

Rosemary Balsley

From: Beth Moorehead <bethpm65@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 7:08 AM
To: City Council; Pamela Comstock; Lynn Robinson; David Terrazas; Hilary Bryant; Don Lane; Cynthia Mathews; Micah Posner
Subject: Youth Programs - Indoor Skating Arena in SC for youths

From the Sentinel

"The City Council on Tuesday is expected to sharpen several initiatives aimed at reducing crime, including the development of a chronic offender list and consideration of new youth programs."

Thank you and please consider taking many actions to make our town a thriving place where kids can feel comfortable in their own neighborhoods.

I appreciate the focus on our youth, and after school activities. For a while, my son participated in a program that was able to use Grind Out Hunger on Tuesday afternoons to skate and hang out with responsible adults, have snacks... this was provided by a local church group, for free. My son loved skating, loved the mentors who challenged and supported him, and I appreciated the fact that my son had somewhere to go after school on Tuesdays. Please check into creating an **indoor free/low cost skating arena** for kids in Santa Cruz. You should contact Nick Hart at Faith Community Church for help on getting a program started. He's smart, connects well with kids, and is motivated to help all the kids in SC County thrive.

Thank you,
Beth Moorehead

Rosemary Balsley

From: Drew Lewis <dudley@cruzio.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 5:38 PM
To: City Council
Subject: asocial behaviors

Dear City Council Members,

I recently received an email from Council Member Micah Posner asking my opinion on what we should do with the "...hundreds of citizens.." who have been cited for asocial behaviour. Since our local farmers are facing a labour shortage crisis of not enough farm workers, maybe the city could look into putting these people to work on these farms where they could earn a good wage performing a socially useful task rather than taking up space in our already crowded jails. The city could hire counsellors and labour contractors to organize and implement the program, thus creating more jobs in our community.

Sincerely,
Drew Lewis

Rosemary Balsley

From: Baya Kagan <lchaim@jps.net>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 11:10 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Safety Task Force Recommendations

Dear Members of the Council,

I am writing because I am in agreement that we need to solve the problems of vagrancy, homelessness, and crime that plague our city. I live downtown and am certainly effected by all of these issues.

If we are really to confront the above issues, I agree that we need programs that get to the root of the problem. Supporting and increasing teen programs such as gang prevention makes a lot of sense as would increasing proven drug rehabilitation programs and mental health services. This would also be preventative and save costly jail time. Though it is tempting to just "throw the bums in jail" when they have a number of offenses, this is not really going to solve the problem since jail time does not teach these people better social skills, help them with mental illness but can often make matters worse when the person already has self-esteem issues and may be needing compassion for their predicament.

I ask you to strongly consider any measures that actually helps solve this problem in the long term and not just re-create people without jobs because they now have an extended criminal record on top of these other difficulties I have mentioned.

Thank you for considering my letter.

Sincerely,

Batya Kagan
728 Riverside Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA

Rosemary Balsley

From: Chatrabbi@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 12:58 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Re: water and asocial behavior on the Council agenda tomorrow

Dear Council Members;

Councilman Posner asks "What do you think we should do, if anything, to curb asocial behaviors?"

Obviously some of those who exhibit such behavior are beyond our practical ability to help them. But others are capable of change, particularly when they meet others, even government representatives who show an interest in their situation.

I know this suggestion may be a bit unusual, but why not post a public invitation to homeless individuals and others to meet with government representatives? After all, asocial behavior is often the result of feeling that "no one cares about me."

The invitation might state something like: This is an invitation from (some of us) (those of us) who serve on the City Council of Santa Cruz. We recognize that many individuals in our community suffer from the difficulties of living in economically hard times. Perhaps, we can be of help. At least we can listen to your concerns and difficulties and out of that process do a better job of making Santa Cruz a healthier place for all who live in our city.

As with you, are ability to make change is limited by time and circumstance. Never the less, hearing your concerns may surprise you and us and result in ideas and policies that may help you, and also help us feel that we are doing more for all the citizens of Santa Cruz.

Date ... time ... and place

We look forward to meeting and hearing from you.

If you like the basic idea of this suggestion you might take it to those who eat lunch at the Lowden Center and ask for their advice and input. And, thank you for being in government.

Philip M. Posner, Rabbi

PS. I and many others hope that the Council will revisit the Downtown Ordinance.

"Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo ataw ben chorin l'hibatel mimena: Know that you are not obligated to finish an (ethical) task all by yourself. However, as a person you are not so free that you may abstain from it." Rabbi Tarphon, lived between 70-135 CE. He is my mentor for ethical action. PMP

Rosemary Balsley

From: Bren Lehr on behalf of City Council
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:48 PM
To: Cynthia Mathews; David Terrazas; Don Lane; Hilary Bryant; Lynn Robinson; Micah Posner; Pamela Comstock
Cc: Scott Collins; Martin Bernal; Rosemary Balsley
Subject: FW: public safety

FYI

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

From: deanbola@baymoon.com [mailto:deanbola@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: public safety

Thanks for the continued hard work, public meetings and contact and recent appearance before and request for Santa Cruz County's assistance with the intimidating and criminal behaviors of people downtown and through the city of Santa Cruz.

Please continue to focus on the criminal and undesirable behavior and do not muddy the issue with bringing in homeless issues. For so many years we in the City have paid for and witnessed and had to bear the brunt of the growth of aggressive, unwanted and unlawful actions. Studies now show that many of the same people are responsible for much of the activity and that they are not punished or held accountable for their actions. Meanwhile we have paid for and provided services to people who may or may not partake of services to help them change their lives while providing an environment for criminals to fit in and live a criminal lifestyle.

It is one thing to visit downtown and Santa Cruz in general to enjoy an afternoon and then go home and it is another to work and live there and go downtown on a daily basis. It is unfair for those whose homes and jobs require they be there, or for those who have invested their lives in running businesses, to not be listened to and have their requests for assistance to provide a safe and intimidation free work and living place ignored while a group of people with no investment to the city or downtown run rampant and infringe on the majority of men, women and children who do not want to run across needles, drugged people, demands for money and all of the rest of the unpleasant and illegal behaviors that are no longer found only downtown but are spreading to other areas.

Please continue to use what has worked in other areas and towns to abate the social problems that Santa Cruz has endured for so long that really threatens the quality of life here.

Rosemary Balsley

From: Bren Lehr on behalf of City Council
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 5:35 PM
To: Cynthia Mathews; David Terrazas; Don Lane; Hilary Bryant; Lynn Robinson; Micah Posner; Pamela Comstock
Cc: Scott Collins; Martin Bernal; Rosemary Balsley
Subject: FW: List of 'worst 100'...

FYI

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

From: Linda Lemaster [mailto:homes4everyone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 5:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: List of 'worst 100'...

City of Santa Cruz
City Council

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

RE: "worst offender" list proposal

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

I am concerned about your proposal to authorize a worst hundred offenders' list to somehow save money and curb or 'disappear' antisocial public behaviors.

I urge you to either dump this part, or else postpone it until both the needed infrastructure and compliance with our California Constitution have been adequately considered.

There are a number of behavior-influencing possibilities that haven't been considered.

Please allow our communities an opportunity to include principles such as compassion and reconciliation in the resolution of streetscape tensions.

sincerely,

Linda Ellen Lemaster
Project Facilitator
Housing NOW! Santa Cruz

831 239 1874