



# **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020**

**6:00 p.m. Meeting Begins**

Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room  
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz

## **A G E N D A**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. Minutes from Feb. 4th, 2020 CACH meeting**
- III. Potential Rescheduling of March 3, 2020 CACH Meeting**
- IV. Staff Presentation on Encampment Management Challenges**
- V. Report from Safe Sleeping Subcommittee on Safe Sleeping Sites and Camping Ordinance**
- VI. Oral Report from CACH Public Engagement and Public Health/Hygiene Subcommittees**
- VII. Approve CACH Co-Chair Report to City Council**
- VIII. Oral Communications (for items not listed on the agenda)**
- IX. Adjournment**

**Adjournment** -- The Committee Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) will adjourn from the public meeting of Feb. 18, 2020 to its next meeting of March 3, 2020.

*The City of Santa Cruz does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the City Clerk's Department at 420-5030 in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance. The Cal-Relay system number: 1-800-735-2922.*

*Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) meetings will be recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes.*

Tony Hill Room, Civic Auditorium  
307 Church Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060



**DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)**  
**MEETING**

Regular Meeting  
Feb. 4, 2020

6:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING – TONY HILL ROOM, CIVIC AUDITORIUM

**Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) Agenda**  
**Feb. 4, 2020**  
**6:00 pm**

- I. **Call to Order Roll Call (6:00 pm)** – Committee Members present: Stoney Brook, Ami Chen Mills-Naim, Candice Elliott, Serg Kagno, Don Lane, Taj Leahy, Evan Morrison, Brooke Newman, Aran Nichol, Stina Roach\*, Alie Soares, Rafael Sonnenfeld and Dwaine Tait

\*Ms. Roach left the meeting at 7:32 pm bringing the total possible voting members for the day down to 12

- II. **Minutes from Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> CACH Meeting (6:01 pm)**

Mr. Lane moved to approve  
Seconded by Mr. Tait  
**Minutes approved by consensus**

- III. **Appointment of CACH Member (6:03 pm)**

The CACH did not expand the membership at this time due to the fact that none of the nominees received the minimum 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote total.

Mr. Lane moved:

the CACH recognizes there were a large number of qualified applicants but choose not to expand the CACH at this time, but reserves the right to expand the membership at another time.

Seconded by Mr. Kagno  
**Motion approved by consensus**

**IV. Midterm Policy Report - Process and Content (6:23 pm)**

Mr. Kagno moved:

To request that the Safe Sleeping sub-committee to allowed to present directly to the City Council.

Seconded by Mr. Sonnenfeld

Move to table until after Agenda Item V by Mr. Leahy

**Motion tabled**

**V. Oral Report from CACH Subcommittees and CACH Action on Midterm Policy Report (6:39 pm)**

***Public Engagement Sub-Committee (6:39 pm)***

Ms. Chen Mills-Naim moved:

The Santa Cruz City Council launch a pilot of the Wisdom Council process around the issue of homelessness in both the City and County.  
Cost: up to \$10,000

Seconded by Mr. Lane

Mr. Brook offered a friendly motion to amend. Ms. Chen Mills-Naim did not accept friendly motion.

Motion was not voted on as a substitute motion was approve/seconded by Ms. Chen Mills-Naim

Mr. Brook offered a substitute motion:

The CACH recommends the City Council consider use of the Wisdom Council model to assist in building community dialogue. While the model may not directly resolve the concerns related to homelessness, it may be useful in creating a stronger and more collaborative understanding of our mutual desires for a safer, dynamic and healthy community where everyone is respected and supported.

Motion seconded

**Motion failed by vote (4 opposed, 4 in favor)**

Mr. Lane made a motion to amend the Ms. Chen Mills-Naim's original motion to include Mr. Brook's motion as follows:

The Santa Cruz City Council launch a pilot of the Wisdom Council process around the issue of homelessness in both the City and County (at a cost of up to \$10,000). If the Council chooses not to move forward with a pilot wisdom council aimed at homelessness, then the CACH recommends the City Council consider use of the Wisdom Council model to assist in building community dialogue. While the model may not directly resolve the concerns related to homelessness, it may be useful in creating a stronger and more collaborative understanding of our mutual desires for a safer, dynamic and healthy community where everyone is respected and supported.

Seconded by Ms. Chen Mills-Naim

Mr. Morrison made a friendly amendment, approved by Ms. Chen Mills-Naim and Mr. Lane

**Motion failed by a vote (6 opposed, 5 in favor)**

Ms. Chen Mills-Naim moved:

The City engage in a *pro-active* process around community engagement, before Council decisions around location and safe sleeping sites are made. That the Council budget an adequate portion of staff time to coordinate community outreach and engagement. We recommend allocating up to \$10,000 toward public engagement services via a private contractor or consultant, if the time commitment exceeds what can be done by city staff.

Seconded by Ms. Nichol

Mr. Brook, Mr. Lane and Mr. Kagno made friendly amendments approved by Ms. Chen Mills-Naim

**Motion approved by consensus**

**Safe Sleep Sub-Committee (7:43 pm)**

Mr. Brook moved:

The CACH recommends that the Council not adopt the proposed camping ordinance as drafted on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. The CACH has prepared a draft of detailed recommendation for consideration. The CACH asks that these recommendation be collaboratively discussed with the CACH and with the new Homeless Coordinator, City Manager, City Attorney, City law enforcement to develop a comprehensive camping ordinance and standard operating procedures for implementation.

Seconded by Mr. Morrison

Mr. Kagno and Ms. Nichol made friendly amendments, approved by Mr. Brook

**Motion was not voted on as the substitute motion was passed**

Ms. Elliott offered a substitute motion:

The CACH recommends the City Council:

- not implement the Camping Ordinance until the establishment of safe sleeping location(s) authorized by the City;
- prioritize outreach over enforcement;
- increase the overnight camping vehicle parking allocation at churches and business up to 5; and
- allow the CACH additional time to review the camping ordinance and make recommendations.

Seconded by Ms. Newman

Mr. Kagno made a friendly amendment, approved by Ms. Elliott

Ms. Newman made a friendly amendment to remove Mr. Kagno's amendments, approved by Ms. Elliott

**Motion accepted by consensus**

Mr. Kagno moved:

To have the Safe Sleeping sub-committee present directly to the City Council.

Seconded by Mr. Sonnenfeld

**Motion failed by a vote (7 opposed, 3 in favor)**

*Public Health Sub-Committee (9:45 pm)*

Ms. Chen Mills-Naim made a motion for reconsideration

The CACH recommends the City Council consider use of the Wisdom Council model to assist in building community dialogue. While the model may not directly resolve all concerns related to homelessness, we believe it may be useful in creating a stronger and more collaborative understanding of our mutual desires for a safer, dynamic and healthy community where everyone is respected and supported.

Seconded by Mr. Leahy

**Motion approved by vote (8 supported, 3 opposed)\***

\*This motion was originally believed to have failed due to not receiving a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. But after consideration of this body's bylaws, the motion passed as it received 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of those present at the time of the vote.

VI. Oral communications (9:52 pm)

VII. Adjournment (9:55 pm)  
Approved by consensus



## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)

### AGENDA REPORT

DATE: Feb. 12, 2020

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Staff Presentation on Encampment Management Challenges

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive staff's presentation on current encampment management challenges and use this context setting in policy deliberations and setting forth recommendations to City Council.

**BACKGROUND:** As all Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) members are aware, the City has been operating under Municipal Code Title 6 Health and Sanitation, Chapter 6.36 Camping for several decades. Since its original adoption in 1978, Chapter 6.36 has been amended via ordinance on several occasions to clarify intent and language, and set forth guidelines for permitted camping (in public and private areas) and enforcement of unpermitted camping.

Since its inception, Chapter 6.36 has been the topic of perennial Council policy discussions as to its morality, usefulness and impact to those living unsheltered. Throughout those discussions, many common threads have appeared as exemplified below in the attached February 1999, Task Force Report – Review of Camping Ordinance (Krohn, Beiers, Sugar). These threads are highly consistent with the CACH's recent dialogue and observations, and capture much of the sentiment behind the CACH's policy recommendations considered thus far.

#### **General Observations and Conclusions:**

- The unsheltered population is diverse both in its characteristics and in its needs. There are many subsets of "the homeless," each having particular needs and/or desires with respect to shelter. These range from the individuals and families who are temporarily without permanent housing to the individuals who pursue a nomadic lifestyle and seek neither shelter nor permanent housing. For some, the emergency shelter environment is not an option due to a variety of reasons--lifestyle preferences, privacy and personal security concerns, health concerns, schedule constraints for those who work and pets. Also, many persons who live in vehicles, such as campers, do not regard themselves as homeless.
- Concerns of the citizenry regarding camping/sleeping are focused more on the behavioral problems of some

campers than on the physical act of sleeping. Unacceptable behaviors include public urination and defecation, littering, trespassing, substance abuse and disorderliness. While there are separate code provisions to deal with these behaviors, their enforcement requires actual police observation and/or considerably greater involvement by citizen complainants.

- There is widespread interest and willingness on the part of neighborhood residents and business owners to help the homeless who need and desire help. This willingness, however, seems to diminish proportionately with the risk of exposure to the above mentioned unacceptable behaviors.

### **Findings of the Task Force:**

#### **With respect to the Camping Ordinance:**

- The ordinance regulates the act of sleeping. The regulatory parameters should properly be limited to the subject of the ordinance, i.e., camping. But until there is community consensus on where it is acceptable to sleep, the task force is unable to recommend modification to the ordinance in this respect.

- The penalties prescribed by the ordinance are unduly onerous to a highly vulnerable component of the population. The current fine, nominally \$60, is actually \$162 with mandatory penalty charges added in. The alternative is 33 hours (nearly a work week) of community service.

- The ordinance should provide additional means to accommodate sleeping in vehicles as long as municipal laws are not violated and neighbors are not threatened.

#### **With respect to homeless issues generally:**

- Lack of convenient, 24-hour public rest rooms is a serious problem for the homeless that contributes to the objectionable behavior situation. In the downtown area, this shortage of facilities is also a problem for shoppers and visitors.

- There is an urgent need for additional shelter beds year round.

- The needs of clients can be better served by modifying the daily regimen of armory shelter operations and by providing additional transportation options.

