

**Rosemary Balsley**

COUNCIL  
AGENDA

MAIL

MTG 4/30/13

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**From:** Kirsten Attlesey <mikir@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 12:49 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Study Session on Homelessness

Greetings Council,

I'm writing to you today because I support changes to our current ~~rent~~ homeless policy. However, I am concerned about the unforeseen issues that could be made due to the homeless report findings. I have spent a good amount of time over the last four years researching and listening to stories from homeowners, renters, homeless folks, homeless advocates and activists. I have met with Monica Martinez and went on a tour of the HSC with Don Lane and strongly support changes to the current system. I suggest a good book for you all to read too, it's called Toxic Charity and is written by Robert D. Lupton:

<http://www.amazon.com/Toxic-Charity-Churches-Charities-Reverse/dp/0062076213>

I understand there are many complexities to homelessness but it's effects on the WHOLE community can not be denied, ALL of our quality of life has suffered. If I could make the rules this is what I would love to see:

- \* ID cards for ALL services
- \*a rule that local residents only will receive ANY service \*no AB109 paroles at the HSC \*no services if you have a warrant \*bag/body searches (noninvasive) upon entry to the campus \*others have suggested drug sniffing police dogs \*a police kiosk \*fencing (one way in-one way out) \*no drugs or alcohol \*contribute in some way to receive services, work program? Give people a sense of pride not entitlement.

I know our Homeless Center does some great work and some programs are truly results based. Though I see some real problems with the Day Center. I read the incredibly detailed and informative Homeless Report and I can't help but be concerned that whatever changes that are made should be both in FUNDING and equally important, PROCEDURE. Both can have repercussions on our community if not addressed in their entirety. I ask that whatever changes are made that the entire homeless industry (sanctioned or not) have the same rules and expectations. My main concern is whatever may be cut from an established program would soon be picked up by the churches and other organizations (those with walls and without) and we would have a new problem on our hands. We need UNIVERSAL procedures and practices within the City of Santa Cruz regarding homeless issues. Including tent, blanket, clothing, food and supply distribution. What good does it do to clean up when there is an organization ready with fresh new supplies? Some folks never even bother to wash the clothing that is donated to them they just grab a new freebie and the result is more garbage in our green

spaces, caves and waterways. (I have heard that this was a big problem at the Occupy Camp) One last thought, where's the rest of the County in all this? How about they take on more of the burden, Santa Cruz is maxed out. Thanks for reading and for being the truly caring community heroes that you are, YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Sincerely,  
Kirsten Attlesey

**Rosemary Balsley**

COUNCIL  
AGENDA

**From:** Paul Simpson <paulsimpson01@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 12:59 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** My thoughts for the Homeless Agenda meeting on 4/30/2013  
**Attachments:** 1.jpg; 2.jpg; 3.jpg; 4.jpg; 5.jpg; 6.jpg; 7.jpg; 8.jpg; 9.jpg; 10.jpg

MAIL  
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Here is a glimpse of an everyday conversation in the group Take Back Santa Cruz (attached screenshots, numbered in sequence).

A woman had to walk in the street to avoid (oh my God!) having to walk in-between 2 homeless people on the sidewalk! They didn't harass her, panhandle her or threaten her- they didn't even speak to her. Heck, it sounds like they didn't even notice her.

And she paints it as basically the most horrible thing that has happened to her in her life and the rest of the group comes in to console her and the conversation then develops into the same hate and targeting of the homeless as almost every post that this group has ever posted always does. Not to mention another favorite activity, sending or posting pictures of people who have done nothing wrong except for the fact that they are homeless and ended up in the path of a vigilante (something that is also being bred here and people are commended for).

Also, I really feel for the other poor person that has had to "step over the feet" of a homeless person before :) I hope you all realize that the voice of this group is only about 2 dozen hateful people getting each other worked up day after day and spreading baseless fear to anyone that will listen and that they are not the 5500 the number the group would have you believe. They are same faces you see at city hall every chance they get to go down there and raise their voices and pretend like they represent the entire community.

Most in their Facebook group are bystanders or are just there for curiosity's sake (so if you're counting votes, you might want to compare opposing petitions that have gone up recently), or they were tricked by the appealing bio on the page.

If anyone says anything they do not agree with, they are immediately ejected from the group.

Like myself- for saying HSC helped me get into a program (which I wouldn't be able to get into today, because their fee schedule has changed) and that there isn't any affordable and easily accessible treatment available to the population who needs it the most. That was all I said, nothing negative or inciting in any way.

I was silently ejected from the group in under 5 minutes. As have many other people that I remain in contact with.

They say they are against crime, but you can see within 5 minutes in the group that's BS.

This group really needs to be watched and considered for a hate group tag.

This may sound extreme upon first glance, but if you'd like to see the screenshots we've been collecting for some time, please let me know. Talk of reuniting the Troll Busters is allowed, as is clearly, pure hateful speech targeted directly at the homeless population for the sole reason that they are homeless and they can't stand that they have to look at them- is never deleted and it is then agreed with. While a positive comment about HSC or anything similar always be at the very least deleted. Generally the person is immediately removed.

I hope those of you (Council members) who have included yourselves in their group are not serious at this point- it is impossible that it has not dawned on you exactly what you are condoning if you still support what they represent.

If their voice really did represent Santa Cruz, it would be a very sad time for this city.

And anyone who would consider attempting to shut down or further cut the budget to an organization that feeds and cares for people who need it, really needs to just stop and think about that for a second.

Yours Truly,

Paul

Side note- Ken "SkinDog" Collins and his girlfriend (big names in TBSC) went to the forum on Homelessness at Santa Cruz High School and the next day started saying they want to see a Sanctuary Camp :) Something that I am not onboard with, but it is amazing what listening to a viewpoint outside of that group will do to it's members since they do not allow it in there.

I am not saying anything negative about Ken and his girlfriend, I actually commend them for being willing to listen to another viewpoint. But it does show how little data this group actually uses in making their snap decisions in telling you ladies and gentlemen how you should be doing your jobs- and trying to influence others in the community.

It's risky business letting the uninformed minority influence your decisions just because they are loud. But I'm sure you are aware of this :)

The one decision of yours (or whoever allowed it) I will directly question is: Steve Schlicht on the safety committee? Seriously?



### Lisa Sokolowski Litten

I am shaking and in tears. I walked down locust and instead of having to walk between 2 scary homeless scary dudes I walked the middle of the street. I'm done.

Like · Comment · Follow Post · 11 hours ago near Santa Cruz

Debi Baker likes this.

**Ashley E. Conway** that sucks!

11 hours ago · Like · 2

**Valerie St Denis** 😊

11 hours ago · Like · 2

**Luke Darling** Im sorry you shouldnt be fearful in your own community.

11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 6

**Lisa Sokolowski Litten** Those of you who know me know I'm A one scary bad ass b\*\*\*\*

11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 5

**Kym Laney** Oh, that's awful and so not right. 😊 call me I'll scare them off... having one of those Bad Headaches so ready to Roar!

11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 3

**Christine Helm** It really can feel like a movie set...not a Disney movie.

11 hours ago · Like · 4

**Heidi Findlay** That's horrible 😊

11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 3

**Lisa Sokolowski Litten** I walked out of peets and put all my stuff down and took a picture of one of them. We got verbal and he left. I am so over it.

11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 2





**Tommy Brisley** Send me the pic!  
11 hours ago via mobile · Like



**Tommy Brisley** Yep, I see that **creep** every morning. I'll make sure he remembers me next time u see him..  
11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 1



**Tommy Brisley** Next time I see him..  
11 hours ago via mobile · Like



**Karin Love** I'm so sorry. And angry. And fed up. : (  
11 hours ago via mobile · Edited · Like · 3



**Nate Smith** Man up  
11 hours ago via mobile · Like · 2



**Susanna Melvin** 😊  
11 hours ago · Like · 1



**Merry Fay** I don't understand why the city of Santa Cruz has let this happen.. Seems like common sense to run a city as safely and attractively as possible. Not to allow the city to become like a mini east Oakland.. The entire town council should be voted out. Why would any town council let a city become a city full of burms? Who are these people who run Santa Cruz? They must not live here.  
11 hours ago via mobile · Edited · Like · 7



**Inez Pandolfi** We must do something, anything.....  
11 hours ago · Like · 2



**Merry Fay** There needs to be a HUGE demonstration with 1000s of people.. that is the only thing that will bring any attention... City council knows about the problem and nothing changes  
10 hours ago · Edited · Like · 7



**Debi Lauriquet** This is all over the county!! I have seen





**Debi Lauriquet** This is all over the county! I have seen drug deals next to 41st ave, when I am on my lunch break from work. I am scared, but have been taking pictures. I just don't know who can help with this over in this area.

10 hours ago via mobile · Edited · Like · 🇺🇸 1



**Elizabeth Ann Turner** Lynn Robinson and Pamela Comstock are working to clean up Santa Cruz. These problems are the product of years of bad policy by past councils. The problems are now too big for our local resources to deal with.

9 hours ago via mobile · Like · 🇺🇸 10



**Julia Sauer** What were the homeless scary dudes doing?

9 hours ago · Like



**Beth Anderson Moorehead** Don't forget David Terrazas and Hilary Bryant - there are movers and shakers that are moving and shaking. Maybe I'm leaving people out, but those are the folks that seem to be concerned, active, caring and effective. Yay for good leaders!

