

Save Our Santa Cruz Sidewalks from Stupid Laws

On October 24th, the new Downtown Ordinances will:

- +++ **FORBID PERFORMANCE, TABLING, ART DISPLAY, VENDING, SITTING, AND SPARECHANGING** on 95% of downtown sidewalks & 100% of sidewalks near buildings elsewhere.
- +++ **FORCE ALL SUCH ACTIVITY TO THE CURB** creating conflict with arriving motorists, unhealthy space for street performers, & essentially drive out vibrant street life.
- +++ **LIMIT IT** to a handful of constricted 12 square feet spaces per block.
- +++ **LIMIT IT** to 1 hour per day in any of the now very limited spots
- +++ **REQUIRE ADDITIONAL 12' SEPARATION SPACES** between these activities on the sidewalk
- +++ **REQUIRE DAYS OF LEAD TIME AND SPECIAL PERMITS** for any exceptions to this rules.
- +++ **GIVE CONSERVATIVE STAFF & POLICE A VETO** over who uses the public sidewalk.
- +++ **SET UP HUGE "WALK THROUGH ONLY" ZONES** within 14' of buildings, street corners, intersections, kiosks, drinking fountains, public telephones, public benches, public trash containers, directory signs, sculptures or artwork, ATM-style machines, outside street cafes, vending carts, and fences.
- +++ **EMPOWER POLICE AND HOSTILE MERCHANTS** to write \$200-400 citations for traditionally innocent street presence, prescribing up to \$1000 fine and 1 year in jail for 2nd "offense".
- +++ **INCREASE VISIBLE POLICE SQUAD PRESENCE** to pressure, cite, and/or arrest violators.
- +++ **SELECTIVELY TARGET MINORITIES, HOMELESS PEOPLE, & POOR FOLKS** who don't "fit in" with the Downtown Association's vision of a proper "safe" Santa Cruz.
- +++ **BAN BOUNCING A BALL** or throwing a Frisbee downtown.
- +++ **BAN USING ERASIBLE CHALK** whether for art or political messages.
- +++ **BAN SPREADING OUT A BLANKET** on the sidewalk if it is construed as a "display device".
- +++ **BAN SITTING DOWN ON THE LIP OF A CEMENT BERM** around the trees.
- +++ **BAN SITTING NEXT TO A BUILDING** even if closed or vacant.
- +++ **FALSELY LABEL AS "SAFETY CONCERNS"** traditional friendly Santa Cruz activity to empty the sidewalks of uses that don't involve buying in stores or restaurants.
- +++ **CREATE A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT** for poor and homeless folks and deny them the rights others have to use the public space to assembly, rest, communicate, and enjoy.
- +++ **GIVE CRANKS A VETO ON STREET MUSIC** by simply complaining.
- +++ **EMPOWER POLICE** to expand enforcement—which originally created these laws.
- +++ **FALSELY SPREAD THE "PUBLIC SAFETY" MYTHOLOGY** that groups like *Take Back Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz Neighbors*, *the SCPD*, *the DTA*, *Needle-Free Zone*, & other right-wing special interest groups are using to frighten the population back into further repressive action.
- +++ **DRIVE AWAY ARTISTS & PERFORMERS** leaving only the militant and the mercenary.

FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE STERILIZING OF DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ

- +++ **E-mail City Council** at [citycouncil \[at\] cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com) and demand these ordinances be reviewed for cost, effectiveness, impact, and unintended consequences by citizen committees and with public input
- +++ **Use your video phone** to show authorities harassing the public on the streets downtown. Post on You-Tube and www.indybay.org/santacruz . Send them to HUFF (morse3@hotmail.com) .
- +++ **Spread** opposition; Write local papers; Use Facebook & Twitter; . Ordinances become final a month after a **2nd vote in two weeks (October 24)** **Support businesses who oppose**, publicize those who don't.
- +++ **Post your own accounts** of discrimination downtown. The Coffee Roasting Company & Starbucks recently banned large backpacks; Customers report New Leaf & Verve banning homeless-looking customers.
- +++ **Come to City Council 5 PM October 22nd** to demand the return of traditional open sidewalks!
- +++ **Witness and support other street performers** when they face harassment from authorities.
- +++ **Get familiar with the Downtown Ordinances**, often misquoted by police and hosts. Copies available on-line at https://www.indybay.org/uploads/2010/08/29/deadlydowntownordinances_8-27-10.pdf .