Most recently, in the wake of federal court decisions concerning the enforcement of laws prohibiting camping on public property against homeless individuals, including *Martin v. Boise* (2018) 902 F.3d 1031, and *Miralle v. City of Oakland* (2018) U.S. Dist. LEXIS 201778, on April 9, 2019, the City Council elected to suspend enforcement of Chapter 6.36 until analysis could take place to ensure amendments to the code were compatible with emergent case law. The CACH plays an important role in this analytical phase by virtue of the diverse perspectives you bring to the table along with the community dialogue you have engaged in. However, one critical missing piece of the CACH's education on this subject is the City's current management



challenges stemming from the intersection of crisis level outdoor camping, lack of adequate shelter beds, and effective suspension of enforcement. This layering of need and lack of enforcement/sheltering tools has created significant challenges in managing encampments (and, most importantly, supporting the needs of those sleeping outdoors), and their associated public/environmental/community health and safety issues.

**DISCUSSION:** In June of 2019, the City commenced weekly Encampment Assessment Team (Team) meetings to coordinate proactive engagement with, and response to, unsanctioned encampments. The Team, comprised of staff from the City Manager's and City Attorney's Offices and Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Water, Fire and Police Departments, has developed a working assessment tool to triage and prioritize encampment response while amendments to the Chapter 6.36 are being contemplated and new sheltering options are being developed. The Team utilizes the assessment tool to provide an objective, balanced and compassionate response to encampments, taking into account the limited resources at the City's disposal to provide alternative shelter, provide proactive outreach to encampment occupants, and ultimately stave off the significant public health, safety and environmental risks associated with large scale/unmanaged encampments.

Through creation of the working assessment tool (attached), which remains in draft form and is updated often to reflect new criteria and conditions, staff has identified critical/urgent criteria that, from our perspectives, encompass conditions never suitable for camping. Those include:

- Encampment is in a public right of way (road) and/or is blocking pedestrian traffic.
- Encampment is blocking or impeding City staff (and/or agents of the City) access to City infrastructure.
- Encampment is on private property without the owner's permission.
- Encampment is in an area/configuration that constitutes a danger to occupants.
- A fire or open flame is present at the encampment.
- An imminent fire risk has been determined by the Fire Chief and a fire risk operational plan has been initiated.
- Encampment is within the boundaries of the Water Director's safe drinking water/watershed habitat map.
- Encampment is within the boundaries of the Parks and Recreation Director's environmentally sensitive habitat map.
- Encampment has already been closed due to Urgent Criteria or Scoring of High Priority with Assessment Tool.

Through our nearly one year of outreach and assessment of existing encampments, those that fit within these critical/urgent conditions presented safety risks/real danger for encampment occupants, significant risk to sensitive habitat and drinking water supply, catastrophic wildfire risk, and the impediment of access to public right of ways and City infrastructure.

As readers will note, the assessment tool prioritizes response for encampments not meeting these critical/urgent conditions through an objective scale including the following criteria:

environmental impact/riparian zone, proximity to school, park w/ playground or private property/residence, size/density of camp, and violence/criminal activity. This scale allows for staff to provide a measured and thoughtful response, with, on one side, an option to leave the encampment in place (while providing outreach and supplies) to, on the other side, immediately begin removal of the encampment, with levels in between.

While the tool has been incredibly useful in assessing risks associated with encampments and providing a measured response, it falls critically short in implementation. Without an ordinance regulating camping, staff must rely on other code sections to mitigate, at times, significant public health and safety issues. Much of the time these code sections have limited functionality in that they require very specific/real time observable conditions (blocking a side walk to an extent not passable by a stroller or wheelchair, for instance), and at times, can only be used when significant health and safety risks are present. In other words, we, as a City, must wait for significant nuisance issues to arise before we can act, thereby creating more burden on, and risk to, the encampment occupants/City staff and neighboring environment/community. For the City to be able to move from reactive response to large scale encampments (or even smaller scale that meet the critical/urgent criteria), we must have Council policy that provides specificity around time, place and manner for which camping is permitted and not, and enhance our shelter and safe sleeping access.

As Krohn, Beiers, and Sugar noted in their 1999 Task Force Report, “[c]oncerns of the citizenry regarding camping/sleeping are focused more on the behavioral problems of some campers than on the physical act of sleeping. Unacceptable behaviors include public urination and defecation, littering, trespassing, substance abuse and disorderliness. While there are separate code provisions to deal with these behaviors, their enforcement requires actual police observation and/or considerably greater involvement by citizen complainants”. These issues are ever-present and the limitations of using separate code provisions still exist. Reliance on alternative code sections is simply not functional nor transparent.

With these considerations in mind, staff recommends the following policies for CACH’s consideration:

- Amendments to Chapter 6.36 should not permit camping in highly sensitive/at risk/access impeding areas as noted in the assessment tool. Other critical/urgent conditions could be identified by the CACH or Council through public input and engagement. Those conditions may include proximity to schools/play areas, etc.
- As the CACH contemplates policy around new safe sleeping programs and community consensus is built around siting, an interim ordinance should be recommended to Council to ensure management tools are available for staff now regarding encampments that meet the critical/urgent criteria.
- Daytime restrictions on camping would enhance management outcomes and should be considered by the CACH. Daytime restrictions on camping should be coupled with increased access to storage and day center options.
- The CACH may elect to put forward the working assessment tool for Council consideration as a Council Policy, with revisions made through community and

stakeholder engagement, to provide transparency and consistency with the management of encampments that fall outside of the critical/urgent criteria.

These recommendations are not meant to be exhaustive, rather focused on helping to mitigate our current encampment management challenges. Staff from the City Manager's Office, and Fire, Police, and Parks and Recreation Departments will be available at the February 18, 2020 meeting to present this material and respond to questions.

Submitted by:

Susie O'Hara  
Assistant to the City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- a) February 23, 1999 Task Force Report
- b) Draft/Working Encampment Assessment Tool



CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA REPORT

**FILE COPY**

DATE: February 19, 1999

AGENDA OF: February 23, 1999  
FROM: City Council Task Force to Review the Camping Ordinance  
SUBJECT: TASK FORCE REPORT

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council: (1) introduce an ordinance amending Chapter 6.36 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code; and (2) by motion establish two task forces: (a) a task force to address needs of the homeless community identified in the course of this review, and (b) a task force to address the availability of public restrooms in the City.

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**BACKGROUND:** The City Council Task Force to Review the Camping Ordinance (task force) was created by the City Council on December 8, 1998, as part of an eight-point motion directing various actions with respect to homeless issues. The task force's charge was to review the camping ordinance and report back in February with any recommended changes.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Process:** The task force conducted the review as an intensive information-gathering and public input process. Public input was sought on the effect of the ordinance on persons without shelter as well as the community generally, and whether any changes might be warranted. During the month of January the task force held:

- nine focus group sessions to elicit the perspective of various interests in the community. Meetings were held with homeless service providers, County social service agency representatives, law enforcement representatives, homeless activists, the Downtown Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the homeless (two sessions) and the Harvey West business and residential community. In addition, members of the task force had individual contact with various other neighborhood groups.
- a public forum to receive input from the community at large. One hundred twelve persons attended and fifty-nine spoke at the three-hour session on January 25 in the Loudon Nelson Community Center.
- regular meetings on a twice-weekly basis, during which considerable time was set aside to receive public comment. Meetings of the task force were conducted as public meetings and those attending were afforded the opportunity to participate in the discussions.

ITEM: 27

The task force evaluated the results of enforcement of the ordinance by City police and park rangers over the past year, with special interest in the penalties incurred by those cited. In addition, the task force examined the ordinances and camping regulation experience of similar coastal communities (Santa Barbara, Santa Monica and San Luis Obispo, California, and Eugene, Oregon). The 1997 petition for a local ballot initiative on the subject was also reviewed.

Finally, over the course of the review the task force/City Council received a significant volume of postal and electronic mail as well as over 100 telephone calls from citizens.

All documentation pertaining to the review--minutes of meetings, reports of research and correspondence--has been maintained on file in the Council office for review by Councilmembers. Additionally, copies were available for public review at the Central Branch of the Public Library.

**General Observations and Conclusions:** The comments and viewpoints provided to the task force touched upon a broad range of homeless issues and the experience and concerns of Santa Cruz residents (including the homeless) with respect to those issues. The discussion inevitably moved beyond the specifics of the Camping Ordinance to these broader issues, and solutions to some of the issues with the ordinance will only be found in addressing the broader issues.

It became clear early on that we did not have an accurate or acceptable sense of the numbers of those that we were trying to assist with modification of the ordinance. The unanswered but paramount questions were: How many children are living in vehicles? How many individuals will seek case management? These are issues for another group to address.

A number of common threads emerged in the voluminous and free-ranging input provided to the task force. They are summarized here as a foundation for the findings of the task force and to begin to set the framework for further inquiry into the broader issues regarding homelessness.

- *The unsheltered population is diverse both in its characteristics and in its needs.* There are many subsets of "the homeless," each having particular needs and/or desires with respect to shelter. These range from the individuals and families who are temporarily without permanent housing to the individuals who pursue a nomadic lifestyle and seek neither shelter nor permanent housing. For some, the emergency shelter environment is not an option due to a variety of reasons--lifestyle preferences, privacy and personal security concerns, health concerns, schedule constraints for those who work and pets. Also, many persons who live in vehicles, such as campers, do not regard themselves as homeless.
- *Concerns of the citizenry regarding camping/sleeping are focused more on the behavioral problems of some campers than on the physical act of sleeping.* Unacceptable behaviors include public urination and defecation, littering, trespassing, substance abuse and disorderliness. While there are separate code provisions to deal with these behaviors, their enforcement requires actual police observation and/or considerably greater involvement by citizen complainants.

- *There is widespread interest and willingness on the part of neighborhood residents and business owners to help the homeless who need and desire help.* This willingness, however, seems to diminish proportionately with the risk of exposure to the above mentioned unacceptable behaviors.