9 hours ago · Like · 🇺🇸 13



**Lindsay McConnell** And, now Assemblyman Tom Ammiano wants to vote in a Homeless Bill of Rights where they can sit or sleep anywhere, overriding any laws that cities might have in place! 😞

9 hours ago via mobile · Like · 🇺🇸 2



**Lisa Sokolowski Litten** One sitting on the sidewalk one on the street talking aggressively to eachother. When I got back the one sitting was still there and the other left.

9 hours ago via mobile · Like



**Aaron Whiting** They sit or sleep everywhere now! Just drive around pacific ave area in the morning. Sorry you had this happen Lisa 😞

9 hours ago via mobile · Like · 🇺🇸 1





**Jennifer Benson** This makes me so angry and sad! I am so sorry!

9 hours ago via mobile · Like · 1



**Dusty Fohs** "Come back here and I'll stab you in the throat. You want AIDS, muther\*\*\*\*\*?" <-- this coming very loudly out of a pack of guys camped in front of New Leaf on Friday night to an innocent passer-by. They were wasted. Yes, I called the police and they were there in about 30 seconds. "Homeless" has nothing to do with it. They were a pack of jerks with backpacks and a pit bull. The pit bull was by far the nicest of the bunch.

9 hours ago · Like · 9



**Leslie Canter Krzeczowski** Lisa, I am so sorry and so ANGRY over this crap. I wish we had a phone tree so we could get Instant Positive Loitering wherever we needed. Wouldn't it be cool if 50 people showed up to Take Back Peets? And Dusty, thanks so much for calling that in. Unfreakingbelievable. Our policy makers have been showing compassion to the wrong people!

9 hours ago · Like · 11



**Lisa Sokolowski Litten** I am thankful that I have all of you behind me. I really am sad for those not knowing we exist as a community. My tears are for them...not me.

8 hours ago via mobile · Like · 2



**Chrissy Brown** wish I had been with you Momma!

8 hours ago · Like · 1



**Robin Rebecca Rhodes** Lisa, I am with you. I have walked down the middle of the street countless times to avoid having to step over the feet of the transients loitering on the sidewalk next the side entrance to McDonalds on Ocean Street/Washburn Ave and the left side of the old Woodworm Party store. Wondering if the problem will now get worse now that the party store has vacated.

8 hours ago · Like · 2







**Chrissy Brown** I think of the elderly.....who can no longer walk Pacific....to be locked up inside when your feet and legs are still good..breaks my heart.....

8 hours ago · Like · 3



**Chrissy Brown** talked with the Party Store folks as they packed up saturday, too much money for the grief, they are happy to just stay in Capitola

8 hours ago · Like · 2



**Merry Fay** It may be all over the country as the one person mentioned above but Santa Cruz CATERERS to the problem.... You would never see this in places like Carmel or even Half Moon Bay.... Santa Cruz is rated highly unsafe....<http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/ca/crime/>

8 hours ago · Like · 4



**Merry Fay** There may be some good leaders but it is not enough! PEOPLE need to really make effort such as I mentioned, a huge demonstration. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.... nothing has changed at all and there are even proposals to make SC WORSE!  
2 hours ago · Edited · Like · 2



**Elizabeth Ann Turner** Santa Cruz also gets an F on this site:

8 hours ago · Like



**Elizabeth Ann Turner**  
<http://www.areavibes.com/santa+cruz-ca/livability/?r=&zip=95060&ll=37.01053+-122.11783>

8 hours ago · Like · 1



**Merry Fay** Yes SC does get a F and on another site it has the SAME rating as East Oakland

8 hours ago · Like



**Merry Fay** Elizabeth, your site shows Watts, in Los Angeles at only 10 points less than SCI! Pretty sad...

8 hours ago · Like



**Dave Wade** Dig a little deeper into that "areavibes site"





share



**Dave Wade** Dig a little deeper into that "areavibes site" and I question how good their data is. For example, it gives us a "C" for weather, with September the warmest month with an average temp of 55. We get no rainfall, education is only average, and housing is great.

Looking at neighborhood scout, I see that of the 5 safest "cities" in California are Kyburz, Markleeville, and Trona.

7 hours ago · Like · 1



**Joey Zubkin** I haven't been posting on here very long so in case you don't know, I spent the last year working Loss Prevention (Undercover Security) at Rite Aid on Soquel. This place has been a perfect example of an area being overrun by the aggressive homeless panhandlers. It is also an example of how an area CAN be cleaned up even if it seems impossible. They were so aggressive that they would pursue people in the parking lot even after being told that they didn't have any change. I was assigned to the Santa Cruz store and after eliminating the regular thieves I made it my goal to clean up that area and make it a pleasant shopping environment again. Parents would come complain that they couldn't even take their kids to get Ice Cream in broad daylight anymore. So I got with Wholefoods and a few surrounding businesses and declared a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on all of their favorite activities (Panhandling, drinking, smoking within 40 feet of a business entrance, shooting up, smoking crack, urinating, defecating, disturbing the peace, etc.). I also got permission from management from other stores to legally kick people off of their property as well as Rite Aid's property. They were told to leave ONE TIME and one time only. The beauty of private property is that all they need to do is refuse to leave and it becomes a crime (trespass). After they refused once the police were called and they were told that they were no longer free to leave even if they wanted to (funny how being told to stay actually made them want to leave. Too bad. At this point I was the one deciding where they would and would not go). As long as I had them with at least a misdemeanor (they are ALWAYS committing some form of misdemeanor) I was within my legal right to hold them for police...and that is what I did..every day for a few weeks. A few tried to get physically aggressive with me but I quickly ended that (sent one flying in front of his





me but I quickly ended that (sent one flying in front of his friends and they seemed to all learn the lesson). Eventually I had a legal ban on almost every local troublemaker. They would step foot on property and I would call the police. They would get cited. Eventually they stopped coming back and customers and other businesses began to praise our aggressive stance on such behavior. Customers were coming in and saying how much nicer it was.

I realize that the middle of the street is not private property, and I wouldn't expect anyone else to act as I did (and do) but my point is that where there is a will there is a way. Perhaps different legal tactics would be necessary but they exist.

I'm down to figure it out. I am willing to do something about it. Where/when do we start?

6 hours ago · Like · 18



**Linda Day** I was born in SC in 1951, we had a nice town until the UCSC campus and the progressive left moved in. They have been taking over the county ever since and everything wrong with my home town can be traced to their liberal progressive policies. You now have a town where the professional homeless/druggies/punks are welcomed, tolerated and protected. I took my family and left in 1998 and have never looked back. My suggestion, run for city council, school board, county supervisor. Vote out the pandering progressive politicians. Instill some common sense policies that protect your families and your property. Help those who want help and are willing to work for it and let the scum move on to an easier target/town.

5 hours ago · Like · 2



**Joseph Jacobs** You could all learn a lot from a Joey....

4 hours ago via mobile · Like · 1



**Robert DeLaurentis** Have you been to Trona? That is one of the scariest looking places I have ever driven through...

4 hours ago · Like



**Elizabeth Ann Turner** I agree that I have questions with

some of the members on the other Ireland show. Don't call.





**Elizabeth Ann Turner** I agree that I have questions with some of the rankings on the sites I linked above. But Erik Boyee's FBI data also shows Santa Cruz as ranking high in crime. I thought it was interesting that SC also gets an F on amenities.

3 hours ago via mobile · Like



**Beth Thurman** Lisa Sokolowski Litten my tears are for you NOT them.

3 hours ago · Like · 2



**Merry Fay** The sites showing safest or best towns and cities may not be 100% accurate but all the sites consistently show Santa Cruz with a very high crime rates and not very safe..

2 hours ago · Like



**Analicia Cube** Hi Lisa, I love you. As a downtown business owner I agree the mornings are rough. Maybe we should have a TBSC coffee date? I usually run, grab my coffee and run back to Cedar. Either that or I end up on the phone with 911. Friday, I decided to bring the baby down in the morning and stroll with my coffee. Ughh. I had to call 911 on a huge fight on the corner of Walnut and Pacific (hot spot for those of you just trolling our site, yeah we need someone on that corner please) Alas, when Baby Josie gets a little older I don't think morning strolls are possible. I don't want her throwing F-bombs out at 2 years old. Yes, I plan on blaming the street language and not my street responses. Positive: Blame your child's sailor language on someone else and learn to dial 911 while shouting stop it.

2 hours ago · Like · 4



**Brooke Crumpton** Two things. Today I worked in SF and we all know there is a huge homeless problem in SF. However, the homeless in SF are NOTHING like SC. I have come to TRULY realize that we have like 20 truly homeless and then the rest are **fucked up, lazy, transient druggie pieces of shit**. Sorry for the language. If I am not afraid of the

homeless in SF but am scared of the transient population in SC, something is wrong. I realize SF probably has a transient

drug problem but that are not heroin, hard and amphetamine





**Brooke Crumpton** Two things. Today I worked in SF and we all know there is a huge homeless problem in SF. However, the homeless in SF are NOTHING like SC. I have come to TRULY realize that we have like 20 truly homeless and then the rest are fucked up, lazy, transient druggie pieces of shit. Sorry for the language. If I am not afraid of the homeless in SF but am scared of the transient population in SC, something is wrong. I realize SF probably has a transient drug problem but they are not brazen, bold and completely taking over Sf like here. SF was quite clean, very little trash and I only saw one tent. Rolling through town at the corner of River Street and I'm in Hell, 2 trolls, yes trolls NOT homeless, were chugging tall cans and had their shit strewn about, littering and harassing another drunk troll, not homeless man, who was lurking out of the bushes by the Hot Tub place. I shook my head and realized that if SF looks better than SC, we are in for a world of suckiness. Saw 2 different people along highway hitching this way (we went home along the coast), not homeless down on their luck, but young transient guys, thumbing their way to SC. Awesome.

