



**A VOICE FOR
THE SACRAMENTO AREA
HOMELESS COMMUNITY SINCE 1997**

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Budget Problems Force Changes to Winter Shelter Program

When the County of Sacramento had its budget hearings earlier this year we found that the budget was bust and there was no money for the Cal Expo Winter Shelter Program for this winter. Last winter there was shelter for 154 people in November and more beds added at Cal Expo after the tent city closure. Mayor Johnson, who is now the chair of the Policy Board to End Homelessness, "Sacramento Steps Forward", formed a winter shelter ad-hoc committee to see if our community could come together to help meet this dire need.

Cal Expo's site is very expensive, especially considering the high cost requirement for paying the State's security personnel. So the committee

focused on finding various funding sources and finding various locations to host homeless people during the winter. The committee came up with a plan that might provide funding and scattered sites for 319 people. All together, \$400,000 was raised, primarily from the City, the County and the Faith Community.

There would be 12 beds with Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center; VOA-Detox Center had 32 extra beds; 100 motel vouchers; VOA Readiness program had a vacant apartment building because of lack of funding this year for that program, which would provide 50 beds in shared rooms; Salvation Army would get funding for 20 beds; and Mather had some

bungalows that were previously used to house Katrina victims which could be used to house 105 beds for families.

Some motel vouchers and other programs were ready and available right away. Even though one motel opted out, others signed on, some due to media coverage of the need.

Rancho Cordova City Council stated objections at the announcement about shelter possibilities at Mather in Rancho Cordova, because they hadn't been consulted first. Most of the bungalows needed work, some extensive work, but 14 units were found to be suitable after basic cleanup and repairs. Though the Mather site was delayed

mostly for political and code enforcement reasons, agreement was finally reached and a volunteer working crew will repair and clean 15 units to have them ready for use by New Years, if not sooner.

As of this writing there are 196 winter shelter beds being used. The 34 bungalows will have 102 beds and the 59 Readiness beds will be up and running by January 1, making the total of 340 winter shelter beds, greatly out-doing last year's total.

Another great improvement is that most of the shelter sites will be available and open to the guests for 24 hours, instead of last year's process of busing people to Loaves & Fishes every morning at the crack of dawn. Amazing.

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY TO PAY CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY LOST OR TAKEN IN HOMELESS CAMPING CLEAN-UPS

The County has agreed to settle its part of a class action lawsuit seeking repayment for the seizure, confiscation and/or destruction of homeless persons' property that was taken or lost by county employees or agents after August 2, 2005, and before February 18, 2010, the last day to file claims.

If persons, while homeless, had property taken by county sheriffs, park ranges or other county employees, they are entitled to \$350, or \$750 depending on the amount of loss, if they file claims that support the loss. The

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) is coordinating the compensation process, including distribution of claim forms, assistance in filling out the forms, and evaluation of eligibility and amounts of claims. If a person wants to get compensation for a loss, he or she must file the official Claim Form, which is available from SHOC at www.sacshoc.org or at Loaves & Fishes' Friendship Park (1321 North C Street, Sacramento). Claims may be filed for multiple seizures and losses, but each person is entitled only

to the maximum of \$350 or \$750, depending on the value of the property lost. SHOC assistants will be available at Friendship Park to answer questions and assist in filling out the forms, or you can call (888) 442-2477 toll-free.

The Claims Form requests certain personal information about each applicant, the date(s) and location(s) of the losses, a list of what was lost, how the applicant knows that County personnel were involved in the seizure or loss, and an explanation of the value of property if the claim is for more than \$350.00. No

receipts or other proof of value is required. The Form must be returned by or postmarked by February 18, 2010.

After the Claims Forms are reviewed and eligibility is determined, the Federal Court will hold a hearing on March 25, 2010 to determine whether the settlement is fair and adequate. After the Court approves the settlement, claim checks can be distributed to approved applicants.

**see Official Notice
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Metropole Tenants to 3CDC: Hell No, We Won't Go

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by **Gregory Flannery**
Street Vibes, USA

CINCINNATI, OH: Tenants at the Metropole Apartments downtown took over a Nov. 5 (2009) meeting called by the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC), which has bought the building and plans to force them out.

The takeover, organized by the staff of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless and the Metropole Tenants Association, came one day after Cincinnati Police officers prevented the Homeless Coalition from attending a 3CDC meeting with tenants.

Because the Metropole houses low-income people under a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), tenants have a right to have advocates present at meetings with landlords, according to Josh Spring, executive director of the Homeless Coalition.

