

# What to Do Next Time the River Floods?

## Gather in the Upper Park For Mutual Protection?

## Speak Up at the Memorial for the Dead !

## Tuesday 12-21 Laurel/Front 3 PM !

- The **City's token annual memorial** will only be held on zoom this year 10 AM – 12:30 PM Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Watch it at <https://bit.ly/31lfbY2>.
- **Food Not Bombs**, the **Santa Cruz Homeless Union**, and **HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom)** will be holding **its own remembrance ceremony** for those who've died this year on Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> 3 PM at the encampment and meal area. We'll also discuss **possible responses to the next flood**.
- In December 2020, housed & unhoused peacefully refused to leave the park. **How many would be willing to repeat this resistance while filing for a life-saving Injunction?**
- Can the broader community repeat the successful resistance & Injunction of 12-28 & 12-29? **Do Benchlands residents support this strategy?**
- **Last week city workers carried off homeless possessions & police threatened refugees with arrest** in San Lorenzo park.
- The only priority of Interim Chief Escalante and Interim City Manager Henard seemed **to be to drive people away from the park**, no matter how much of their property was drowned or dumped in spite of the emergency.
- **While providing temporary shelter, water, coffee, & some blankets & tents** at the City's Depot Park and Parking Garage "Shelter", both were too far away to transport property and too limited to house more than a small number.
- **No mention of the Benchlands flood crisis** in Interim City Manager Henard's report (allowing no public input on that item--with Council again closed to in-person attendance) at the last City Council meeting for a month.
- **Millions arriving in city coffers** with few or no specifics on the expansion of shelter required by the Martin v. Boise decision before the city can legally activate the CSSO (Camping Ban).

- **Providing for only Token Shelter and Storage** at 1220 River St. and the Armory is no expansion of shelter for the majority but sufficient to activate the repressive CSSO Camping Ban.
- **Families and singles** are already facing winter vehicle tows in a City with wholly inadequate parking places in the midst of a continuing COVID pandemic.
- **Stop requiring vaccine proof from unhoused folks**, who have enough trouble keeping track of their tents and possessions, much less papers and ID, which are easily stolen or seized.
- **Vaccination against COVID-19 must be optional** for those outside considering medical and religious concerns : dissenting from the dominant narrative must not be criminal.
- **Unsafe group shelters without medical personnel** is the usual “shelter” offered to unhoused folks. This violates CDC guidelines. Ending hotel lodging without follow-up services can be fatal.
- **The OVO (Oversized Vehicle Ordinance) empowers police** to ticket, fine, and seize vehicular homes starting in mid-December and provides no alternative responses
- **Interim SCPD police Chief Escalante and City Manager Matt Huffaker** were both chosen with no public input or accountability. Repeated cries to redirect bloated police department budgets were ignored.
- **City staff continues to keep hidden** the data & conclusions of the City Attorney’s study mandated by the Glover City Council in February 2019. That study detailed costs and consequences of over 15 anti-homeless laws currently on the books.
- The ACLU and The Santa Cruz Homeless Union has **yet to take action on the many Declarations** collected from those outside demanding redress and protection. Chico, Novato, Petaluma, and other Cities have secured Injunctions against abusive behavior City-wide. An Injunction might have protected homes destroyed by the flooding San Lorenzo.
- Earlier this year, the City has already shown its bad faith regarding the protections of **Martin v. Boise** prohibiting removal of homeless people with **mass evictions at Hiway 1 and elsewhere as well as tows**.
- **City Council’s “liberal” minority** (Cummings and Brown) have shown little interest in speaking up strongly against the inadequacy and inhumanity of the Meyers-Watkins “drive ‘em out” policies. No real help is coming from them.