2 hours ago · Like · 6



**Kym Laney** Have any thoughts on Our Homeless/Transient situation?? Come to this very important meeting tomorrow!

Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 PM  
Santa Cruz City Council Chambers -  
809 Center Street

City Council is conducting a study session to learn about the state of Federal and local homelessness, and the policies and resources in place to prevent and end homelessness. The study session will include time for public comment to hear from the community on this issue.

Very informative Report. Must read -->> Pg. 26. (2,044 Arrests showing 115 Coral St.)

<http://takebacksantacruz.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/homelessstudysession.pdf>


about an hour ago via mobile · Edited · Like · 1



Very informative Report. Must read --> Pg. 26. (2,044 Arrests showing 115 Coral St.)

<http://takebacksantacruz.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/homelessstudysession.pdf>  
about an hour ago via mobile · Edited · Like ·  1



**Patti Barich Schell** Brooke Crumpton - ditto on San Fran experience... I spent several days there just recently attending a conference and hoofed it all around town - by myself... same experience you had. Felt totally comfortable in San Fran. Just the opposite here. Had Jury Duty and just the walk from the Santa Cruz County Court House to my house totally sketched me out and I was on high alert the entire time in broad daylight!  
about an hour ago · Like ·  3



**Patti Barich Schell** Even my taxi driver in San Fran - knew about Santa Cruz and it's reputation!  
about an hour ago · Like ·  3



**Jen Casey** Brooke Crumpton: you nailed it. Thank you.  
49 minutes ago via mobile · Like ·  1



**Jen Casey** I apologize. Crumpton.  
48 minutes ago via mobile · Like



Write a comment...



## David Knight

The Doug Dens along the tracks from Almar to Swift are closing for good - it has been 4 years since the first DSC clean - night now the city is weed whacking it down (thank you!) - come be part of this historic mulch spreading celebration - wheel barrows, shovels, and strong backs needed - this Sunday, April 28 10 AM - 1 PM



**Rosemary Balsley**

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**From:** David Knight <hdknight97@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 5:12 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Homelessness

Is homelessness really the issue?

Don Lane wants more Supportive Housing (<http://www.csh.org/>). The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz brings to the County more than \$46.5 million annually in housing assistance funds. What percent of the total housing units in Santa Cruz do you want to allocate to the homeless?

There is a movement that thinks a sanctuary camp is the answer to our problems.

The issues we face (crime, pollution, business relocation)... are they really an issue of homelessness?

I do not think so.

Neighborhoods can't social service their way out of this – support services (particularly unaccountable hand out services) lower neighboring property values, squeeze out businesses, and families leave thereby increasing the rate of decline – it is called urban decay.

Urban decay breeds homelessness – it doesn't end homelessness.

Do we really have to go down this well traveled downward spiral... hit bottom... then decide it's time to climb back out?

I hope not.

David Knight

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## Rosemary Balsley

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**From:** Robert Norse <rnorse3@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 7:58 AM  
**To:** HUFF yahoo groups  
**Cc:** City Council; Monica Martinez; J.M. Brown; kdotson@cohsf.org; Rboysen of CHP; Bob Campbell; Mark (!!) Briscoe; Jonathan (!) Gettleman; Ed Frey; Bryan (!!) Hackett; Mark Merin; Peter Marin; HaggstJ@sutterhealth.org  
**Subject:** A Santa Cruz Activist Looks at City Council's Latest Anti-Homeless Propaganda

City Council's staff report for today's "Study Session" on Homelessness can be found on-line: Go to <http://sire.cityofsantacruz.com/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=495&doctype=AGENDA> and then click on the Homelessness Study Session (CM) link. It's the first of the six documents in the box to the right. The other documents will also be under consideration at Council Plus public testimony.

There will be a hot pot of soup served at 6:45 PM at City Hall today--with a chance to speak out on the issue, compliments of India Joze.

### [An Activist's First Thoughts on the Lastest Propaganda from City Council Staff](#)

by Becky Johnson (posted by Norse)

*Tuesday Apr 30th, 2013 7:50 AM*

Long-time homeless activist Becky Johnson posted the following set of comments on the HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom) e-mail list (also accessible through the HUFF blog at <http://huffsantacruz.org/wordpress/>). A few brief Notes by Norse follows Becky's extensive comments. For easier reading, I've also broken up Becky's long article into sub-headings. The capitalized caustic headings are mine not Becky's.

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BECKY WRITES:

In preparation for its Study Session on Homelessness, a series of documents were generated. The First document is the Agenda Report Here are selected quotes or sections and my comments regarding them.

#### LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL STATS ON HOMELESSNESS: \$ FOR STUDIES NOT SOLUTIONS

(HUD) "Two-thirds of homeless people (390,155) were sheltered in emergency shelter or transitional housing with the remaining one-third (243,627) unsheltered. The percentage of homeless people who are unsheltered did not change from 2011 to 2012."

BECKY: In Santa Cruz, we shelter between 6% - 10% of our homeless population. Or perhaps other localities are less vigorous in counting homeless people who are outside of existing shelters.

"Of the five states that comprise almost half of the nation's homeless population, California accounts for the largest, at 20.7%."

BECKY: This demonstrates that the POLICIES & PRACTICES in Calif. cities fail to stem homelessness more than in other cities in our nation. Pricing housing beyond the means of average workers, students, elders and



criminalizing homeless people for sleeping, using blankets, sitting on a sidewalk, being in a park after hours, etc. has created the worst instances of homelessness in our nation

(HUD) "California has the second-highest rate of unsheltered people at 64.9%" "The San Jose/Santa Clara City & County CoC had the 7th largest number of homeless people among Major City CoCs (7,053)" "The Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC was 6th out of the Smaller Cities, Counties and Regional CoCs with the largest numbers of chronically homeless individuals (967). The Santa Rosa CoC was 4th with 1,014 and the Salinas/Monterey CoC was 7th (794).

BECKY: So not only do we have a larger percentage of people experiencing homelessness, a larger percentage who are unsheltered, we are the 6th out of small cities in number of chronically homeless individuals. Clearly, Santa Cruz is an epic fail when it comes to helping homeless people.

"2002 pledge by the Bush Administration to end homelessness by 2012" NOW: "2010 report "Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness" produced by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and signed by President Obama. The plan aims to end chronic homelessness and veteran homelessness in five years and end homelessness for families, youth and children within the next 10 years."

BECKY: Oh, goody! ANOTHER "10-year plan" to end homelessness.

"HHS and HUD, with the overall trend of moving away from predominantly supplying emergency housing to more comprehensive solutions such as permanent supportive housing, particularly as a solution to chronic homelessness."

BECKY: This is the HUFF position as well. Homeless ppl need more than a mat on a church floor. they need a room with a door they can lock. Hence housing subsidies & motel vouchers which the City of Santa Cruz has a glut of in winter months.

#### Totals and Shelter Status

- 2,771 homeless individuals were counted, which represents a 22% increase from 2009 (2,265), and a 0.6% reduction from 2007 (2,789)
- The number of unsheltered people increased by 38% since 2009
- 77% were unsheltered (2,125) and 23% were sheltered(646), which exceeds the national average of two-thirds unsheltered. Since 2007, the relative proportion of unsheltered to sheltered individuals has been fairly constant.

BECKY: Actually the nation average is 2/3 SHELTERED. So SCC is WAY behind Natl. averages. (see HUD report quoted above)

- Ten-year trend data show the number of homeless persons in Santa Cruz County has decreased since 2000, a 14.4% reduction
- The 2011 annual estimate of individuals who experienced homelessness is 9,041

BECKY: That's between 3% and 4% of our counties population that experiences homelessness EVERY year at some point. Their common problem is lack of money.

76.1% of respondents were unemployed

BECKY: That means 1 out of every 4 homeless people have a job, but are still homeless

- 33% reported income from panhandling.

BECKY: That means 2/3rds of homeless people don't panhandle

37.6% reported earning less \$101-200 per month and 21.8% reported earning less than \$50 per month.

BECKY: With this kind of abject poverty in our midst, no WONDER they are homeless!

54.3% reported receiving \$0 from government income monthly. 23% received \$501-1,000 monthly.

BECKY: This means MOST receive NO govt money at all. Of those that do, MOST receive Social Security disability income which is not enough to forestall homelessness ONLY 22% of homeless people have an income over \$1000/month

274 were veterans

BECKY: So this means that of the 498 surveyed, 55% were veterans????

