

Santa Cruz City Council Update  
February 26, 2019 Meeting  
7 PM Meeting

Response to Homelessness: Update

Item 1: Homeless State of Emergency, Overnight Parking Restrictions on Portions of Delaware Avenue and Status of Joint Plan for Emergency Shelter Provisions and Encampment Management and Council Actions on Homelessness

Motion 1 - Discuss the Declaration of Shelter Crisis and Declaration of Local Emergency and provide direction.

Motion 2 — Motion directing the City Manager to end enforcement of overnight parking restrictions on Delaware Avenue between Swift Street and Shaffer Road.

Motion 3: Receive a report on implementation of the Joint Action Plan for Emergency Shelter Provision and Encampment Management and other policy and action items directed by the City Council on February 12, 2019 related to homelessness, and take action as appropriate.

Chamber's Position:

- The Chamber supports closing the Ross Camp (the Encampment) as agreed by the County Board of Supervisors on March 15 and providing a coordinating joint city-county effort to provide adequate shelter for the homeless at alternative shelters, both permanent and temporary with wrap around public health services. Focus on sheltering the homeless with family and children and increasing access to mental health services.

- The Chamber does not support allowing open camping in the downtown and neighborhoods and not allowing private individuals to open temporary camping/facilities with no mechanism or proper infrastructure in place to provide public health and safety to downtown or neighborhood.
- The Chamber opposes removing the overnight parking restrictions on Delaware Avenue between Swift Street and Shaffer Road. There is no infrastructure to accommodate temporary parking on a major corridor on the westside of Santa Cruz.

Votes:

- 1) Motion to establish a Housing Emergency Crisis failed on a 5-2 vote  
— NO: Mayor Watkins, Vice Mayor Cummings, Council members Mathews and Meyers  
YES: Council members Glover and Krohn

- 2) Request for directions on the removal of the parking ban on Delaware Avenue from Swift to Shaffer. There was no formal motion or direction from the Council and that item was left in limbo. However, it is possible the Council member Glover will follow up with the California Coastal Commission regarding having a coastal permit for no parking in the coastal zone. The ban and signage has been in place since 2004 without a permit.

- 3) Motion to move forward in co-effort with the County to close the Ross Camp and move forward to on the River Street Camp; Vice Mayor made a motion to approve the action but to keep OPEN the Ross Camp until there is adequate space to house all homeless in the encampment. This is a change from the Feb. 12 council meeting where the Council gave direction to city staff to work with the county and the campers and reporting back on Feb. 26 and March 12 council meetings with updates. This motion leaves in limbo when the Ross Camp will actually close and what steps should be taken with the campers.

Vice Mayor Cummings's motion passed on a 4-3 vote:

YES: Vice Mayor Cummings, Council members Brown, Glover, Krohn.

NO: Mayor Watkins, Mathews and Meyers