked with HUFF and Conscience and Action activists as well as RV dwellers and members of the Ross Camp to put together 6 Proposals

These include Homeless State of Emergency, Reopening Closed Bathrooms, Reviewing Downtown Ordinances for Homeless Impact, Safe Parking Provisions, and Permitting Transitional Encampments

Krohn and Glover with interns spent hours hammering out recommendations for these proposals for inclusion on the February 12th agenda. They joined Sandy Brown in presenting these proposals for inclusion on Wednesday February 6th when the Mayor makes up the 2-12 agenda.

Chris gave a terrific report of the current situation, both in terms of the needs and the council politics, at the Association of Faith Communities meeting 2/7. At that meeting those present at the AFCSC agreed to make calls regarding the proposals.

Unfortunately, as Robert has shared with us in his 2/8 email, "staff and mayor sabotaged Glover-Krohn homeless recommendations" the Mayor refused to put the proposals on the agenda, violating procedure and protocol which requires her to do so if the proposals are presented by three Council members. She reportedly insisted that they needed to have been made a full two weeks in advance by Thursday 1-31.

Instead she substituted proposals by the City Manager which reiterate inadequate or non-existent services and proposed to immediately begin closing the Ross camp with no adequate alternative shelter.

Previous promises by Susie O'Hara and Tina Shull evidently under the direction of City Manager Martin Bernal, broke their word to the River Street Campground residents and dumped them on the street in October, six months before their promised exit date in 2019. A proposed car park evaporated. Problems at the Homeless Services Center kept residents there without hot water for showers for three weeks. It seems that specific humane solutions are not a priority under the current City Manager and his staff.

Accordingly, there is doubt that at the 2/12 meeting the Glover-Krohn recommendations will be acted on unless there is massive outcry from the community demanding this happen. We urge Councilmembers Krohn and Glover to post their proposals outside City Hall and on-line so that the City Attorney cannot again use the Brown Act requiring advance notice as a way of sabotaging and further delaying vitally-needed homeless services.

We urge the Council to raise these proposals on 2-12 at the 7 PM session as they can with a simple majority. We must have further changes so the mayor can no longer arbitrarily exclude items from the agenda.

**We also insist on a restoration of the traditional 3 minutes per speaker and 5 minutes per group procedure. We also need as an end to the Mayor's practice of interrupting speakers, shortening time, and not allowing some to speak--as happened at the last meeting. We expect the Progressive majority to demand the Community's right to speak when the Mayor chooses to cut people short.**

There are immediate needs for those living at the Ross Camp, in RV's and vehicles around town, and in the many places where homeless people are forced to create their own shelter. These needs are only partially addressed by the Glover-Krohn proposals, but must be passed rapidly as a first step. To wait until the 2-26 agenda is to invite further delay and needless suffering. It also plays into the hands of those who want no meaningful commitment in addressing the needs of houseless refugees.

If, for some reason, through failure of nerve or reactionary maneuvering, these proposals are not passed at the 2-12 session, **we urge strong sustained protest that night and an immediate special session devoted to this issue be held at the Civic Auditorium or some other larger facility.**

The recent Martin v. Boise Federal Court decision throwing out Camping Bans makes providing not just discussing immediate emergency shelter a top priority. It may cost the City plenty when law enforcement cities or arrests individuals for life-sustaining behavior- which may happen with the proposed bulldozing of the Ross camp.

In the meantime, PLEASE contact everyone you know who supports the proposals to attend Tuesday's and speakout and subsequent Council meetings. Be on the alert for other future protest actions.

**Lastly, PLEASE contact Chris, Drew and Sandy with your gratitude for their labors for Conscience and Action AND Justin to let him know we expect him, based on his campaign rhetoric these proposals. Of course, you may want to contact the others as well, see Council contacts below.**

Please join us in support of Chris and Drew's historical and timely proposals to accomplish a better and healthier life for Santa Cruz's homeless.

Fellow activists, if you are inclined to resist your conscience, look inside and empathize with those, who endure rain mud and cold while you and I enjoy our warm warm & safe homes.

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