*This very long analysis continues at*

[http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2013/04/29/18736055.php?show\\_comments=1#18736111](http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2013/04/29/18736055.php?show_comments=1#18736111)

**Rosemary Balsley**

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**From:** Stacey Falls <staceyffalls@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 12:48 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** study session on homelessness

Dear Members of the Santa Cruz City Council,

Lately “compassion” has become a loaded word. “No one wants to be considered un-compassionate”, but some argue “compassion without accountability is nothing more than enabling”. The word “compassion” has become such a buzzword, that it seems people have forgotten what it actually means. Regardless of one’s religious convictions, I think we can all agree that Jesus is a model of compassion. He says, “What you did to the least of these brothers you did to me.” He admonishes us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. If we truly want to be a compassionate town, we have to take this charge seriously. We should do our best to provide for even the most wretched member of our community, and that means doing everything we can to support homeless individuals.

Besides the fact that helping the least of our brothers is the right thing to do, there is evidence to suggest that by helping the most downtrodden, we are also helping ourselves. We all live in this community together, and we won’t be safe as long as there is a large segment of the population that feels alienated and desperate. Charis Kubrin, a criminologist at UC Irvine says social services are the key to rehabilitation, and should help reduce crime. For instance, Day Services at HSC are more than just a meal or a shower; they are an entry point for folks to receive services. Many who come for a meal, stay and enter a program that leads them back to housing. I want City Leaders to make smart decisions based on evidence of what works, not based on caving in to people's fear.

I support:

- 1) Continuing to fully fund all aspects of the Homeless Services Center including Day Services, and all aspects of the Human Care Alliance Services. I understand that their funding has been cut in lean economic times, and that the council is considering cutting it even further. This is counterproductive. Our social service programs should have all the funding they need to operate strong programs. Cutting funding for services means we will spend more in emergency services for things like ambulance rides and police calls. This is not the best way to spend city money.
- 2) Allowing the professionals who work at the Homeless Services Center to make the decisions about how to best operate their programs. They are the experts, and the city council should not mandate how they run their program by tying funding to certain requirements like conducting background checks.
- 3) Investigating ways to further support homeless individuals. Homeless people need a safe, warm place to sleep, but the homeless shelters are woefully inadequate. The city should support finding permanent housing for the most desperate individuals. The city should also support the creation of a sanctuary camp where the large majority of the homeless population can find a safe, supportive atmosphere in which to rebuild their lives.

I want to live in a community that provides support to all people, not just fortunate people. This is a high priority for my

tax dollars! Compassion means paying attention to those in most trouble, and I want a compassionate city.

Sincerely,

Stacey Falls

120 Walk Circle

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831-421-9367

**Rosemary Balsley**

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**From:** Don Cochrane <doncochrane@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 12:49 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Study session on homelessness.

- City Council: please take this seriously, with compassion.

Sent from my iPad

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**Rosemary Balsley**

**From:** Tascha Haut <taschahaut@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Homeless and Societal Impacts

COUNCIL  
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Dear City Council Members:

I am unable to make the meeting tonight regarding your discussion on homelessness and public safety, but I wanted to express my concerns prior to your meeting. My husband and I were both born and raised in Santa Cruz County. We both have careers in which we commute (Saratoga and Carmel), but we have chosen to live in Santa Cruz and raise our family. I sometimes wonder if we made the right decision. We love Santa Cruz, however, there are growing problems in Santa Cruz that cannot and should not be ignored.

In the past 10 years there has been a tremendous increase in crime and aggressive anti-social behavior such as discarded trash, needles, human waste, etc. and if this is allowed to continue it will ultimately destroy our wonderful town. In the past, my husband and I have both worked in careers that put us in direct contact with the homeless population. He was a paramedic and I was an emergency department nurse. I had sympathy towards many of the homeless and their situations. Many were Vietnam veterans and had mental health issues. However, today there is a completely different "homeless" population. The transients and homeless by choice. The new transient drug addicted transients are coming into Santa Cruz because of the City's plethora of free services. These criminal transients know about these resources and are using them but not contributing or caring at all about the destruction they leave behind.

I urge the council to adopt the same terminology regarding the homeless or unhoused population as Monterey County. The homeless are divided into three distinct groups: 1) involuntarily homeless due to unfortunate circumstances; 2) those with a mental health issue and 3) Voluntary transient population that are neither seeking to change their situation and are looking to obtain as many free services as possible but not contribute at all to society. Please consider spending my tax dollars on groups 1 and 2 only and let the criminal transients know that Santa Cruz will not allow them to destroy our beautiful city.

I was raised with the ability to walk anywhere in Santa Cruz without feeling unsafe, unfortunately, that is no longer the case. There are many places in the downtown area I will no longer visit after the abhorrent behavior by some of the transient population. Although I live closer to Trader's Joes in Santa Cruz, I always go to 41st because I do not want my 7 year old son to witness such ugly and anti-social behavior. It is not fun off beat behavior it is anti-social and bad behavior. The homeless people I recall were always polite even if you didn't give them money. The transient of today scream at you and insult you if you don't give them money.

I think day services at the Homeless Shelter should be curtailed significantly. Please consider putting money into other social services such as youth programs or beautifying the entry into Santa Cruz- Ocean Street. In case you haven't noticed it is pretty run down and embarrassing.

I used to be very proud that I was from Santa Cruz, but lately every time I tell someone that I am from here instead of hearing how lucky I am I hear "where the 2 cops got shot" or "you have a bad meth/heroin problem or "your crime is high there." Please carefully consider where our tax dollars get spent so that my son can have the same Santa Cruz that I had as a kid. If nothing is done can you image 10 more years from now. I can assure you that my family and I won't be here.

Thank you for your time,

Tascha Haut

**Rosemary Balsley**

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**From:** Beth Moorehead <bethpm65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 4:10 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Homeless services, etc

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Hi,  
I'm at a point where I think the current system isn't providing very good services for some of our homeless population.  
I think we need an ID program at the shelter, we need to disallow drug abuse around the shelter to make everyone feel safer, and we need true transparency in reporting.  
I'd like to see \$25000 put towards fixing the bathrooms at Grant Park and Ocean View Park instead of using it to send "transients" home with the Homeward Bound program, but I guess I'll have to wait on that. My kids will have to hold it until we get home.  
I can't come to the meeting tonight because fortunately, my husband found work tonight. We just paid our gigantic property tax bill and mortgage and federal taxes (weird that we owe money, must have been that unemployment \$ that put us over the top) and are digging a financial hole deep enough to hold Don's tears. Sorry, but that still gets to me. We barely make it financially here, and as Don said, I'm a tireless advocate which means, I'm tired. My kids are young enough to want to see me in the evening, and I get cranky.  
Thank you for issuing a curfew, and for placing a security guard at Grant Park. Now if he could only walk us home!  
Thank you,  
Beth Moorehead



## Rosemary Balsley

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**From:** Bren Lehr on behalf of City Council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 10:50 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Mathews; David Terrazas; Don Lane; Hilary Bryant; Lynn Robinson; Micah Posner; Pamela Comstock  
**Cc:** Tina Shull; Martin Bernal; Carol Berg; Rosemary Balsley  
**Subject:** FW: homelessness study session

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: d wirkman [mailto:debawirkman@sbcglobal.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 10:46 PM  
To: City Council  
Subject: homelessness study session

April 30, 2012

Mayor Bryant and Council,

When considering funding levels for homeless services in the larger context of social services funding, please bear in mind the pressing need to fund more hard drug rehab beds and sober living/halfway house beds, not only for homeless people but for any of our residents, whether currently homed, transitioning from jail, or living on the streets or in shelters, who need but cannot afford these services. Please be sure to allocate money in the city budget for these urgently needed resources, and also please ensure that residents who need them can access these services without necessarily going through the HSC or through the Drug Court program.

Thank you,

Deb Wirkman  
Santa Cruz

## Rosemary Balsley

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**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** RE: Homeless / downtown behavior on retail

**From:** Bill Tysseling [mailto:bill.tysseling@santacruzchamber.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 8:03 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Homeless / downtown behavior on retail

Tina's report is excellent in reporting business complaints. The Chamber hears these complaint virtually every day, often from businesses but also from shoppers, offices tenants, and others who have negative impacts with homeless and other downtown behavior issues.

It is worth remember the Robert Gibbs report... homeless and other behavior issues... are a very significant cause of local residents in our trade area are not shopping in Santa Cruz. That Gibbs's analysis found that 85% of the purchases made by residents of the Santa Cruz trade area are made outside of the City of Santa Cruz.

Bill Tysseling  
Executive Director  
Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce  
725 Front Street Suite 108  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 457-3713 Extension 108

[www.SantaCruzChamber.org](http://www.SantaCruzChamber.org)

## Rosemary Balsley

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**From:** Bren Lehr on behalf of City Council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 9:34 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Mathews; David Terrazas; Don Lane; Hilary Bryant; Lynn Robinson; Micah Posner; Pamela Comstock  
**Cc:** Tina Shull; Martin Bernal; Rosemary Balsley  
**Subject:** FW: Homeless study session

FYI

**From:** Stephanie H [mailto:sjhsantacruz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 9:31 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Homeless study session

I watched with great interest the meeting this evening. I could not help but notice the total lack of interest and apparent disdain for the many comments of the public of the woman sitting to the right of the mayor. She was wearing a green top. Blond hair. She tossed her head back while citizens tried to get their ideas out before the mayor shut them down. This lady in green sat with her Arms crossed and sat looking down and around while citizens tried to engage the city council to get working on this huge issue. It was obvious time limits were of greater interest than the topic seriously affecting the city or the citizens who want to work on this huge issue. I can not say strongly enough how sad it was to see the total disconnect going on. Shame on the mayor for tolerating her behavior and giving the appearance of only offering a forum and not offering any encouragement that they were interested in solving the problem. Sincerely, Stephanie h.