**Findings of the Task Force:**

*With respect to the Camping Ordinance:*

1. The ordinance regulates the act of sleeping. The regulatory parameters should properly be limited to the subject of the ordinance, i.e., camping. But until there is community consensus on where it is acceptable to sleep, the task force is unable to recommend modification to the ordinance in this respect.
2. The penalties prescribed by the ordinance are unduly onerous to a highly vulnerable component of the population. The current fine, nominally \$60, is actually \$162 with mandatory penalty charges added in. The alternative is 33 hours (nearly a work week) of community service.
3. The ordinance should provide additional means to accommodate sleeping in vehicles as long as municipal laws are not violated and neighbors are not threatened.

*With respect to homeless issues generally:*

1. Lack of convenient, 24-hour public rest rooms is a serious problem for the homeless that contributes to the objectionable behavior situation. In the downtown area, this shortage of facilities is also a problem for shoppers and visitors.
2. There is an urgent need for additional shelter beds year round.
3. The needs of clients can be better served by modifying the daily regimen of armory shelter operations and by providing additional transportation options.

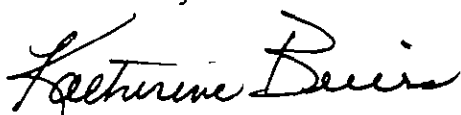
**Recommendations for Council Action:**

1. Introduce the amendments to the Camping Ordinance as attached. The amendments accomplish the following:
  - a) Hours during which camping/sleeping is prohibited, currently 11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., are changed to 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.
  - b) The prohibition of sleeping without bedding, tent, hammock or other protection or equipment is deleted.


- c) Two additional options are provided to allow camping in vehicles. Currently, up to three vehicles are allowed in the parking lot of a religious institution. The proposed change would also allow up to two vehicles in the parking lot of a business and not more than one in a residential driveway, with the consent of the owner/occupant.
  - d) The fine is changed from "not less than \$50" to "not more than \$20," and the alternative of no more than eight hours of community service is added.
  - e) A repeat violation within 24 hours, rather than the current 48, would be a misdemeanor. This change reduces the likelihood of an infraction becoming a misdemeanor.
  - f) A provision is added to allow dismissal of citations by the City Attorney if the armory winter shelter was full at the time of citation issuance.
2. Establish a task force to address needs of the homeless community that have been identified in this review process. (See Attachment 1.)
3. Establish a task force to address the availability of public rest rooms in the City. (See Attachment 2.)

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Income to the City from fines (less than \$1,000 annually) would be reduced. Costs associated with activities of the task forces to be appointed are unknown.

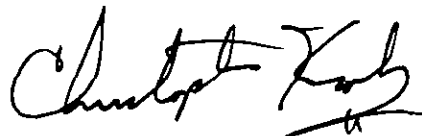
Submitted by:



Katherine Beiers  
Task Force Chair



Keith Sugar  
Task Force Member



Christopher Krohn  
Task Force Member

- Attachments: Proposed Ordinance  
Attachment 1 -- Task force notes prepared by Councilmember Krohn  
Attachment 2 -- Rest Room Task Force memorandum from Councilmember Krohn

In Council Office for Review: Minutes, Correspondence and Research Materials

27-4

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AMENDING  
SECTIONS 6.36.010, 6.36.020, 6.36.040 AND 6.36.050  
OF THE SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING SECTION 6.36.055  
TO THE SANTA CRUZ MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO CAMPING

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Santa Cruz as follows:

Section 1. Section 6.36.010 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“6.36.010 CAMPING PROHIBITED.

No person shall camp anywhere in the city of Santa Cruz, whether on public or private property, except as hereinafter expressly permitted. “To camp” means to do any of the following:

(a) Sleeping – ~~11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.~~ 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. To sleep at any time between the hours of ~~11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.~~ 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. in any of the following places:

(1) Outdoors with ~~or without~~ bedding, tent, hammock or other similar protection or equipment;

(2) In, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, ~~whether with or without~~ bedding, tent, hammock or other similar protection or equipment;

(3) In, on or under any parked vehicle, including an automobile, bus, truck, camper, trailer or recreational vehicle.

(b) Setting-up Bedding – ~~11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.~~ 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. To establish or maintain outdoors or in, on or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, at any time between the hours of ~~11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.~~ 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., a temporary or permanent place for sleeping, by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, blanket, mattress, tent, hammock or other sleeping equipment in such a manner as to be immediately usable for sleeping purposes.



ORDINANCE NO.

(c) Setting-up Campsite – Anytime. To establish or maintain outdoors or in, on, or under any structure not intended for human occupancy, at any time during the day or night, a temporary or permanent place for cooking or sleeping, by setting up any bedding, sleeping bag, blanket, mattress, tent, hammock or other sleeping equipment or by setting up any cooking equipment, with the intent to remain in that location overnight.

Section 2. Section 6.36.020 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.36.020 CAMPING PERMITTED.

Camping may be permitted in the city of Santa Cruz only under the following circumstances:

(a) Camping in public areas specifically set aside and clearly marked for public camping purposes;

(b) Camping events sponsored and conducted by and under the direction and control of the Santa Cruz City parks and recreation department;

(c) Camping events authorized by the city council pursuant to Section 6.36.030;

(d) Camping: (i) In the yard of a residence with the consent of the owner or occupant of the residence, where the camping is in the rear yard, or in an area of a side yard or front yard that is separated from view from the street by a fence, hedge or other obstruction; or (ii) Inside of a licensed and registered motor vehicle in the parking lot on the site of a religious institution with the written consent of such institution, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no more than three vehicles shall be permitted at any one location; or (iii) Inside of a licensed and registered motor vehicle in the parking lot on the site of a business institution with the written consent of such business institution, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no

27-6

ORDINANCE NO.

more than two vehicles shall be permitted at any one location; (iv) Inside a licensed and registered vehicle in a residential off-street driveway with the consent of the owner or occupant of the residence, where the driver/occupant of such vehicle is in possession of a valid driver's license, provided that no more than one vehicle shall be permitted at any one location.

Camping shall not be permitted under this subsection subsections (c) and (d) where it is conducted in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance because of noise, inadequate sanitation, or other matters offensive to persons of ordinary sensibility; nor where the camping is of such frequency, intensity or duration as to constitute a use of land prohibited by any provision of Title 24 of this code; nor where the camping activity would be prohibited under any other provision of this code concerning use of mobilehomes; nor where any fee, charge or other monetary consideration is collected for the privilege of camping or for any services or the use of any facilities related thereto; nor where the covenants, conditions and restrictions of a duly organized homeowners association would prohibit the activity in the residential area subject to the covenants, conditions and restrictions.

Section 3. Section 6.36.040 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.36.040 PENALTY – SINGLE OFFENSE.

Any person who violates any section in this chapter is guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to a fine of not less more than ~~five~~ twenty dollars. Alternatively any person who violates any section in this chapter, in lieu of a fine may, if that person so requests, be required to provide no more than eight hours of community service.

Section 4. Section 6.30.050 of the Santa Cruz Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

27-7

ORDINANCE NO.

6.36.050 PENALTY – SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE WITHIN ~~FORTY EIGHT~~ TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

Any person who violates any section in this chapter and is cited for such violation, and who within ~~forty-eight~~ twenty-four hours after receiving such citation again violates the same section, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 5. Section 6.30.055 is hereby added to the Santa Cruz Municipal Code to read as follows:

**6.36.055 CITATIONS ISSUED WHEN WINTER SHELTER ARMORY IS FULL.**

**Any citation issued for a violation of this chapter shall be dismissed by the City Attorney in the interest of justice if, at the time of citation issuance, the Winter Shelter at the Santa Cruz National Guard Armory is filled to capacity.”**

Section 6. This ordinance will take effect 30 days from the date of final adoption.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers:

NOES: Councilmembers:

ABSENT: Councilmembers:

DISQUALIFIED: Councilmembers:

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

27-8

ORDINANCE NO.

PASSED FOR FINAL ADOPTION this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999, by the following

vote:

AYES: Councilmembers:

NOES: Councilmembers:

ABSENT: Councilmembers:

DISQUALIFIED: Councilmembers:

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

This is to certify that the above  
and foregoing document is the  
original of Ordinance No.  
and that it has been published or  
posted in accordance with the  
Charter of the City of Santa Cruz

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

27-9

# Notes From the City Council's Homeless Task Force

Prepared by City Council Task Force Member, Christopher Krohn  
(December 8<sup>th</sup> to February 19<sup>th</sup> 1999)

## I. Consistently agreed upon problems/issues/concerns:

- **Sanitation**—litter, urination, defecation
- **Fear**—fear of the homeless, fear of the police, fear of “skin-heads, fear of people sleeping in your yard and not knowing who they are
- **More beds** between March 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>
- **behavior**—urinating, defecating, and littering—these are the real issues to be targeted
- **unemployment**
- **substance abuse**—especially the increase in heroine use among young people in S.C.
- **mental illness**
- **Shelter**—missing the bus, teenagers are not allowed in without their parents, 4:45am wake-up call too early, mixing together everyone with a variety of problems, one gives up their self sufficient-functioning adult freedom once you go into shelter

## Other problems cited (not clear if there is any kind of consensus):

- Fear of people sleeping in front of your house in a van
- criminalizing the act of sleeping
- magnet theory—if we provide services, more homeless will come (Tom N., Loudon Nelson neighbor, stated at a community meeting: “In 1977 there were efforts to keep the homeless out. There are more now than ever even *with the laws.*”)
- Repealing the Camping Ordinance would further threaten women’s safety
- Some current homeless service providers worry there will be a community backlash against their programs if the Camping Ordinance is over turned
- Overturn the “sleeping sections” of the Camping Ordinance (6.36) not the whole ordinance
- Homelessness was an election issue and many people are counting on the current City Council to address the issue of homelessness in the City of Santa Cruz
- environmental degradation is occurring along the river levee and in the Pogonip
- Police need special training on how to approach and talk to the homeless
- Increase the number of restrooms and keep them open 24 hours per day

II. Consistently Agreed Upon Solutions:

**A. Data Collection—we need to immediately undertake extensive data collection**

Working with the Community Action Board (CAB) and/or independent polling firm, identify an adequate amount of funding to do comprehensive data collection on the following:

- How many people are actually homeless in the City (and County?) of Santa Cruz?  
Taking into consideration all the variables: seasonal, short-term and long-term, reasons (job loss, substance abuse, mental illness, seniors, single mothers, spousal abuse, other)
- How many people actually sleep in their vehicles on a given night in the city of Santa Cruz
- Include homeless person/people in this data collection activity
- The current projections of homeless in Santa Cruz County is estimated to be between 3000 and 3500 with 450 total shelter beds, about 500-1500 in the City of Santa Cruz with about 240 beds (only 50 beds between March 15<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>) According to the United Way study (year?) 3-7% of our county's inhabitants have been homeless at some time in the past 5 years

**B. Safe, secure, well-managed camping Area**

- Where will it be?, who will manage it?, didn't we try this before and it was a failure?