"Yesterday the police department kept the advocates and the lawyers out," Spring told the tenants. "The tenants have taken over the meeting now. The truth is you have a legal right to have advocates here, so we are the ones upholding the law. Today it's a different story. How does it feel to have the power?"

Blocking tenants' advocates from the earlier meeting is part of a complaint filed by the Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati. The complaint, filed with HUD, accuses 3CDC of housing discrimination, deception and other violations of law.

The Homeless Coalition has been organizing tenants for three months, warning them that 3CDC planned to buy the building and convert it to a boutique hotel. 3CDC – a non-profit development group partly funded by the city of Cincinnati – acquired the property last week for \$6.25 million. "3CDC has purchased your home and they desire to make your home into hotel rooms for tourists," Spring said. "They think you don't fit

in with the entertainment district. For three months they asked us not to talk to you, but we did."

'How would you like it?'

3CDC had called a tenants' meeting for 4 p.m. Nov. 5. But at 3 p.m. the Homeless Coalition and the Metropole Tenants Association carefully executed a pre-emptive strike. House rules allow visitors in the Metropole only by invitation of residents. Jeff Eaton, a member of the tenants' association, told the desk clerk that he had eight visitors: Spring; Rob Goeller, civil-rights coordinator for the Homeless Coalition; Bonnie Neumeier, director of the Peaslee Neighborhood Center; three journalists; and a Legal Aid lawyer.

The group went to the Metropole ballroom, where the activists posted signs listing their demands and arranged chairs in a circle. Dozens of residents began filing into the ballroom – a full hour before 3CDC's scheduled meeting, an indication that the takeover had been planned in advance.

As the meeting was about to start, a man huddled with Spring and Goeller and asked them to let 3CDC proceed with its own meeting.

"We'll tell them the information they do need," the man said.

Spring refused to back down.

"You've had plenty of opportunity," Spring said. "You haven't talked to the tenants. This is a tenants' meeting now. You should take the low seat and hear what the tenants have to say."

"Fine," the man said. "Then we won't have a meeting."

The man walked away. When a reporter asked for his name, the man said, "No." Asked if he were with Metropole management, the man said, "No." Asked if he worked for 3CDC, he again said, "No." Spring later introduced – or outed – him as Adam Gelter, development director for 3CDC.

When the man stalked off, Spring addressed the

tenants.

"They want to take your home and turn it into a hotel for tourists," he said. "They didn't ask you. Some of you have lived here over 20 years. Do you think that you are cattle to be herded around the city?"

The crowd answered, "No!"

"So what are you going to do about it?" Spring said. "Are you going to fight for your housing?"

"Yes!" the tenants answered. Several tenants then spoke.

"If we don't stick up for ourselves, it's going to affect our lives and other people's lives," said Robert Wavra. "A lot of people have used this building to get started or re-started because it didn't charge a lot for rent."

Wavra introduced an argument that would be repeated by Spring and the Legal Aid attorneys: 3CDC wants to evict the residents because low-income people don't fit into 3CDC's plans for the downtown entertainment district.

"They don't think you deserve to be close to the bus routes," Wavra said. "They don't think you deserve to be close to Fountain Square. We've got to stand up for ourselves and for the people coming behind us. If we let this go, it's gone for good." Another resident, Tracy Hall, said the federally subsidized apartments at the Metropole helped her change her life.

"For 12 years I was homeless," she said. "If it wasn't for the Metropole, I would not have had a second chance. Yes, there are some stains on the carpet and some things need to be repainted, but big deal. By moving in here, I've been able to attend college and get a job and get a second chance."

Hall addressed a woman from Brickstone Properties, the management company hired by 3CDC to help residents find other housing. "How would you like it if someone in a jacket came to you and said, 'You have to move and we've been planning it for

months,'" Hall said.

The Brickstone representative replied, "We're not putting anyone out on the streets. I'm just here to do a job." Like Gelter – the 3CDC employee who denied that he was with 3CDC – the woman wouldn't give her name.

A Cincinnati Police officer entered the ballroom but didn't interfere with the meeting. Three police officers were stationed in the lobby and two cops on horseback were in front of the Metropole during the meeting, according to Lynne Ausman, administrative coordinator for the Homeless Coalition. "3CDC and Brickstone have called the police," Spring told the tenants. "They're afraid of you."