## Rosemary Balsley

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**From:** Bren Lehr on behalf of City Council  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 11:12 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Mathews; David Terrazas; Don Lane; Hilary Bryant; Lynn Robinson; Micah Posner; Pamela Comstock  
**Cc:** Tina Shull; Carol Berg; Martin Bernal; Rosemary Balsley  
**Subject:** FW: how much money do we spend on homelessness

FYI

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**From:** Micah Posner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2013 11:10 PM  
**To:** City Council; Martin Bernal; Tina Shull  
**Subject:** how much money do we spend on homelessness

Dear Council Members,

From the below, it appears that we do NOT spend a lot of money on homelessness as a COUNTY.

Micah

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Peter Connery <[connery@appliedsurveyresearch.org](mailto:connery@appliedsurveyresearch.org)>

In a relative, per capita sense, does our county/ city spend a high level of money on supporting homeless people here in Santa Cruz?

In general, I would say readily say no but the calculation has a lot of caveats. Don told me that the ballpark City budget for homeless services was around \$233k in "community programs" and around \$80k for the winter shelter contribution. This is exclusive of miscellaneous County contributions and certain staff and admin expenses. So, with these numbers the City outlay specifically would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200-\$300 per year for every homeless person identified in the City limits of Santa Cruz during the homeless census (2013 numbers are not public yet). In March 2012 it was announced that HUD awarded \$1.6 million to homeless programs in the County for 2013 which works out to about \$450-\$600 per homeless person in the County. Other Counties in the state get more per head because they have more programs and more shelters which increase their awards. Santa Cruz only shelters around 75-80% of their homeless so there are fewer programs to fund and therefore less award.

What's the level of homelessness in Orange County?

Orange County reported 6939 homeless persons in 2011.

Ideally, someone from your company would be available to publicly answer these questions from the dias at the City's Homeless Survey Session at 7PM at the City Council Chambers.

We will see what we can do but are pretty tapped with other commitments as national homeless reporting is due right now in counties all over the country.

Micah Posner

**Peter Connery**

Vice President

Applied Survey Research

<http://appliedsurveyresearch.org>

CENTRAL COAST OFFICE

P.O. Box 1927 ▪ 55 Brennan Street

Watsonville, CA 95077

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Mayor Hillary Bryant  
Santa Cruz City Council Members

May 1, 2013

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I attended the “study session on homelessness” last evening. After standing and listening to the many good folks implore the council not to cut funding to the HSC I decided to go home and watch the discussion on the tube. I had hoped to hear new ideas on how to cope with the behavioral problems that plague our little city.

Santa Cruz has a nasty drug problem. Our homeless population is “at risk” in this regard. I have personally witnessed low-level drug dealing all around our shelter. Math and heroin are commonplace, particularly with young people. I am acquainted with many older men camping around my neighborhood. I give them odd jobs. They have kicked the habit. They will not use the shelter. Maybe they have something to offer.

One southern California city, Simi Valley, has organized a task force because of heroin problems in their schools. I invite you to google Simi Valley Heroin Task Force. Scroll through the data and you will find the make up of the task force, which includes 2 city council members, 2 school district board of education members, 2 judges, members of their chamber of commerce, and members from “Not One More” (referring to kids who have overdosed). This task force started in 2012 and has recently come up with 35 recommendations. We could learn from their work.

Heroin and meth kill, sadly not just the soul.

Having raised my family, I am out of touch with teachings about drugs in schools. I do know grandparents in this town who have grandkids in trouble with drugs. Many cannot afford to send these kids to substance abuse residential treatment centers. The intervention comes when caught by police. And the cycle begins.

The 180/180 advocates are on to something. Hopefully the community, the entire county really, can absorb more folks who want better for themselves and their families, their lives. In my opinion, the HSC site located on the most trafficked intersection in our county is at best poor and can be dangerous. Some services could be located in other parts of our county.

Thank you for your dedication.

Sincerely,

Cathy Puccinelli

Today, my mom and I, were doing errands, we saw 4 discarded needle caps on the sidewalk outside Donnelly's chocolates. Then outside CHASE we saw a junkie steal a bike, then ~~met~~<sup>heard</sup> some other junkies.

Zach, Age 10



# **ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE CITIZENS COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

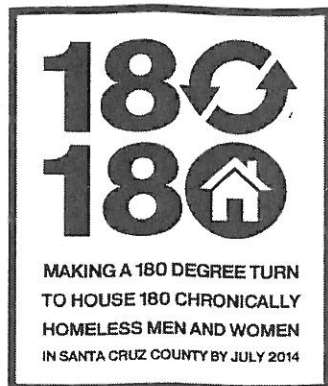
**TO DISCUSS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS  
HOMELESSNESS THAT IS PRACTICAL, AFFORDABLE  
AND HUMANE.**

**SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS PLAN TO BE DISCUSSED ARE; HOW TO:**

- CULTIVATE THE HUMAN POTENTIAL WITHIN THE HOMELESS POPULATION.
- EMPLOY HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN SALVATION & PAY THEM FOR DOING SO.
- MOVE STREET PEOPLE FROM HOMELESSNESS TO SELF-HELP AND SELF-RELIANCE EN MASSE.
- PROMOTE FINANCIAL AUTONOMY VIA FOR-PROFIT AND NON-PROFIT FUNDING STREAMS.
- FORM A 501C3 NON-PROFIT, STREET PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (SPA), THAT WOULD OPEN A THRIFT STORE SOON THEREAFTER & WHICH WOULD EMPLOY ABOUT 40 PEOPLE PART TIME.
- PROVIDE INCOME FROM AGRICULTURE, LIGHT MANUFACTURING, RETAIL, R&D, ETC.
- BUILD AN ECO-VILLAGE OF 250-300 DWELLINGS THAT RENT FOR \$100 EACH, PER MONTH.
- INTRODUCE AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING MODEL BY USING A 10'X16'X11½' WORKSHOP, MADE BY TUFFSHED AND THAT RETAILS FOR LESS THAN \$4,000, AS AN EXAMPLE.
- IMPROVE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH BY EMPLOYING MORE SOPHISTICATED PARADIGMS.
- SAVE MONEY, REDUCE CRIME & CLEAN UP THE STREETS BY MOVING PEOPLE INDOORS.
- DETOX OUR COMPANIONS WHEN THEY ARE READY, NOT WHEN A BED IS READY.
- CREATE POSITIVE FEEDBACK ENVIRONMENTS WHILE CURTAILING NEGATIVE INFLUENCES.
- BUILD A MODEL COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATION THAT CAN BE REPLICATED NATIONWIDE.
- BUILD A NATIONAL NETWORK AND SHARE IDEAS TO CREATE, EVOLVE AND DESIGN THE FUTURE OF THESE COMMUNITIES AND THE GRASSROOTS SUB-ECONOMY THEY CAN CREATE.
- REDUCE NEED FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, FOOD STAMPS, MEDICARE, EXTRA POLICE, MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES, SOCIAL SERVICES, ETC.
- ESTABLISH EFFORTS IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIALISM FOR INCREASED PUBLIC BENEFIT.

**FRIDAYS @ 6:30 P.M.      BEGINNING APRIL 5, 2013**  
**LOUDEN NELSON CENTER      301 CENTER ST. RM. TBA**





## What is 180/180?

**180/180** is a community effort in Santa Cruz County to help 180 homeless men, women and families turn their lives around. We've partnered with the 100,000 Homes campaign and have a goal to house 180 of our most vulnerable, long-term, chronically homeless men, women and families by July 2014, moving them into Permanent Supportive Housing, with the support services they need to stay housed.

# REPORT: *Registry Week Survey Results*

## The Plan:

The plan for Registry Week (May 7 – 11, 2012) was to locate, identify and interview the most vulnerable homeless men, women and families in Santa Cruz County, and **rank order them according to their mortality risk**, so we know who to prioritize for housing and services.

## How We Did It:

We talked to local experts, concerned community members and professional outreach providers to identify where and who to survey, which resulted in dividing the County into seven (7) sectors and forty (40) target areas. We also conducted surveys in strategic food, service and shelter locations. This required the hard work and dedication of over 100 volunteers working in teams throughout Santa Cruz County at 4 – 6am for three days.

## Survey Methodology:

Following the survey methodology and best practices from 100,000 Homes and other communities we set out to create a name, location and photo registry of vulnerable street-homeless individuals in Santa Cruz County.