**C. Safe, secure, well-managed overnight vehicle parking area—**

How to accomplish either of these and where seem to be the two issues which need to be further investigated

- D. Stabilizing (long-term) funding needs of current Homeless programs
- E. More social workers needed to work directly with homeless population
- F. More jobs and job training
- G. Address urination and defecation issues with more bathrooms
- H. Address litter problem with more litter baskets and river cleanups, similar to how beach garbage is controlled in the summer-time
- I. A task force leading to a permanent city commission which addresses the issues of the homeless and houseless community. The Commission would elevate the status of the homeless and provide a permanent place within the local government in which to seek out solutions to this continuing crisis within our community and county.

- Make-up of task force/Housing and Homeless Commission
    - 1 member selected by each councilmember (7 total)
    - 1 member from the homeless community
    - 1 member from the business community
    - 1 member from the homeowner community
    - 1 member from the student community (registered student)
- total number of task force members: 11

**(Information Gathering Work of Task Force)**

- gather further information from other cities concerning what they are doing about homelessness (centralize the information)
- Homeless person should be hired to help do staff work of task force
- Series of town hall style meetings conducted by task force (on various aspects of homelessness) to obtain additional community input—do a more thorough job of advertising (posters in cafes, telephone polls, and university bus stops)

**Mission of task force:**

*Utilizing the report of the City Council Task Force, the major work of this community task force would be to help implement the solutions which the Santa Cruz community has suggested in the report. That is, the task force would 1) undertake the collection of data, 2) prioritize the needs of the homeless community, 3) assign dollar amounts and resources necessary for each, and 4) report back to the City Council in a timely fashion (3-6 months?)*

*The City Council, for its part, has to be very serious and generous in terms of resources which it allocates to the task force. City Council Task Force members agree there is wide-ranging consensus within the business, homeless, homeowner, and homeless activist communities. Now is the time to act upon this issue. Now is the time the community seems willing to put resources, time, and money into solving some of these lingering problems.*

**III. Other Solutions Cited:**

- camping permits issued by a "Department of Housing and Homeless Services" using means testing to determine who gets into a parking and/or camping area
- We must address the behavior (urinating, substance abuse, verbal abuse) and not the act of sleeping
- sleeping zones—get ticket or coupon from city agency
- Allowing 1 vehicle to park in resident's off-street driveway
- raise minimum wage, rent control
- providing more showers
- survival pack produced by former homeless (in cooperation with CAB?), on how to live, work, sleep and eat while homeless
- Special training for police on how to approach homeless (do they receive this now?)
- Allow vehicular campers to park at the Cedar and Church street's garage, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, giving priority to women with children between the hours of 11pm and 7 am.
- Work citations off doing community service—cleaning up the litter along the river, Harvey West Park and Lighthouse Field

Solutions cited in addressing people who live in their vehicle:

- park at the courthouse from 11pm to 6 or 7 am, put out port-a-potties, maintain strict security, make very clear: no drinking and no drugs
- “Bob’s Trailer Park,” and expand and improve facilities
- utilize the downtown River and Front Street parking garage for vehicle parking from 10pm to 6 or 7 am—allow single men on the second floor, mothers with children on the first floor
- use a piece of existing City real estate
- safe areas, or safe nodes—allowing vehicles to park in industrial areas (see letters from Eugene, Oregon and Hollywood, Florida concerning their programs) When their are safe sleep zones people become legal and are no longer illegal. It is a dignity issue as well.

**Questions on the Homeless/Houseless issue in Santa Cruz**

*These are some of the questions that were posed, with no easy answers, during the 15 different City Council Task Force meetings which need to be examined:*

- 1) Staff was directed at the December Council meeting to investigate cheaper and locally managed alternatives to supplement the armory shelter system. What were those findings?
- 2) Why don’t most of those who sleep out go over the county line, where it is legal, to camp?
- 3) This issue is about the community’s expectations about behaviour—what will they support and what will they not support?
- 4) What are the crime statistics when comparing the housed and non-housed populations?
- 5) What is our (community, business, homeowner, student) responsibility in healing the ills of society?
- 6) How many homeless women are trading sex for shelter?
- 7) How many people are camping in there vehicle on a given night in the city of Santa Cruz?
- 8) How do we get the armory open for more months?
- 9) How do we help allow the homeless to have dignity?
- 10) How do we not criminalize the need to sleep?
- 11) How many individuals and/or families are “couch surfing” to avoid sleeping outside?

27-13



- 12) The University administration has some responsibility in providing more housing. How does the community put more pressure on the University to build more housing and/or limit enrollment?
- 13) How does the community address the vehicularly housed who do not think of themselves as homeless? (Issue permits?, expect them to go to RV parks?)

### **Quotes from the Homeless Task Force**

- “When I first moved here I lived in my camper for a couple of weeks before I found a place. Many people do it. I now own a Victorian house.” (Fred G., Westside)
- “What is it about the homeless that makes this such a charged issue?” (Ms. Simmons, Loudon Nelson area)
- “People who *are* homeless are residents.” (Steve A.)
- “With respect to fear, if I make a decision based on fear, it’s the wrong decision every time.” (Emily R., Westside business and homeowner)
- “I’m a homeowner, it just happens to have wheels.”
- “If you feel a need to do something for those that actually want and need help, do something that deals with their real problems without encouraging more derelicts to move to Santa Cruz.” (Gordon L., Market Street area)
- “Repealing the camping ban does nothing but worsen the situation. Why not put all this energy and money into solving some of these problems. Why not really try to help these people? I get the distinct impression that if the ban is repealed, the council task force is going to consider their work done and forget the problem. Instead, why not create a task force whose goal is to determine what services need to be developed to get people housing, health care, or psychological treatment?” (Maria G., River levee)
- “If you want to help people, then put your money where your mouth is: fund social programs.” (Brad B., lives on river levee and works downtown)
- “A solution respects both [all] sides of the issue.” (Downtown neighbor)
- “A lack of sleep probably causes many more problems than [the act] of sleeping.” (Karen G.)
- “A safety net is not a hammock.” (Downtown business owner)
- “I would be in favor of establishing more housing, but not eliminating the ban.” (Harvey West business owner)
- “There’s a fear of crime. It’s the law enforcement’s responsibility to address these fears too. The fear of crime needs to be addressed.” (S.C. County Sheriff)
- “The law is morally wrong.” (Kate W.)
- “As far as I know, my God made people who eat and sleep.” (John H.)

27-14



MEMORANDUM

485-50  
280-05

DATE: January 29, 1999

TO: Mayor Beiers and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Councilmember Krohn  
SUBJECT: REST ROOM TASK FORCE

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council review and consider the following information and immediately appoint a Rest Room Task Force to alleviate the rest room crisis downtown and in other parts of the City of Santa Cruz.

BACKGROUND: Throughout my time in Santa Cruz--17 years--there has been a lack of adequate public rest room facilities. There has been an over-reliance upon businesses to provide these facilities, and as each business closed its respective rest room to the public all of the others still open gradually became more impacted, yielding the present shortage.

During the recent City Council Task Force to Review the Camping Ordinance meetings (10 meetings), it has become all too clear that this dearth of rest room facilities not only greatly affects the homeless population but also the visitor-serving segment of our local economy and our residents. Finding a rest room in the downtown area--and other areas, including our parks--is no easy chore. Almost every local mom and dad who frequents the downtown area knows of Bookshop Santa Cruz' efforts in providing public, baby-friendly rest room facilities. That bathroom has kept many a shopper downtown *shopping* and not scurrying home to relieve themselves and change their baby. And, of course, most homeless people know of the friendly confines of Bookshop Santa Cruz' toilet facility. That facility, as reported by Bookshop Santa Cruz owner, Neal Coonerty, is greatly overused.

There was overwhelming support among most of those present at our task force meetings: **this City needs more rest rooms, and we need them now.** I recommend that this City Council does not wait for the Task Force to Review the Camping Ordinance to finish its work but begins immediately by empowering and convening a task force on rest room facilities to begin work immediately on siting and overseeing additional rest room facilities in the downtown area.

Charge of Task Force

- To meet and decide where new port-a-potties are to be situated. Work with private property owners and the City in siting these facilities in the most convenient, yet unobtrusive, places possible.

27-15

ATTACHMENT 2

SUBJECT: REST ROOM TASK FORCE

PAGE 2

- Group meets once a month for one year and offers quarterly reports on how program is proceeding.
- Two City Councilmembers make themselves available to this group as a liaison but only attend meetings when called on to do so by task force members.
- Member of Public Works Department staff oversees notification of these meetings and takes minutes.

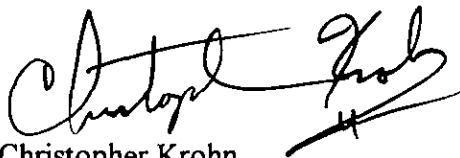
I have inquired at several meetings of the Task Force to Review the Camping Ordinance as to who would avail themselves to serve on a Rest Room Task Force. Many people have volunteered. I ask the City Council to convene the following group at the earliest possible time in order to address the lack of rest room facilities in our City.

#### **Representation of Task Force**

- John Lisher--Downtown Business Owner
- Bernard Klipsner--Homeless Activist
- Michael Schmidt--Chamber of Commerce
- Emily Reilly--Westside Business Owner and Resident
- Sherry Conable--Homeless Activist
- Patrick Clark--Downtown Neighbor
- Sandra Brown--Community Action Board
- A subcommittee of not more than 3 members of the Downtown Commission may be included in this task force for a total of not more than 10 members.