'You don't fit'

In the ballroom, the Metropole Tenants Association posted a list of demands for 3CDC:

- "1. Renovate our homes here to the same level as your condos.
- "2. We will stay a community.
- "3. Metropole must stay affordable housing.
- "4. Laws must be made to prevent this (loss of affordable housing)."

HUD regulations require relocation assistance from 3CDC now that it has purchased the Metropole. But Spring, Goeller and John Schrider, attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati, urged tenants not to move and not to sign any agreements with Brickstone or 3CDC while the HUD complaint is pending. No residents can be forced to move for the next year, the homeless advocates said.

"This is legal advice: Don't move," Schrider said. "If you move, you won't get what you're entitled to. If you give in to the lies and false promises of the new owners, you're going to get ripped off. What the owners of this building are trying to do is cleanse downtown of people like you. They want rich white people."

Schrider's colleague at Legal Aid, Rickell L. Howard, echoed his assertion: 3CDC wants poor people out of the downtown entertainment dis-

trict. "They're trying to kick you out because of who you are," Howard said. "They don't need another hotel downtown. They think you don't fit."

After nearly two hours Spring introduced Gelter of 3CDC and Steve Smith of the Model Group – parent company of Brickstone Properties – to the tenants.

"Adam Gelter's here," Spring said. "He's the one who said he didn't want to listen to you."

Gelter apologized for "the confusion of the letter" 3CDC had earlier sent tenants. "We don't want anyone to move," he said. "We don't want anyone to sign anything." "You did yesterday!" a man in the crowd yelled.

Other members of the crowd demanded that Gelter and Smith stand in the center of the room so all tenants could hear them. The two men complied. "We intend to work within the rules," Smith said. "We will do things as HUD stipulates they must be done."

But if there were any doubt that 3CDC intends to force the tenants out, Smith made it clear, ignoring the demand that the tenants be allowed to stay. He instead told the tenants something that was never in dispute: No one could force the tenants to stay at the Metropole. "If people want to move out of the Metropole, that's their right," Smith said. "Our job is to make sure people don't fall through the cracks and become homeless."

That was a curious assertion by the very company whose job it is to rid the Metropole of its low-income tenants.

Throughout the meeting Bonnie Neumeier, a longtime advocate for homeless people, led tenants in updated versions of traditional civil-rights songs: "The Metropole's our home. We shall not be moved... Tenants united, we shall not be moved."

No one from 3CDC sang along.

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We've Lost Sight of the Value of Healthy Communities

Street News Service www.streetnewservice.org

by Paul Boden
Street Roots, USA

At some point in history, people will look back on American responses to homelessness during the '80s, '90s and early 2000s and most assuredly they will wonder: "What the hell were these people thinking?"

The notion that local governments can protect downtown business interests from having to bear witness to the realities of poverty by simply criminalizing the presence of poor people harkens back to the days of Jim Crow Laws, Anti-Okie laws, Alms houses and "Let them eat cake."

From Portland's sit-lie and anti-camping laws to Berkeley's Public Commons for Everyone (?) to L.A.'s Safer Cities Initiative and San Francisco's perpetual "Matrix"-style police enforcement, we are seeing a hardening of the premise that public space is the purview of the Business community and that the only people who are seen to have any right to that space are those that the businesses see as potential customers or Condo tenants.

This concept is advancing to the stage of class warfare. Business Improvement Districts BIDs (sometimes calling themselves Community Benefits Districts) are able to self tax themselves and then control how those tax dollars are spent within their district: they hire security that are authorized to function in public areas (even though they are not under public oversight or monitoring), and they use the tax money they collect to directly lobby government. You have heard talk about "letting no crisis go to waste," talk that within our current economic meltdown there is opportunity. But opportunity for whom?

Not for poor people. Not for people without housing or for families living in cars or for

individuals in hotels who are being criminalized out of their communities. It's the BIDs who are finding more and more opportunities to expand their agenda of displacing poor people so they can enhance profit margins and advance downtown gentrification.

Los Angeles, San Francisco and Berkeley are cities that pride themselves on being enlightened and progressive. But our self-image does not reflect our reality. A report just released by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless, "Homes Not Handcuffs," ranks these three California cities among the top 10 meanest cities in the country. Los Angeles comes in on top, San Francisco is seventh, and Berkeley is the tenth among 273 cities listed.