- Information is confidential and protected
- Participation is voluntary
- Consent agreements to survey and/or photograph
- \$5 gift card as thanks

## Survey Results:

- Over 500 people encountered
- 325 completed surveys
- **155 (47%) identified as Vulnerable** – with high mortality risk

### Profile of 155 Most Vulnerable\*

\*results & data that follows, unless otherwise noted, is for the 155 most vulnerable

- 22% Female / 78% Male
- Oldest – 75 / Youngest – 20
- Average Age – 49
- 24 Veterans
- 24% Hispanic
- Average number of years living in SCC area – 19
- Average number of years homeless – 8
- 28% have some college education
- 23% have been in Foster Care

### What is the Vulnerability

**Index?** A questionnaire that identifies vulnerable factors as follows: 6 months homeless and at least one of the following:

1. Liver disease
2. End-stage Renal (Kidney) disease
3. HIV+/ AIDS
4. Age over 60
5. History of cold weather injuries
6. 3 or more ED visits in past 3 months
7. 3 or more hospital and/or inpatient episodes in past year
8. Tri- morbidity (mentally ill + abusing substances + chronic medical problems)

### Where do you usually go for Health Care?

- 30% visit HPHP Coral St. Clinic
- 16% visit Dominican Hospital
- 18% other Clinic
- 48% have been to the ED in the past 3 months, with 3 participants having 7+ visits in the past 3 months
- 52% have been admitted to the hospital in the past year

### Mortality Risk Identifiers (from Vulnerability Index)

1.) Liver Disease	32%
2.) End-Stage Renal (Kidney) Disease	14%
3.) HIV+/AIDS	2%
4.) Over 60	22%
5.) History of cold weather injuries	17%
6.) 3 or more ED visits in past 3 months	16%
7.) 3 or more hospital and/or inpatient episodes in past year	17%
8.) Tri-Morbidity (mentally ill + abusing substances + chronic medical problems)	65%

### 37 people with 5, 4 or 3 risk Identifiers

- 5 Identifiers: *Four people (4)*
- 4 Identifiers: *Ten people (10)*
- 3 Identifiers: *Twenty three (23) people*
- 2 Identifiers: *Forty seven (47) people*
- 1 Identifiers: *Seventy one (71) people*

### Complex Care = High Utilization

37 of the most vulnerable homeless individuals (5, 4 or 3 identifiers) have a combined total of 67 hospital admissions in the past year. The average cost of a hospital admission is \$8,500\*.

The math:  $\$8,500 \times 67 = \$569,500 / 37 = \$15,392$  - the average hospital cost per year for the most vulnerable homeless men and women in Santa Cruz County.

\*Source: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) H-CUP (Healthcare Cost & Utilization Project) 2006

### Medically Fragile:

- 38% have a permanent physical disability that limits mobility (i.e. wheelchair, amputation, unable to climb stairs)
- 43% have had a serious brain injury or head trauma requiring hospitalization or surgery
- 52% have been victims of violent attacks since becoming homeless

#### Commonly Reported Reason for Homelessness:

- Loss of Job / Low Income
- Substance Abuse
- Divorce / Separation
- Mental Health
- Eviction / Rent Increase

#### Where do you sleep most frequently?

- Streets – 41%
- Shelter – 15%
- Beach / Riverbed – 12%
- Vehicle – 12%
- Park / Forest – 10%

### What we'll do next –

- **Begin housing the person with the highest risk of mortality – at the top of our rank ordered list**
- Continue surveying beyond those already interviewed, prioritized by vulnerability
- Continue partnerships with businesses, non-profits, volunteers, government, churches, and the philanthropic community

### What you can do to help –

- Sponsor one person/family with move-in cost for \$1,000
- Donate Furniture and housewares
- Tell your friends about us on Facebook
- Sign up to volunteer for outreach and ongoing surveying
- Invite us to speak about 180/180 and these results at your organization, school, church, civic or government group

## Thank you to our generous and supportive community partners –

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Homeless Services Center                              | • Twin Lakes Church                      |
| • Santa Cruz County<br>Homeless Persons' Health Project | • Resource Center for Nonviolence        |
| • United Way of Santa Cruz County                       | • Homeless Garden Project                |
| • Second Harvest Food Bank                              | • Pajaro Valley Loaves & Fishes          |
| • Potter's House  | • Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center |
| • PV Shelter Services                                   | • St. Francis Catholic Kitchen           |
| • Salvation Army – Watsonville                          | • Front Street Housing, Inc.             |
| • Mountain Community Resources                          | • River Street Shelter                   |
| • County VA Outreach                                    | • Downtown Santa Cruz Outreach Services  |
| • Applied Survey Research                               | • Appleton Foundation                    |



To learn more, to sign up to volunteer and/or to donate, please visit [www.180santacruz.org](http://www.180santacruz.org). To arrange in-kind donations or for a speaker, or presentation, please contact [phil@180santacruz.org](mailto:phil@180santacruz.org) / (831) 334-4976

My name is Tracey Heggum; I am the Program Manager of River Street Shelter, a program of Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center. I have been a resident of Santa Cruz since 1995. I would like to tell you about the collaborative efforts of the three different agencies providing services at 115 Coral Street—the Homeless Services Center, Homeless Person’s Health Project and River Street Shelter.

First I’d like to say that we stand together! We stand together in the successes, the challenges and in our commitment to find solutions. We TOO want a healthier community, where everyone can thrive and get their needs met in a way that doesn’t infringe on others’ safety, health and peace of mind.

We provide an array of services on our campus, including : emergency shelters that serve men, women and families, HUD subsidized transitional housing, health care, mental health care, job preparedness and job search tools, housing search assistance and support, Homeward Bound funds to assist people in getting a bus ticket back their place of origin, basic needs such as meals, mailing services, hygiene facilities, clothing, linkage to critical support services such as affordable housing programs, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services, the V.A, county mental health services, SSI, Medi-Cal and other benefits and any other resources that will help our participants in gaining independence and moving towards permanent housing.

Collaboration is key in assisting people with their individual and complex needs. This collaboration includes daily exchanges of information between the programs on our campus and monthly security and case management meetings, wherein representatives of our programs meet to discuss individual cases and security issues. This collaboration includes the participation of Lieutenant Dan Flippo of the Santa Cruz Police Department. We have found Lieutenant. Flippo’s involvement to be helpful in minimizing security and safety issues in the Harvey West neighborhood and amongst the homeless community. This collaboration has served to improve communication between homeless services and law enforcement. While we are aware this study indicates an increase in calls to the police to 115 Coral Street, we believe that increase is in large part due to this collaborative effort. We have been encouraged to call the police when we are aware of safety issues on or around our campus.

Unfortunately, the community doesn’t always get to hear about the effectiveness of these collaborative efforts—those don’t come to the attention of police, paramedics, fire fighters, community members or business owners. I think it’s important that you know, we ARE having success in our work at the 115 Coral St. campus. Dave Walters is a perfect example of that...I’d like to introduce him now...

City Council Meeting 7PM 30 April '13

John Dietz

Mayor and City Council Members, Good Evening.

My name is John Dietz , a resident of Santa Cruz county and a 180/180 Housing Navigator volunteer for finding housing for the homeless. I first served as a volunteer for the 180/180 program in May of 2012 surveying homeless persons in Santa Cruz so that they could be provided housing and supportive care that brings them out of a death spiral and expensive emergency services.

There are several important facts about the 180/180 program. On a weekly basis, SC County health HPHP, Housing Authority, Veterans Administration , Homeless Services Center and other non profits collaborate to house and provide supportive services for the most chronically and medically vulnerable homeless in Santa Cruz. This collaborative effort has harnessed the energies of service providers resulting in housing double the rate homeless persons, at least 2 times the rate prior to the programs inception. I can tell you first hand that once a homeless person is housed, their medical condition is stabilized and vastly improved. I have witnessed persons previously living outdoors , once housed receiving medical care that stabilizes their health and mental condition.

Many homeless are unable to complete an application or are confused with the paper work required to get them assistance or housing. The 180/180 program bringing together the collaborative efforts of city, county and federal agencies makes this happen.

Just reflect on the fact that twice as many homeless are receiving housing and supportive services because of this program. And the program is not even a year old. This program is working!

Thank you

IT SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL PROGRAM TO HOME UP NAT 180/180 PROGRAM  
and the collaborative efforts

HPHP Homeless Persons Health Project

# CRIMINALIZATION FACT SHEET

The United States has a long history of using mean-spirited and often brutal laws to keep “certain” people out of public spaces and consciousness. Jim Crow, Sundown towns, Anti-Okie laws, Operation Wetback, and Ugly laws targeted various populations based on their racial, economic, social, immigration or disability status. Understanding this history will provide context for the exclusionary and discriminatory laws that specifically target homeless people for what are referred to as “Quality of Life” or “Nuisance Crimes.” They criminalize sleeping, sitting, loitering, panhandling and even food-sharing. Just like the laws from our past, they deny people their right to exist in local communities. They have their roots in the Broken Windows Theory which holds that one poor person in a neighborhood is like a first unrepaired broken window; if such a “window” is not immediately fixed or removed, it is a signal that no one cares, disorder will flourish, and the community will go to hell in a hand basket.



- **Anti-Okie Laws**

The agricultural workers who migrated to California for work in the 1900s were generally referred to as “Okies”. They were assumed to be from Oklahoma, but they moved to California from other states, as well. The term became derogatory in the 1930s when massive numbers of people migrated West to find work. In 1937, California passed an “anti-Okie” law which made it a misdemeanor to “bring or assist in bringing” extremely poor people into the state. The law was later considered unconstitutional.

- **Jim Crow Laws**

After the American Civil War (1861-1865), most Southern states passed laws denying black people basic human rights. Later, many border states followed suit. These laws became known as Jim Crow laws after the name of a popular black-face character that would sing songs like “Jump Jim Crow.”