FISCAL IMPACT: (Please see attached E-mail from Marc Adato in the Public Works Department.) For a total of \$16,150 per year, the City of Santa Cruz can site no less than 10 port-a-potties (1 standard and 1 wheelchair accessible) at no less than 5 locations around the downtown area. This price includes daily cleaning. If additional cleaning is necessary, I recommend involving homeless clients and making maintenance a paying job as it already is at the Locust Street Garage rest room. In addition, some staff time will be needed to work with the task force.

Submitted by:



Christopher Krohn  
Councilmember

Attachment: E-mail from Public Works Department

From: "John Clement, PWAD" <Johnc2.PWAD.PW.COSC>  
Organization: The City of Santa Cruz  
To: Johnc2.PWAD.PW.COSC  
Date sent: Wed, 30 Dec 1998 15:19:46 PST  
Subject: (Fwd) Downtown - Portable Toilets/Screening and Advertising  
Copies to: Ronm.PWTE.PW.COSC, Chriss.PWAD.PW.COSC

Date: 12/30/98

Christopher Krohn, Councilmember

Subject: Downtown - Portable Toilets/Screening and Advertising

Portable Toilet Information: I called Ajax Portable Services to see if they ever had requests to place advertizing on the side of their portable toilets. The sales representative said that they did not place advertizing because the portable toilets were usually placed in areas (construction sites) where they get vandalized or graffitied. This makes maintaining the advertising difficult.

Probably best to look a screening them with fencing and slats if alley placement in the downtown (or elsewhere) is being considered. As I said yesterday, the City is spending \$3,230/year to locate one standard and one disabled persons portable toilets in Parking Lot #4. This includes daily cleaning service.

Soquel/Front Garage Public Rest Room: If you would like cost information about the rest room being built at the Soquel/Front Garage don't hesitate to contact Matt Farrell, Parking Program Manager at 429-3621 upon his return on Jan. 4, 1999.

Thanks for the inquiry. I look forward to working with you.

-Marc Adato, Traffic Engineering Technician (ext. -3106)

\*\*\*\*\*

John Clement, Public Works Director

27-17

## Urgent Criteria

- Encampment is in a public right of way (road) and/or is blocking pedestrian traffic.
- Encampment is blocking or impeding City staff (and/or agents of the City) access to City infrastructure.
- Encampment is on private property without the owner's permission.
- Encampment is in an area/configuration that constitutes a danger to occupants.
- A fire or open flame is present at the encampment.
- An imminent fire risk has been determined by the Fire Chief and a fire risk operational plan has been initiated.
- Encampment is within the boundaries of the Water Director's safe drinking water/watershed habitat map.
- Encampment is within the boundaries of the Parks and Recreation Director's environmentally sensitive habitat map.
- Encampment has already been closed due to Urgent Criteria or Scoring of High Priority with Assessment Tool.

If the Urgent Criteria are not met, the Assessment Tool (on reverse side) is to be utilized to determine next steps:

### **Environmental Impact/Riparian Zone**

Rating/Score:

- (0) not within riparian or sensitive habitat zone;
- (5) within riparian/sensitive habitat zone, more than 100 feet from waterway with no evidence of digging, cutting down brush or human waste
- (15) within riparian/sensitive habitat zone, more than 100 feet from waterway, evidence of digging, cutting down brush and/or human waste
- (25) within riparian/sensitive habitat zone and within 100 feet of the waterway

### **Proximity to school, park w/ playground or private property/residence**

Rating/Score:

- (0) more than 1,000 feet from school, playground or private property/residence;
- (5) within 1,000 feet of school, playground or private property/residence;
- (15) within 500 feet of school, playground or private property/residence;
- (25) bordering school, playground or private property/residence, or within 100 ft. of a school bus-stop

### **Size/Density of Camp**

Rating/Score:

- (0) No sleeping sites present;
- (5) 1-3 sleeping sites present, sites spread out (more than 20+ ft apart);
- (15) 1-3 sleeping sites present, sites within 20 ft of each other;
- (25) 4+ sleeping sites present

### **Violence/Criminal Activity**

Rating/Score:

- (0) no report of crime/disturbances;
- (5) verbally aggressive to passers-by and/or call for service;
- (15) threats of physical violence and/or evidence of drug use or stolen property present;
- (25) physical violence reported of any kind and/or evidence of drug trafficking or stolen property trade

### **Total Score:**

**0-24 - Low Priority (provide outreach materials and refuse collection supplies)**

**25-49 – Low/Medium Priority (perform trash/remediation services depending on scale/density of encampment)**

**50-74 – Medium Priority (begin scope of work and cleanup process, time allowing)**

**75-100 – High Priority (implement scope of work, immediate/expedited cleanup required)**



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: February 14, 2020

AGENDA OF: February 18, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Council Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH)

SUBJECT: CACH Mid-Term Status Report and Recommendations to the City Council

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RECOMMENDATION: Receive Community Advisory Committee (CACH) Co-Chair and City staff presentation and motion to:

1. accept the CACH Mid-Term Status Report
  2. direct the City Manager to implement Council-accepted CACH recommendations as identified during Council deliberations.
- 

### BACKGROUND:

The City Council established the Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) on April 9, 2019 with a work plan of nine months. The Committee has been meeting since July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. On Dec. 10, 2019, the CACH Co-Chairs presented the Committee's Initial Status and Recommendations to the City Council. Since that report was given, the CACH has continued to advance its work plan as well as to consider Council-directed items, including a review of the Camping Ordinance. The CACH is returning to the City Council to present its Mid-Term Status Report and Recommendations.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Progress Report on CACH Recommendations

The CACH has continued to hold meetings every two weeks with sub-committees meeting at least weekly. The following actions have been taken since Dec. 10, 2020:

- Conducted a public engagement session on health and hygiene where community feedback was solicited.
- Received presentation from Housing Matters and Dignity on Wheels regarding health and hygiene best practices locally and regionally.
- Conducted a public engagement session on safe sleeping where community feedback was solicited.
- Received presentation from Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator for US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USISCH), entitled "Making Homelessness a Rare, Brief & One-Time Experience".
- Received presentation by City Attorney's Office on the City and County camping ordinances.
- Received staff presentation on Governor's Executive Orders & Regional Homeless Advisors' Interim Report.
- Received report from CACH members who participated in a community organized Dynamic Facilitation on the issue of homelessness.

- Provided many opportunities throughout each CACH meeting for public communications as well as via e-mail correspondence.
- Held various sub-committee meetings with outside organizations and City staff to further educate and inform CACH members as they consider policy recommendations.

#### CACH Membership Changes

The following actions have been taken regarding the CACH membership:

- Considered expanding the CACH by one additional member per Council's Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> motion, but opted not to act at that time. (Dec. 17, 2019)
- Nominated and elected a new member, Evan Morrison, to replace a vacancy. (Jan 21, 2020)
- Approved changes to bylaws to allow flexibility around filling future vacancies on the CACH. (Jan. 21, 2020)
- Considered and declined expanding the CACH by one additional member per Council's Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> motion. (Feb. 4, 2020)

#### Review of the Proposed Camping Ordinance for Recommendation to Council

On Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> the City Council moved to:

Direct staff to send the City's amended camping ordinance and the County camping ordinance to the Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) and the community for priority and expeditious review and recommendations for a county-wide response and return to Council no later than the second meeting in January

Since the CACH was charged to review and develop recommendations for the Council regarding the camping ordinance, the Committee has taken the following actions:

- Requested and received more time from the City Council to review the camping ordinance.
- Allowed the Safe Sleeping Sub-Committee to take the lead on review of the camping ordinance with report back to, and approval of, any recommendations by the full CACH.
- Held numerous sub-committee meetings aimed at understanding the implications of changes to the camping ordinance on the City as well as those living unhoused/unsheltered.
- Received presentation from the City Attorney's Office on the City and County camping ordinances.

#### Developing CACH Mid-Term Recommendation to Council

At the Jan. 7, 2020 CACH meeting, the Co-Chairs requested each subcommittee return to CACH with up to two (2) proposed Mid-Term recommendations for City Council consideration and action. The following subcommittee recommendations were adopted by the full body and are presented here:



## Health and Hygiene

→ 1. Recommend the City seek a vendor and allocate monies (not to exceed \$10,000) in order to fund a three (3) month, one time per week, staffed shower/laundry mobile unit program with a case management component, in the downtown area, to approximately take place from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Problem	People experiencing homelessness do not have adequate access to hygiene services.
Solution	Contract with service provider to bring portable shower and laundry services to the unhoused.
Agency	City
Estimated Cost	Approx. \$3000 / month
Fiscal Impact	City General Fund
Community Engagement	Public comment at CACH and City Council meetings. Discussions with people experiencing homelessness, residents, business owners, and downtown visitors.

→ 2. Recommend the City allocate monies (approx. \$2,500) to fund the cost of laundry/towel services for the Association of Faith Communities (AFC), in order to support a two stall mobile shower unit.

Problem	The Association of Faith Communities (AFC) has purchased a small, two-stall mobile shower unit that currently operates at sponsored sites, such as churches. Funding for laundry service would allow for the mobile unit to operate in more locations, specifically where no organization is able to provide or launder the necessary towels.
Solution	Contract with laundry service to provide towels and laundry to AFC.
Agency	City
Estimated Cost	\$.50 per towel
Fiscal Impact	City General Fund
Community Engagement	Public comment at CACH and City Council meetings. Discussions with people experiencing homelessness, residents, business owners, and downtown visitors.

**→ 3. Recommend that the City monitor, and make public, the use rates, effectiveness and impacts of new hygiene services on immediate surroundings to inform long term facility solutions.**

Problem	Due to the fact that there are currently no mobile hygiene units in Santa Cruz outside of the AFC program, there is a dearth of quantitative information regarding the use and impacts of such services.
Solution	Direct staff to collaborate with service providers to collect use rates and establish criteria to measure impacts on the population being served as well as the neighborhoods where service is provide.
Agencies	City and County
Estimated Cost	n/a
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Community Engagement	Public comment at CACH and City Council meetings. Interviews with people experiencing homelessness. Discussions with, residents, business owners, and visitors to Santa Cruz.