Homelessness is a spreading and deepening crisis in all of our communities. To deal with it by criminalizing people is ineffective, inhumane, and incredibly expensive. It is also just plain mean. Fighting back is what we do. We will not disappear and we will not cease to exist. We will continue to organize, to educate, to represent in court and to build alliances with our brothers and sisters across the country. We will demand a government that values the humanity of all people. A government that sees quality education, health care and housing as bringing value to a community and prioritizes ensuring it exists. We will see the day when the value of a healthy community has the same importance that the value of profits for corporations has today.

Paul Boden is the Executive Director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project based in San Francisco, California. More information is at www.wrphome.org

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WHAT CAN 10 QUESTIONS DO?
HELP BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES

The 2010 Census is coming in March!
Better healthcare. Better schools. Better roads. All that is within your reach when you fill out the Census form and mail it back when it comes in March. 10 simple questions. 10 minutes that will help decide how more than \$400 billion in Federal funds get dispersed to your community every year.
For more information, go to www.2010census.gov

United States
Census 2010
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

When is a good idea a really bad deal for everyone?

by Michael Brooks

The city, by rousting the homeless from the streets and sidewalks of Sacramento, claim to do so to protect the rights of its citizens, enforce public safety and sanitation laws while protecting the property of those they are sworn to protect. While all this sounds very commendable nothing could be further from the truth and here are some reasons why.

In the last few weeks and as a homeless person myself I had the misfortune of being found asleep in my vehicle. My vehicle was legally parked and properly registered but was parked on Bannon Street just down from the Union Gospel Mission.

There, I was found in my vehicle by a city police officer named Dustin Smith. He was courteous and professional and had identified himself by name, badge number and his 'street name' of "Powder" but while there, with the driver seat reclined and the officer's flashlight shining in my eyes, made the task of clearly seeing his name tag and verifying the number on his badge impossible.

Officer Smith had cautioned me that next time if he caught me sleeping in my vehicle I could possibly be cited for a

violation of illegally camping and would have to appear in court.

As he looked at my vehicle the officer remarked that I was fortunate because as he commented... "You have a vehicle that blends in most anywhere and you could get away with parking it and blending in with the other commonly parked vehicles in the area." Then the officer suggested I go across the bridge to the City of West Sacramento in Yolo County.

Was the officer nice and courteous to me? Yes! Was he most professional in his encounter with me? You could say he was! But what he was really saying was "out of sight, out of mind"!!?

I often wondered if the city of West Sacramento found out the city of Sacramento was dumping their homeless and drug problems on another city and county what would they say, think or do?

This has all the makings of a good lawsuit by West Sacramento, not to mention Yolo County, to bring suit against Sacramento for money to handle any increased social services and crime rate they may incur by this practice of "dumping."

see *Bad Idea* page 4

Bad Idea continued from page 3

Recently at a meeting with people from the mayor's office I had the opportunity of meeting with a captain of the Central Command Station on Richards Blvd in Sacramento. Without mentioning any names I had questioned the practice of disbursing the people sleeping on the sidewalks and immediate area in front of the Union Gospel Mission on Bannon Street.

I was told the use of drugs in the area justified the reason for the dispersing of the homeless in the area in the city's attempt to purge the problem from the area by dispersing it and sending it elsewhere. If this is true then it proves the city of Sacramento is doing nothing but "dumping" their problems on neighboring communities along with drugs and other associated problems that drugs involve. That is "illegal" not simply sleeping in your own vehicle.

As a former police officer I did and still do advocate the unbridling of the officers by the politics of the powers to be and want the city to allow the police to do what they do best; to work "real crimes" thereby protecting everyone. If you have a drug problem then deal with it and get the criminal element off the street. The last I heard they make places for people that do drugs...Use them!

Stop trying to make simply sleeping in your car a crime because it isn't! If it were a crime to sleep in your vehicle then you better get out there and start arresting all the 18 wheel truck drivers at the 49er Truck Stop. As a former truck driver most all truck drivers sleep in their vehicles every night. That is why they have sleepers on them. Now if you should attempt this just remember you are dealing with 'interstate commerce' and you might prepare to deal with the U.S. Congress and I doubt you will.

In regards to staying on private property longer than 24 hours being a violation it is not either! Many truckers stay at truck stops everywhere waiting for a load and often this is 2 to 4 days at a time.

However, not allowing officers to work "real crimes" frustrates the police. Running your problems into another community is doing nothing to address the problem. By frustrating the

police and making them pawns to be used against the helpless homeless and confiscating personal items of the homeless to try and run them off is a violation of the 1st, 4th and 5th, Amendments of the Constitution.