In California, Jim Crow played out against Chinese immigrants more than black people. From 1866-1947, Chinese residents of San Francisco were forced to live in one area of the city. The same segregation laws prohibited inter-racial marriage between Chinese and non-Chinese persons and educational and employment laws were also enforced in the city. African and Indian children had to attend separate schools from those of white children. In 1879, the California constitution read that no Chinese people could vote and the law was not repealed until 1926. Oregon and Idaho had similar provisions in their constitutions.

In 1891, a referendum required all Chinese people to carry a “certification of residence” card or face arrest and jail. In 1909, the Japanese were added to the list of people who were prohibited by law from marrying white people. In 1913, “Alien Land Laws” were passed that prohibited any Asian people from owning or leasing property. The law was not struck down by the California Supreme Court until 1952.



- ***Ugly Laws***

From the 1860s to the 1970s, several American cities had laws that made it illegal for people with “unsightly or disgusting” disabilities to appear in public. Some of these laws were called “unsightly beggar ordinances”. The first ordinance was in San Francisco in 1867, but the most commonly cited law was from Chicago. Chicago Municipal Code section 36034 stated:

***“No person who is diseased, maimed, mutilated or in any way deformed so as to be an unsightly or disgusting object or improper person to be allowed in or on the public ways or other public places in this city, or shall therein or thereon expose himself to public view, under a penalty of not less than one dollar nor more than fifty dollars for each offense.”***

- ***Operation Wetback***

Operation Wetback began in 1954 in California and Arizona as an effort to remove all illegal, Mexican immigrants from the Southwestern states. The Operation was by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and coordinated 1,075 border control agents along with state and local police agencies. The agents went house-to-house looking for Mexicans and performed citizenship checks during traffic stops. They would stop any “Mexican-looking” person on the street and insist on seeing identification. Operation Wetback was only abandoned after a large outcry from opponents in both the United States and Mexico.

- ***Sundown Towns***

Sundown Towns did not allow people who were considered “minorities” to remain in the town after the sun set. Some towns posted signs at their borders specifically telling people of color to not let the sun set on them while in the town. There were town policies and real estate covenants in place to support the racism, which was enforced by local police officers. Sundown Towns existed throughout the United States and there were thousands of them before the Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibited racial discrimination in housing practices.

Sundown Towns simply did not want certain ethnic groups to stay in their towns at night. If undesired people were to wander into a Sundown Town after the sun had set, they would be subject to any form of punishment from harassment to lynching. While the state of Illinois had the highest number of Sundown Towns, they were a national phenomenon that mostly targeted anyone of African, Chinese, and Jewish heritage.

- ***Today..... Broken Windows Laws***

Today’s laws have their roots in the broken-windows theory which holds that one poor person in a neighborhood is like a first unrepaired broken window and if such a “window” is not immediately fixed or removed, it is a signal that no one cares, disorder will flourish and the community will go to hell in a hand basket. A direct outcome of this theory is the introduction of legislation to criminalize the presence of homeless people in public. Current “Quality of Life” laws also take a certain population into account: homeless persons. Using these laws, people are criminalized for simply walking, standing, sleeping, and other regular human behaviors. In other words, they are penalized and harassed simply because of who they are. Just as with Jim Crow, Ugly Laws, Anti-Okie Laws, and Operation Wetback, how people look and their very existence is the basis for charging them with criminal behaviors.



## Confronting the Myth of Choice: Homelessness and *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*

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Tanene Allison\*

*In Jones v. City of Los Angeles,<sup>1</sup> the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down Los Angeles's vagrancy law as effectively criminalizing homelessness. This issue includes two scholarly pieces that address this set of issues—Adil Haque's Lawrence v. Texas and the Limits of the Criminal Law,<sup>2</sup> and Sarah Gerry's Recent Development, Jones v. City of Los Angeles: A Moral Response to One City's Attempt to Criminalize, Rather than Confront, the Problem of Homelessness.<sup>3</sup> In addition to these voices from the legal scholarship community, we wanted to include the voice of someone who can speak to the issues raised in Jones from a different perspective—a person who has experienced homelessness.*

In my homeless shelter I was told not to read the newspaper in the morning. I was also instructed not to initiate talk with the other shelter residents about politics or local homeless policy. It was the summer of 2001, I had just turned twenty, and I was homeless in San Francisco.

The shelter sat in what is considered one of San Francisco's ghettos, the Tenderloin, and was populated by up to forty men and women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four. We were a hodgepodge of a group: diverse in many ways, quite similar in many others. An overwhelming number of us grew up in abusive households. Some grew up in San Francisco; others hopped a bus there when there were no other options, hoping the city would provide them with an opportunity to craft a better life. The population of queer-identified youth was notable, several having run from conservative hometowns and intolerant families.

Almost all of the youth at the shelter had been failed by the individuals and systems charged to protect and nurture them. Collectively, we were failed by abusive households and overwhelmed child protective services systems, failed by underfunded school districts, and failed by a harsh economy.

Having been one of those youths, failed by the policies crafted to protect me—and then, later, having been one of those studying public policy in the hallowed halls of the Ivy League—one theme stands out for me in

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<sup>1</sup> 444 F.3d 1118 (9th Cir. 2006).

<sup>2</sup> 42 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 1 (2007).

<sup>3</sup> 42 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 239 (2007).



the debate and reality of homelessness: the Myth of Choice. The Myth of Choice asserts that homeless people are homeless only because they make bad choices, and it is a myth that lies behind many flawed policies. These policies lead to an institutional failure that causes further social stigmatization and criminalization of the homeless population—all of which create the whirlpool pull that is poverty's cycle.

The Myth of Choice is a response to society's cognitive dissonance—the disconnect between the success we believe is possible and the existence of homelessness. We, as a society, want to believe ourselves to be a kind and a just people who respect the value of fairness. We want to believe that all we have created has been won by our hands alone, and that our society allows for those with less than us to better themselves through hard work. This is the premise of our country, the premise of the "American Dream." It is simply too much for us, as a society, to believe that the American Dream might be flawed, or, for some, potentially impossible to accomplish. The presence of homelessness in our society does not easily fit with society's belief in the American Dream. It is incomprehensible, as we go about our daily lives, to drive casually by or step over individuals without food or shelter. It is impossible to believe that our communities create and allow for such disparity. And yet these incomprehensibilities are a part of the daily experience of millions of Americans. The Myth of Choice soothes society's cognitive dissonance.

The Myth of Choice creates a serious gap between the policies created to deal with homelessness and the actual problem of homelessness in terms of the factors that cause it and the needs it creates. The homeless are viewed as bad people who have made bad choices, and who thus deserve not assistance and support but condemnation and rebuke.

Out in society, my homelessness transformed my entire identity. As a homeless individual I was suddenly viewed by default as representing what is wrong in society. I had spent years working with children and youth, but when I sat on the steps of a school near the shelter, I was instantly seen as a threat, deserving of a call to the local police. If I sat in a park, I was not enjoying a sunrise (or, more realistically, occupying the only place that I could at that hour), I was a threat to public comfort.

While I was homeless, those who came to know and respect me often had difficulty believing that my homelessness was not a chosen experiment with poverty. They thought that my being young, healthy, hard-working, and smart must have meant that I was just experimenting with what it would be like to be homeless, that I couldn't truly be a member of such a stigmatized community. Those who did not know me, but knew I was homeless, decided that I must be bad, secretly addicted to something, or otherwise defined as somehow different from that which was familiar to them.

Society's vision of the homeless was far from reflected in the reality of the folks I shared the street with. In the shelter, we came to understand that if we didn't look out for each other, no one else would. We would ask

about each other's days and would tip the newcomers off to important facts, such as that the apple juice was better than the orange, and that the undercovers would attempt to bust you around the corner just for standing there. We helped each other cope with the violence that is a near daily reality. Slowly, and in pieces, my peers in the shelter would tell their stories. Whose mothers had died. Whose fathers had raped them. The overwhelmed child protective service agency and underfunded education system that had failed them. The endless lists of towns that turned them away. Despite the fear and the violence and exhaustion that are so common to the experience of homelessness, some of the most compassionate people I've ever known were those with whom I shared the homeless shelter.

Whereas inside the homeless community we saw ourselves as unique individuals trying to make the most out of the cards we had been dealt, society saw us in a very different light. The homeless are viewed as an inherently suspect group. This collective social stigmatization has allowed for policies that criminalize the group as a whole—and make it even more difficult for the homeless to achieve their dreams.