**Public Engagement**

**→ 4. Recommend the City engage in a *pro-active* process around community engagement, before Council decisions around location and safe sleeping sites are made. That the Council budget an adequate portion of staff time to coordinate community outreach and engagement. We recommend allocating up to \$10,000 toward public engagement services via a private contractor or consultant, if the time commitment exceeds what can be done by city staff.**

Problem	There are many misconceptions regarding homelessness in this community as well as many residents (housed and unhoused) who feel left out of the decision making process. A comprehensive, community wide public engagement process is needed.
Solution	Offer multiple information and public feedback sessions where residents of Santa Cruz can become informed on the issues at hand and provided an opportunity to have their voice heard.
Agencies	City
Estimated Cost	N/a if allocating existing staff or up to \$10,000 for private contractor/consultant
Fiscal Impact	City General Fund

Community Engagement	Public comment at CACH and City Council meetings. Interviews with people experiencing homelessness. Discussions with, residents, business owners, and visitors to Santa Cruz.
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**→ 5. Recommend the City consider use of the Wisdom Council model to assist in building community dialogue. While the model may not directly resolve all concerns related to homelessness, we believe it may be useful in creating a stronger and more collaborative understanding of our mutual desires for a safer, dynamic and healthy community where everyone is respected and supported.**

Problem	Lack of community engagement in policy making decisions.
Solution	Create a mechanism to enhance public participation and decision making.
Agencies	City
Estimated Cost	\$10,000 per Wisdom Council with the goal of having multiple Wisdom Councils per year.
Fiscal Impact	City General Fund
Community Engagement	Various meetings with Wisdom Council and Wise Democracy personnel and CACH member participation in Dynamic Facilitation on Homelessness.

**Safe Sleeping**

**→ 6. See Attached Safe Sleeping Subcommittee Report. Recommendations from Report shall be incorporated into this document by the meeting time for ease of discussion.**

Problem	TBD
Solution	TBD
Agency	TBD
Estimated Cost	TBD
Fiscal Impact	TBD
Community Engagement	TBD

**Camping Ordinance**

**→ 7. See Attached Safe Sleeping Subcommittee Report. Recommendations from Report shall be incorporated into this document by the meeting time for ease of discussion.**

Problem	TBD
Solution	TBD
Agencies	TBD
Estimated Cost	TBD
Fiscal Impact	TBD
Community Engagement	TBD

The recommendations included in this report reflect the initial research and inputs compiled by the CACH membership. CACH appreciates the opportunity to forward these recommendations to the City Council and trusts that City staff will, upon direction, determine how to expedite these actions, to the extent that funding is available.

In closing, CACH requests that the City Council authorize action or provide guidance to CACH on each of the seven recommendations contained herein.

FISCAL IMPACT: Contained within the Discussion section of this report.

Submitted by:

Candice Elliott  
Co-Chair

Submitted by:

Taj Leahy Co-Chair

Attachments:

DRAFT



**City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

## ***Background***

*A significant portion of the CACH's charge is to come up with recommendations which address the issue of unsheltered homelessness in Santa Cruz. According to the 2019 Point in Time homeless census count, there were approximately 900 unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in the city of Santa Cruz. We do not have the capacity to adequately shelter our homeless population. This lack of shelter results in people sleeping in their vehicles, and in tents, sleeping bags, and with blankets in doorways, alleyways, parks, beaches, and other public and private lands.*

*While we support the continued work of the City and County to work towards increasing the shelter capacity and making the shelter system more welcoming, responsive, and efficient, we are recommending a framework that affords people their right to sleep, and mitigates many of the problems associated with unsheltered homelessness. The framework we are proposing includes a process for designating areas of the city as temporary sleep areas, and a plan for upkeep of those areas. Equally important, we are also proposing the creation of an outreach-based model of engagement prior to enforcement for human needs based behavior.*

*The City of Santa Cruz has attempted to manage unsheltered homelessness in recent years via a patchwork of ordinances including a ban on sleeping in public at night (with or without protective gear), closing public lands, limiting park hours, as well as by enforcing ordinances regarding sitting and lying in downtown areas and blocking sidewalks. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recently found that blanket camping ban ordinances such as Santa Cruz's are unconstitutional, and thus Santa Cruz has suspended enforcement of the camping ordinance as it is currently written in the municipal code. The City Attorney has drafted revisions to the Camping Ordinance to try to put it in-line with the 9th Circuit's Martin vs. Boise ruling. The Council invited the CACH to comment on the draft revisions that were presented to council on*



**City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness**

**SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

*11/26/2019 and we have incorporated recommendations on the ordinance into our work on legal sleeping areas.*

*The CACH Safe Sleep Subcommittee has reached out to national experts on homelessness, including consultants in DC and the Bay Area, and officials focused on homelessness up and down the West Coast. We also met with staff members across a number of departments within the city to better understand the role each play in addressing or managing homelessness. We also heard from organizations advocating for the legal rights of homeless, poor, and disabled people.*

*We had over twenty subcommittee meetings, and several included participation with city stakeholders. We had three formal engagement sessions with the general public and the Santa Cruz County Business Council on safe sleeping, as well as dozens of individual and group meetings, written correspondence, and phone calls with Santa Cruz city department representatives (City Attorney, Police, Fire, Planning, and Parks & Recreation), neighborhood group representatives, homeless service providers, local business leaders, regional coordinators at the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, public agency officials in San Diego, San Jose, and Olympia, WA, nationally recognized homelessness policy consultants such as Abt Associates, representatives at Eugene, OR's CAHOOTS street outreach program, and representatives of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Disability Rights California, and the ACLU. All the input we heard was taken into consideration as we developed our recommendations.*

### ***Indoor Shelter, Sleep Site, or Sleep Zone?***

*When evaluating the needs of both the unhoused and housed communities in Santa Cruz, it is clear that the community's preference is for unhoused people to have a stable place for themselves and their belongings to be for more than a few hours at a time. People generally need a stable place to call home; a place to store their belongings, and to have agency and*





City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

*privacy. But if a person is unhoused, their stability is compromised. The nationally accepted best practice of “housing first” also orients homeless services towards the goal of housing stabilization in order to improve outcomes of people who may have physical disabilities, mental health issues, or suffer from trauma or substance use disorders. But in Santa Cruz, approximately 75% of people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered, meaning even our temporary emergency shelters are unavailable to them or do not meet their needs. Virtually all of our emergency shelters and safe parking programs have waiting lists to enter, and typically, the only drop-in shelter option is the Warming Center program which only operates on a handful of the coldest nights of the year. So how can a person experiencing homelessness meet their need for a stable place to sleep when there are no traditional options available to them? Absent available traditional shelter options, people typically resort to sleeping in their vehicles, or in doorways, under bridges, or in tents on public lands.*

*To address this shelter shortage, first and foremost, the Sleep Subcommittee prefers creation of additional capacity for people to sleep indoors. Indoor sleep options could include congregate shelter space in larger buildings, private rooms, apartments, ADUs, tiny houses, or single family homes. Models that are available to a person 24 hours a day or that accommodate stored personal items are preferred.*

*In the absence of adequate indoor capacity for people experiencing homelessness, the preference would be to allow for 24 hour accommodations of temporary structures designed for longer-term living such as Conestoga huts, teepees, yurts, and UNHCR tents, or recreational vehicles such as trailers, caravans, campervans, motorhomes, or campers. Tents designed for recreational camping, or regular passenger vehicles could be used as a last resort when resources for more robust shelter are not available.*

*If accommodations for temporary structures and vehicles are needed due to a lack of indoor capacity, they ideally should be sited on vacant or underutilized land that minimizes the*



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness

SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

*opportunity costs of that land. Sleeping in temporary structures and vehicles at such sites is technically camping, and may be regulated by a camping ordinance. The preference for these sites would be for them to accommodate 24 hour usage, and to have management, sanitation infrastructure and regular service. Sites set aside for intensive camping use may be known as safe sleep sites.*

*Due to a lack of vacant/underutilized space or resources limiting availability of low opportunity cost safe sleep sites, it may be necessary for people experiencing homelessness to sleep in areas with high opportunity costs such as parks, sidewalks, parking lots, or streets. Minimally managed public areas available for sleeping may be referred to as safe sleep zones.*

*Balancing the opportunity cost of a site to the general public with the civil rights of unhoused people is both logistically and politically challenging when the only spaces available to an unhoused person to sleep are public spaces that are regularly used and enjoyed by the general public. Use of high opportunity cost sites may be required due to a lack of resources available to obtain public rights for use of preferred, lower opportunity cost sites such as vacant private property. Lack of resources for management or service of a site may also result in health and safety concerns without significant assistance from community volunteers.*

*Safe sleep zones could mitigate the effects of intense usage, especially for high opportunity cost areas, by limiting hours when they are available for camping, but that limitation of hours must be balanced with the rights of unhoused people to sleep at a time of day that meets their needs, and to utilize protection from the elements to maintain their health. Therefore, we suggest if limited hour safe sleep zones are established, that there be complementary hours established for multiple zones so that there is always a place available to lawfully sleep.*

**Strategic Plan.** Vote: \_\_\_ Yes or \_\_\_ No.

*The CACH recommends that the city develop a comprehensive "Strategic Action Plan to Homelessness". This plan shall emphasize an Outreach-First model. The proposed Camping*



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

*Ordinance language shall be written to align with both the intent of the Martin v Boise decision and the Strategic Plan's overall objectives. To achieve this Strategic Plan, some necessary components are: the city shall conduct a comprehensive study of all municipal ordinances to align with the intent of Martin v Boise and clarify definitions to make implementation easier and more understandable; create a budget and identify present and future funding sources to support the objectives of the Strategic Plan; identify additional indoor and outdoor possible shelter sites prioritizing indoor locations; have all city media sources emphasize the Outreach-First model.*

*Outreach-First Program Components: design with CAO's office possibly using Health and Human Services staff, 24/7 design, sharing data from SCFD, SCPD, through the CRSP app, and 9-1-1 and nonemergency calls, for nonviolent social service issues such as homelessness, allow for SCPD to more proactively respond to more serious or violent crime and respond only when homeless issues are unresolved through Outreach-First response.*

### *Preferred Sleeping Policy/Camping Ordinance Recommendations*

- The existence of the Martin v. Boise court case must be recognized as limiting the city government's options for managing outdoor and vehicle sleeping in the context of our significant shortage of legal shelter options.*
- We need a significant increase in the number of legal places to sleep for people without housing. This would include more ADA-accessible indoor shelter beds, and additional sites for people to sleep outside and in vehicles that utilize more than one model of operation on public or private property.*
- All shelter or sleep site models must have minimum community standards and must include health/housing/human services available for all participants.*
- The use of street outreach personnel should be at the center of managing outdoor and vehicle sleeping outside of Sleep Sites.*



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness

SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Ordinances and law enforcement should only be a small part of the city's overall approach to managing outdoor sleeping. For instance, when the only "problem" with an individual is their setting up a tent and/or sleeping in an inappropriate location, outreach personnel will make first contact and will not wake people up in the middle of the night unless the outreach worker can arrange transportation for the person and their belongings to a Sleep Site. (This would not preclude law enforcement from acting at any hour when any crime is involved.)*
- *Increase the allowed number of overnight sleeping vehicles to five in parking lots that have granted permission for this activity, and explore a framework for expansion of limited, temporary sleeping in vehicles in residential driveways and parking lots from the current three days per month. Explore use of 701 Ocean with CAO for car camping*
- *Clarify/strengthen language in the camping ordinance that authorizes the city council to designate managed sleeping areas by resolution. This should apply to public sites and private land offered by private entities for this purpose.*
- *Include language that citation can occur only after outreach worker contact with an offer for immediate assistance to move to a legal sleeping location.*
- *Remove the word "sleep" in the definition of camping*

*Direct the city attorney to return to city council within two months with a report in including:*

*a. RECOMMENDATION:*

- A proposed definition of "public health issue" and "public health concern" to be defined in city policies and city ordinances and for designated officials to be given a clear set of criteria needed to be shown in each case to use said designation.*
- A proposed clarification of the stated definition of "public nuisance" to be defined in city policies and city ordinances and for designated officials to be*



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

*given a clear set of criteria needed to be shown in each case to use said designation.*

*b. SUGGESTION:*

- iii. A proposed clarification in city policies and ordinances of the definition of “abandoned property” to personal property which has been unattended in public for at least 24 hours, and clarification that blankets, sleeping bags, clothing, tents, tarps, books, identification, wheelchairs, walkers, identification, medications, and other necessary personal belongings are considered personal property, should not be discarded for 90 days, and should be handled according to a new Guidelines of “Personal Property Management”.*
- iv. Guidelines of “Personal Property Management” to replace “Abandoned Property” guidelines and to be a reference for “Personal Property at the time arrest” and “Retrieval of Personal Property at time of release”. Including:*
  - 1. an official warning tag to be placed at the start of the 24 hours*
  - 2. an official notification of where and when property can be claimed*
  - 3. Clear guidelines of a very limited class of items allowed to be discarded such as illegal, and not blankets, sleeping bags, clothing, tents, tarps, books, medications, and other necessary personal belongings.*
  - 4. Quarterly reporting made to the city council and the CACH to include: (possibly through use of the city’s CRSP app)*
  - 5. at both time of warning and time of confiscation, a picture taken and description recorded to include time, GIS data, and quarterly reporting to be available upon request for transparency.*
  - 6. At time of discarding, a picture to be taken with time, GIS data, and description of items discarded.*



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness

SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

7. *A procedure that any person taken into custody for any reason should have their personal belongings, including bedding, carts, clothes, tents, tarps, bicycles, etc., to be stored in trust for 90 days, or the period of their incarceration plus 30 days; whichever is longer. A picture is to be taken and description recorded. The police chief to be directed to report back to the CACH and city council on progress within two months.*
8. *Collaborate with the County to return property at time of release from jail to ensure all bedding and survival items, identification, medication, etc. are immediately available.*
9. *Expand hours of police property storage retrieval from two days during the week in the afternoon to every day of the business week and report back to the CACH and city council on progress within two months.*

*Regarding vehicles with expired auto registrations, create a flyer with existing community resources for financial support, and give a one month warning of impending towing if unresolved.*

## **INTERIM (until Safe Sites are set up)**

- We do NOT recommend an approach that mirrors our community's current situation- which allows for camping and/or sleeping in all outdoor public locations other than those already explicitly prohibited by existing city ordinances. (Noting again: the camping ordinance is currently suspended due to noncompliance with Martin v. Boise.)
- **Camping Not Allowed**
  - a. **HOWEVER**, we do recognize that there is a need to immediately restrict camping activity in a number of sensitive locations that are not currently restricted. For example, it seems appropriate to prohibit camping near San Lorenzo River and Neary Lagoon, all places defined as 24 hour "Closed", in or adjacent to children's play areas (within 100ft), within 50ft of entrances to buildings.



**City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

- **Camping Allowed**
  - a. As a practical matter, this means that many public spaces will be permissible sleeping sites until the creation of specific designated sites has occurred. For instance, some parks (more than 2 acres, with porta potties and trash cans) could be permissible sites. Some wide sidewalk areas could be permissible. Some areas along public walkways will be permissible. Some parking lots could be permissible for car camping. (It is worth repeating that this kind of unmanaged camping perpetuates an undesirable situation – but is still a workable interim arrangement in the context of *Martin v. Boise.*)
- Before any moving of people sleeping outside under these recommendations, there should be information provided of an alternative place for people to sleep.
- We also recognize that a concentration of camping activity outside of managed locations will often lead to sanitation/health problems and environmental damage. Therefore, we also recommend that the level of density or concentration of camping in any single location be restricted. This could, for instance, limit more than 3 tents/tarps from setting up within 50 feet of another site where camping and sleeping “equipment” is set up. Another option to consider in this framework is to limit the amount of time a person may occupy a specific location... perhaps require each campsite to move every 3 days to allow for cleaning and minimization of impact to the location.

### *Outside camping*

1. *No forced moving to shelter or citing if refusal to go to indoor or nonprofit shelter program. Only citing if camping outside of permitted area. Transportation assistance with belongings should be offered.*
2. *If the nearest Sleep Zone has reached designed capacity, this ordinance shall not be enforced in that area of the city.*
3. *People may sleep in the “Zones” according to a set of Guidelines of Sleep Zones.*
4. *During the day, housed and unhoused should have the same rights within this ordinance, and through implementation, in all public places, including public*



**City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

*parks. This should include blankets and sleeping bags, the setting up of tents or other temporary structures.*

5. *Regarding, "Two violations in 48 hours is a misdemeanor", we recommend that this be removed.*

**Car camping**

6. *We recommend the number of overnight camping vehicles in church parking lots, business parking lots, and residential driveways as allowed according to the "Guidelines of Car Camping".*
7. *This ordinance shall not be enforced for car camping until Sleep Zones are created. This does not preclude enforcement of posted parking restrictions.*
8. *If the nearest Car Camp Sleep Zone has reached designed capacity this ordinance shall not be enforced in that area.*
9. *Regarding, "Two violations in 48 hours is a misdemeanor", we recommend that this be removed. This should not be applied to car camping.*

*Prior to identifying and selecting locations for sheltering and Sleep Sites, a set of objective criteria must be established by the City so that the community will have a clear understanding as to why particular sites were selected. A fair process for evaluating and selecting sites using these criteria must also be established.*

**CRITERIA**

*These criteria should be weighted, recognizing that some criteria are more important than others.*

<u>TOP PRIORITIES</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Walkability</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proximity to schools and childcare</i></li> </ul>





**City of Santa Cruz CACH**  
**Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness**  
**SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ADA accessibility (close to the path)</i></li> <li>• <i>Physical site suitability (grade, environmental impact)</i></li> <li>• <i>Economic impact / close to businesses</i></li> <li>• <i>Availability of sanitation facilities already</i></li> <li>• <i>Proximity to social services...</i></li> <li>• <i>How it affects neighborhood</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>site can handle 50 individuals</i></li> <li>• <i>daily time constraints vs seasonal availability</i></li> <li>• <i>Emergency access</i></li> <li>• <i>Permitting viability (i.e. Coastal Commission)</i></li> <li>• <i>protection from wind/rain (trees, overhead)</i></li> <li>• <i>Opportunity Costs for public use (ex. can't play baseball)</i></li> <li>• <i>Site costs (bussing, rent, lease, purchase, loss of revenue)</i></li> </ul> |
|--|---|

*We do not recommend the creation of wholly “self-managed” Sleep Sites; however, we do believe models that include significant operational roles for participants are preferred.*

*Alternative A: Sleep zones should include basic sanitation facilities. Outreach workers will be responsible for periodic site visits to offer assistance, volunteers will provide support and law enforcement can address unlawful activities*

*Alternative B: all outdoor sleeping sites shall have some kind of organization/staffing to supervise the site and take responsibility for addressing issues that arise*

*Alternative C: (not recommended) Unsupervised.*

*Community acceptance of specific outdoor sleep zones will be enhanced if it is clear that any given zone will be occupied for a set period of time, so we recommend a system of rotation among outdoor zones. The rotation should not occur with too much frequency in order to allow for a level of stability for participants—but frequently enough to allow for cleaning and/or restoration to maintain human and environmental health (minimum recommended is*



**City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness**

**SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE**

*one month). It is essential that no outdoor sleeping zones will be considered permanent. Residents at these zones should be formally notified of this fact at the moment of entry.*

*Models of Sleep Sites that include safe storage and/or 24 hours-a-day participant use are the preferred models, however 24 hour participant use models have opportunity costs when located in parks, public parking lots, sidewalks, or other public spaces; those opportunity costs should be minimized and balanced with needs of people to sleep to the extent feasible..*

*Each site or zone must have a clear contact person for nearby residents and business to engage with about site issues. That contact person must do outreach to adjacent residents and businesses on a regular basis.*

*Guidelines of "Sleep Zones" (suggestions only)*

- 1. (general sleeping if not in a shelter)
  - a. Sites Rotate every 2 months with significant notice during transition and engagement with the local community to address needs and share information of pertinent contact information*
  - b. Night time and Day time Areas - Clearly Separated within the area for cleaning purposes; to mitigate "Public Health and Safety" or "Public Nuisance" concerns.
    - i. Storage conex suggested needing funding and a plan of who will operate*
    - ii. Clear ground markings for each tent site*
    - iii. Regarding number per site:
      - 1. Initial recommendation: equitably, according to need, starting with 150 camp sites in at least four sleep sites. Re-evaluation may change if there is more or less need.****



City of Santa Cruz CACH  
Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness  
SAFE SLEEP SUBCOMMITTEE

2. *If full, there will be no enforcement in that area of the city (including ordinances for camping, violating park hours, or blocking sidewalks)*
  - c. *Incorporation of Outreach daily, at the sites*
  - d. *ALL LAWS STILL ENFORCED in Sleep Zones: substance use, alcohol use, littering, graffiti, theft, etc*
2. Overnight Car Camping
  - a. *We recommend the creation of multiple, Night-Time Only car camping sites, equally distributed across the city to accommodate 150 vehicles. Including bathrooms and hand-washing stations which are ADA and trash cans and needle disposal, and outreach.*
    - i. *Conversations should encourage participation for County-owned parking lots.*
    - ii. *Include low-barrier, no barrier policies.*
    - iii. *Enforcement of all regular laws.*



## Summary of Feedback CACH Safe Sleeping Community Engagement Sessions

January 29, 2020

The Safe Sleep Subcommittee solicited feedback from the general public and from business executives on the concept of the outreach alternative to enforcement model, and the concept of safe sleep areas as temporary zones for people to legally sleep. Both concepts were generally well supported by community members.