This societal disrespect has evolved into laws that criminalize the actual existence of homeless individuals, rather than focusing on their absence of choice. In Los Angeles's Skid Row, the location of one of the largest homeless populations in the United States, there are more homeless people than available shelter beds. Despite this situation, no consideration was given to whether human beings had a choice to rest in public places; homelessness was simply criminalized. In *Jones v. Los Angeles*,<sup>4</sup> the Ninth Circuit took Los Angeles's Myth of Choice to task. The *Jones* court recognized that for homeless individuals in Los Angeles's Skid Row, mere existence would put them at risk for ticketing, fines, and jail time.<sup>5</sup> They deemed this effective criminalization of homelessness unconstitutional.<sup>6</sup>

The court in *Jones* held that the law of Los Angeles County violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.<sup>7</sup> This punishment was perpetrated by L.A.P.D. chief William Bratton, who said about homelessness: "If the behavior is aberrant, in the sense that it breaks the law, then there are city ordinances . . . You arrest them, prosecute them. Put them in jail. And if they do it again, you arrest them, prosecute them, and put them in jail. It's that simple."<sup>8</sup>

Unfortunately, it's not so simple for those who are attempting to escape homelessness while living through such prosecution. *Jones* highlights how such poorly crafted policy responses are brought about, in large part, by the Myth of Choice—they are laws built upon a presumption that the homeless have choices that they simply lack. In Los Angeles, the home-

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<sup>4</sup> 444 F.3d 1118 (9th Cir. 2006).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1131.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 1130–37.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 1122.

less of Skid Row found "resting in public" were fined and incarcerated, despite the fact that there were more of them than shelter beds, and despite the fact that fining the homeless (who cannot pay the fines) is an unproductive use of legal resources. *Jones* struck down this practice, but other laws driven by the Myth of Choice remain. In San Francisco and New York, general assistance funds have been slashed under the much-touted theory that those funds would inevitably be spent on drugs and booze. Society does not consider that the same cash could be spent on laundry, bus fare, and toiletries, all of which are difficult for the homeless to obtain.

The presumption that underlies these policies is flawed; it is no easy task to escape the cycle of criminalization and related poverty. The youth I shared the shelter with fiercely refused to believe that they would find themselves as homeless adults, living on some town's Skid Row. Despite unavoidable violence and despair, the shelter I stayed in also housed some of the most powerful optimism I have ever witnessed. My peers and I, despite our circumstances, had big dreams and made an exhaustive attempt to find ways to beat the odds and turn those dreams into eventual realities. These youth were not necessarily destined to grow up into adults repeatedly arrested for want of shelter. They were not necessarily so destined, and yet, almost all of them remain homeless as adults. Escaping homelessness, in large part, seems to be an anomaly. The homeless youth I knew were teetering at the edge of poverty's cyclonic downward pull, and many of them were unable to find a way out. The Myth of Choice says, "Had these youth only applied themselves, they would no longer be on the street." The Myth of Choice leads policymakers to believe that the youth with whom I shared the shelter somehow made the conscious decision to call the streets their home forever.

An attempt to escape homelessness presents a complex minefield of challenges, making the leap to stability vastly more difficult than the Myth of Choice would have us believe. While homeless and attempting to dress for a job interview, I was baffled by the dilemma of how to acquire proper shoes or clothes to wear. My interview had been arranged through a friend of a friend, so I was already entering the job market more connected and supported than most homeless attempting to gain employment. Still, I was terrified that my appearance would give away my homelessness. A staffer at the shelter took me into a back room where extra used clothes were kept in bags and tossed on the floor. We dug about the torn bags and, about an hour later, emerged with something resembling a presentable outfit. My borrowed shirt and too-small shoes were not ideal; they were enough. I showed up at my job interview early, nervous, and stiffly overdressed.

Society and the makers of public policy would likely applaud my tenacity in finding work, and potentially would highlight such an example of how it is in fact possible for one to escape homelessness. Shortly into my job, however, the violence at the shelter increased. I was sleeping less

and less at night, for fear of my own safety, and it was beginning to take its toll on me.

Every morning I attempted to pull together a decent-looking outfit and, unable to afford bus fare, walked downtown to work. While at work, I tried to act like what I hoped others would perceive as a non-homeless individual. I tried to stifle the shaking that eventually resulted from lack of sleep. And after a series of several particularly violent nights, I left the shelter for fear of my own safety. I was lucky enough to have couches to move to, but for many homeless the streets are the only option that is safer than the shelters. Not everyone has the access to the shelter and clothing that are prerequisites to employment and permanent housing.

The layers upon layers of complexity and challenge that one must overcome to escape homelessness are daunting. They are daunting to the homeless individual seeking a better life, and they are daunting to a society that hopes to craft policies in reach for the ideal. The Myth of Choice fails to recognize this complexity and results in policies that only exacerbate the problem of homelessness.

Due to the continued belief that homelessness is just the result of bad choices, society often provides responses to punish "choices" where choice is actually absent. The homeless of Los Angeles's Skid Row were not choosing to be a nuisance by falling asleep underneath the sky when there were no available shelter beds, they were merely responding to a lack of actual choice. Policies that punish effectively involuntary actions waste the resources of those who hope policies lead to some societal good.

I am talking about policies that futilely punish the homeless for things they have no control over, and effectively criminalize their existence in the process. I understand the concern non-homeless individuals have about aggressive panhandling, or having to steer children clear of drugged or drunk individuals on the street. But not all homeless perpetuate these problems, and it is unjust to punish the class for actions of individuals. In addition, services that will address the root of these problems—such as supportive housing and mental health and recovery services—are not implemented nearly enough. As a society, our inability to believe that well-meaning, hard-working individuals could still remain subjects of abject poverty leads to our mischaracterization of the entire contingent of homeless as criminal by default, just for the ways in which poverty forces them to live their lives. It is this result of our collective cognitive dissonance that has allowed for useless and harmful homeless policies to become the norm in too many jurisdictions.

The primary causes of homelessness are the lack of decent-paying jobs and affordable housing. The lack of these necessities is often correlated with histories of abuse and mental health and addiction concerns. As these are the core reasons homelessness occurs, and since no one would choose to be homeless, solving these concerns would decrease homeless-

example of the difficulty  
to escape  
homelessness:  
shelter's violence  
caused her to lose  
sleep and thus made it  
harder to perform well  
at her job

ness and thus decrease the potential negative effects of having the homeless on the streets.

What homeless folks need is somewhat simple to define. First, homeless individuals need stable housing. In order to maintain such stable housing, the homeless need equally stable sources of income, and the skills required to be gainfully employed. And, for those with additional hurdles to leap before being able to manage these things, there must be serious and intensive support services through mental health and recovery programs that work together and that should operate in conjunction with stable and supportive housing.

None of what I'm writing is new or surprising. In fact, it is overwhelmingly basic and simple. But the above needs, and the policy responses that could be crafted to address them, are still somehow decidedly different than the policies taken to task in *Jones*, and implemented to some degree as the primary response to homelessness in cities throughout our nation. We, as a society, have the wrong focus.

In reaching for an ideal through the creation of our policies, we chose the wrong path. Rather than seeking to form solutions that would lift the homeless out of their predicaments, we began to criminalize their predicaments in a supposed attempt to solve the problem of homelessness. This policy presupposes that the opportunities to escape from poverty are accessible and, further, it assumes that if we punish poverty (as if poverty itself were not punishment enough!), folks will then opt out of such despair. In reality, this criminalization leaves us all wanting. It pushes the homeless deeper into that vicious cycle of poverty by forcing them to deal with additional fines, jail time, and the inability to focus their time and energies on working toward more stable lives. It wastes public resources in police time, jail beds, and court proceedings, resources which could be focused on more promising responses to the problem of homelessness. And it reinforces our inability to face our society's flaws head on, in the faces of the people we drive by, step over, and turn away from daily.

The cognitive dissonance society feels at the presence of homelessness in the face of the American Dream must lead to some resolve. If that resolve is to criminalize a population so that we can more easily look away, and leave the American Dream to go further unquestioned, we do a great disservice to ourselves as a society. *Jones* serves as a good rallying call for a fresh look at the policies we implement to deal with homelessness. Whenever a society criminalizes the mere existence of a population within the society, serious attention must be paid as to how and why we so easily declared this population as an "other." Homelessness in America challenges us to face, with vision unclouded by the Myth of Choice, our concepts of national identity and our belief in equality and systems that allow for more promising tomorrows.

What do we really know about the “magnet theory” related to homeless services? There are many claims made that many people come from far away to get homeless services in Santa Cruz. Is there any data or evidence on this that goes beyond anecdotes?

What do we know about how many people are homeless by choice? Is there a definition of “homeless by choice” that has some agreed upon meaning in the field of homelessness research.

Are homeless services in Santa Cruz really more plentiful and generous compared to similar communities in California? There are many claims along these lines. What is the data or evidence on this?

[Are other communities experiencing similar challenges with homelessness, transients, and homeless campsites? ]

Where are services and programs for homeless persons located around our county? Many claim that everything is in the City of Santa Cruz and we should test that claim. Are there programs in other jurisdictions? What does Watsonville have? What’s in the San Lorenzo Valley? Are there programs in the County? How much is the County spending on homeless programs?

What resources are available for homeless persons with IV drug addiction? If a person with an addiction wants to seek treatment, where can they go? What would the treatment process look like for a homeless person that seeks treatment?

What homeless programs are working well in moving people out of homelessness and which ones are not doing that?

[What is the difference between “emergency” homeless programs and transitional homeless programs?]

How does the federal government decide which homeless services programs are worthy of support? What are the federal priorities? How is Santa Cruz lining up in relation to those priorities?

What is the longer history of campsite cleanups in the City? It seems to me there have been many larger pushes over the years that we should recount just to put recent efforts in context.

How does the City’s camping ordinance compare to similar ordinances in other communities? Is ours stronger, weaker or average?

How much is the city spending on homeless services now compared to 5 years ago?

ISSP 17389; Day Ctr 67,047 ; PSCH 107,955; Rebele 62,500