The subcommittee also asked the public about a need for a camping ordinance; the community was divided on that issue; some felt strongly that no ordinance was necessary, others felt a strong need for a camping law, while some felt that opinions about the value of having an ordinance should be reserved until the city council weighs in on the matter.

Generally the feedback about camping was that the status quo regarding enforcement of laws affecting people sleeping outside is unacceptable: it is generally not clear where people are allowed to be or not to be, and the lack of clarity is confusing for both the housed and unhoused. Some people were concerned that people appear to be able to sleep anywhere with no limits, and others were concerned that there are no places for someone to sleep without fear of law enforcement intervention.

Public opinions received were broadly supportive of the concept of safe sleep areas. There were a wide range of opinions when it came to the siting of safe sleep areas, and often contradicting perspectives: some felt that they should be smaller areas evenly distributed around the city; others felt that there should be larger areas concentrated in fewer places in the city; some felt that safe sleep areas should not be in the city limits at all, yet still necessary. There was also both support and resistance to 24 hour camping locations, both support and resistance to rotating camping locations, support for locations near central services, and resistance to sites in central locations.

Business community members in particular were supportive of naming this a “Humanitarian crisis”, creating safe sleep areas, and also preferred to have areas where camping was restricted, such as the downtown business district. There was also a sense that having management for camping areas, as well as safety, and health and sanitation infrastructure would be a requirement for support of the safe sleep area model. There was concern that the level of infrastructure required could be better utilized for indoor facilities instead of outdoor temporary locations, and a preference for emphasizing more indoor sleeping options over outdoor sleeping out of concern for the wellbeing of unhoused people.

The following notes were captured in real time during the public engagement sessions:

Evening Public Session:

Participants were asked to provide oral feedback during a presentation and conversation about alternative outreach approaches and safe sleeping sites. This feedback was recorded in real-time.

## General comments:

- AFC Safe spaces is hard to get in (requires current vehicle registration) and has a waiting list
- Why do we have so many homeless people? Where are they from?
- People don't want to go to shelters with rules (like restrictions on drug use).
- Use vacant lots with trailers, and solar carports.
- (solar personal vehicle - self revenue; not tax funded; community donated; trailers for bath/shower, washer/dryer, all solar-powered, pumped out by port-a-potty service; 10 sleeping spaces max per site to keep up the neighborhood; site attendant; cameras; wind/privacy screening around each individual site & entire lot; possibly a recycle center in a conex box; conex box for storage; possibly shut down every 180 days & alternate sites; use bivvyart.us as a resource to not sleep on the ground)
- Existing services are too spread out.
- Rotating locations to sleep is hard on people.
- Sleep locations should have privacy: not be in town.
- Want a Self-managed ross camp.
- Outskirts locations are too far from services and too uninviting for campers.
- Allow night sleeping in parks.

## Community goals:

- Need buildings to transition to.
- Should train unhoused to behave better. (don't blow up your spot)
- Reduce visual impact.
- More trash receptacles.
- Need a place to camp.
- Find a way for agencies to collaborate better. Coordinate better between agencies
- Churches should do more.
- Protect businesses, tourism, health, and property owners.
- Every person in a doorway should have access to shelter.
- Clean up parks and open spaces, highways, the levee, etc.
- More safety for women.
- Don't make homeless "the other".
- All public spaces available to all.
- Housing for people.
- Places to sleep that are secure, with transportation, not near children.
- More outreach workers.
- One size doesn't fit all.
- Neighbors need more education so they don't misjudge homeless people.
- Women, children, and handicapped need places that meet their needs.
- Have permanent places to be.
- Voices of homeless people should be accommodated better.

## Do we need a camping ordinance?

- Yes - if people are allowed to camp everywhere, it's hard to serve them.
- Yes - people shouldn't camp everywhere.
- Yes
- It's not the CACH's place to get into details of a camping ordinance.
- No - leave people alone.
- No - people should be allowed to have a teepee in the woods if they want to.

## Feedback on proposed new model (with outreach as first response):

- Can there be a limit on the number of people camping in the city?

- People need places to stay full time to always have access to their belongings and be able to come and go as they please.
- Need safe storage facilities.
- Don't want a permanent camping location.
- Camping locations need to be near services.
- There should be different places for different needs.
- Use the vacant cafeteria in the county building as a shelter.
- Camping near high traffic areas in the city is problematic.
- Having lots of little camping areas around the city is problematic; there are too many issues with that idea.
- Don't disrupt regular use of parks.
- Silly that we can't coordinate social services and first responders better.
- Will littering laws cause more homelessness?

### Afternoon business council session:

Participants were asked to provide oral feedback during a presentation and conversation about alternative outreach approaches and safe sleeping sites. This feedback was recorded in real-time. The business council also issued a formal written comment regarding safe sleeping policies.

### General comments:

- Concerned about what a safe space might look like
- Outside inhuman
- not enough space for two camps
- want to have camps regulated
- Use County money
- Camping is not part of the housing first model
- should have permanent supportive housing - special income/drugs
- wanted to know criteria
- 701 Ocean is a good site
- The CACH should have more of a voice
- want numbers of per capita homeless (need real facts about Homelessness)
- Why isn't the 20 point solutions to homelessness being implemented?

### Feedback about camping:

- want to know where the camping zones are
- Should have camping zones
- want more info about the ordinance, shelters, and how many tickets are issued
- Not downtown
- 1220 River as a possible site? Use Salvation army as a manager
- Prefer Exclusion-zone camping
- Add safety, health, management

# Summary of Feedback

## CACH Safe Sleeping Public Engagement Session

Dec. 17, 2019

*Participants were divided into groups and asked to brainstorm the needs the community has in designing potential new safe sleeping sites. The needs were divided into four categories: Operational, Outcome, Safety, and Other. Below is a list of the ideas generated. First are the priorities that were voted on by the participants. Following that are the ideas that each group generated (in no particular order).*

### **PRIORITIES Operational**

Safe Sleeping programs that are 24/7, 365

Hygiene facilities on site

Safe parking (care/van/RV) program

No curfew

Neighborhood liaison/collaboration

Self-managed/self-governed

No mats/bedding on the ground

### **Outcome**

Services for mental health & substance abuse

Sheltering for all

Facilities need to be scalable to fit need

Improved communication/understanding between housing and unhoused

Self advocacy

Participants & neighbors knowing resources available

People getting housed

Pathway to permanent housing

Serving needs of all living outside

### **Safety**

Conflict resolution within shelter and with neighbors

Dignity maintained

24 hour monitoring

Proper clothing (rain gear, etc.) provided

Agreed upon safety rules

Sharp disposal and health resources

Security staff for personal protection

Confidentiality

### **Other**

Access to services

Prevention services for vulnerable

Meeting specific needs of specific groups

Housing students at UCSC and Cabrillo

Volunteer system

Cultivate compassion and mutual respect

Have Applied Survey Research (ASR) involved

### **Votes**

11 1st priority, 5 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

6 1st priority, 4 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

3 1st priority, 5 2nd priority, 4 3rd priority

1 1st priority, 2nd priority, 6 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 4 3rd priority

1 1st priority, 1 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

1 3rd priority

### **Votes**

7 1st priority, 5 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

6 1st priority, 3 2nd priority

3 1st priority, 2 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 3 2nd priority, 5 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 2 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 12nd priority, 3 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 1 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

4 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

1 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

### **Votes**

11 1st priority, 6 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 3 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 1 2nd priority, 2 3rd priority

2 1st priority, 1 2nd priority

1 1st priority, 3 2nd priority, 5 3rd priority

1 1st priority, 4 2nd priority, 3 3rd priority

3 3rd priority

1 2nd priority

### **Votes**

13 1st priority, 2 2nd priority, 4 3rd priority

5 1st priority, 3 2nd priority

4 1st priority, 3 2nd priority, 3 3rd priority

2 1st priority

2 1st priority, 2 2nd priority, 1 3rd priority

2 1st priority

3 2nd priority, 5 3rd priority



## **ADDITIONAL IDEAS PUT FORTH**

### **Operational Needs**

- \_ Easy access for participants
- \_ Collaborative to offer more services (easy referral for treatment)
- \_ Supportive training (transformational) for participants to make changes (and follow rules)
- \_ Low barrier
- \_ Participants feel welcome
- \_ Trauma informed
- \_ Sensitivity to those with government authority issues
- \_ ADA
- \_ Preferably indoors but if not at least weatherized
- \_ Centrally located or provide transportation
- \_ Some kind of office/admin/supportive system
- \_ Supplies food & clothing
- \_ Big enough or more than 1
- \_ Laundry and restroom facilities available

### **Safety**

- \_ Not to die/stay alive
- \_ Hygiene kit
- \_ Community engagement/education
- \_ Learning how to engage with respect

### **Other**

- \_ Everyone deserves a place to sleep
- \_ Volunteers from everyone in the community
- \_ Outreach to the community at large
- \_ Acknowledge everyone's values
- \_ Somewhere for people who can't follow the rules
- \_ List of identified homeless people
- \_ Community building
- \_ Autonomy
- \_ 1 on 1 services
- \_ Crisis services
- \_ Mental health hub
- \_ HSC renovation project
- \_ Info leaflet/references/resources