This too was the exact scenario with my encounter with the Paladin security guard one evening on Bannon Street in the same area. The guard had found me legally parked parallel to the fence that ran alongside the sidewalk on Bannon Street. There the guard was telling me the water district wanted anyone parked in the area to do so closer to the Union Gospel Mission on Bannon Street.

Now, I was getting a little annoyed by the repeated demands by both the city police and the security provided in the area that I had to move elsewhere. With the police repeatedly running us away from the Union Gospel Mission and the security repeatedly telling us to park closer to the same area the police run us off. What a contradiction in terms this is. This brought to mind where could I go to stay alive while living on the streets.

As a human being this repeated harassment gives the impression to the homeless that if they can't afford a motel room and had no other resources other than sleeping on the streets then maybe the homeless, has no economic value therefore they should parish.

Since every person working or not in this state are just a few paychecks from being homeless themselves how does that make anyone feel to be considered expendable and valued only by the size of their earning ability at any point in time and when your earning ability is diminished then to goes your justification for existence. If you try to be a law-biding citizen but with your existence you find your mere existence makes you a "criminal" what do you do and where do you go?

Is this the America our men and women fight for today? Is this what they would want as a nation to fight for and return to? Should our vet's return disabled should they be euphemized? If that isn't an attempt to return to a Nazi belief and state then what is it?

Single Payer Health Care Now !!!

My name is Tracie Rice-Bailey. I am an advocate for the poor and homeless. I am a member of Safe Ground Sacramento, which is a homeless movement by homeless people and their advocates to find Safe Ground, a place free from police harassment where we can live and reclaim our lives. I am also a member of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee.

I recently returned from a "Health Care Now" conference in St. Louis. The conference was about our Nation's health care system, and the fact that we don't have a health care program that works for everyone on American soil. I learned something that I have always believed, that quality health care and "for profit" do not mix - how can they ?!

There were at least a dozen powerful speakers on our Nation's flawed health care system. The most awesome speakers was Miss Ethel Long-Scott who spoke so powerfully that she received the only standing ovation of the conference.

There were also workshops, one being W.E.A.P. (Women's Economic Agenda Project). WEAP sponsors 'Teach-Ins' in Oakland. It was through these teach-ins that I became involved with the medical crises movement. The WEAP workshop put a face on the medical crises in our country by sharing stories of our current health care system.

I told of the time I found Helen with a new walker under the Interstate 5 bridge the day she was released from the hospital, after being hit by a motorcycle rider. The rider was killed. She was in the hospital in a coma for the longest, and was very weak when I found her.

I also shared about when I was shot in the face in a laundry mat. I was in the hospital for 5 days. Went in on a Monday. At first they weren't going to operate

because the bullet was in a spot they thought would either kill me or cause a severe stroke if they removed it. However, they operated on Wednesday and took the bullet out of the back of my head. I went home on Friday to an abandoned house. I now had a \$180,000 hospital bill and another \$70,000 for the ambulance. I had no insurance so I never went back to the doctors, even though my face was half paralyzed and I had severe nerve damage. I took my own stitches out and exercised my face until I finally regained movement. I still have severe nerve damage.

Take a look at the recent news. All of a sudden, they are doing their utmost to condition the American people to believe that pap smears for women should be done every other year, rather than the previous recommendation of every year that we have been brought to believe was life saving... all of a sudden, mammograms aren't that important for women under forty. What the hell is going on, and what are we going to accept as the norm?

If these new guidelines for mammograms are followed, more women will die each year of breast cancer. I heard this on the morning news while writing this paper (11-22-09), and on a later news cast the same day I heard that the new guidelines are a death sentence to thousands of American women every year. This is nothing short of obscene.

How can anyone promise and deliver quality and make a profit at the same time when it comes to a human life? The profit factor (meaning the corporate greed of insurance companies) must leave this industry for everyone to qualify for quality health care.

The Public Option they are pushing is not an option.

Are we going to accept health care that is even less than

what we have now (our health care system is not the best in the world). Not only do we have medical bankruptcies in this country, but we have poor people routinely released from hospitals after major trauma to live under bridges and on the sides of freeways, largely due to the 'for profit' health care system we have.

We need a system that covers every person on American soil. Just because a person is not born here shouldn't mean they should die here because of a flawed government that would allow an insurance company to decide who gets treated. I know many people who have been referred for treatment by a doctor and still can't get treatment because the procedure is not approved by the insurance company. Is this a doctor denying the procedure, or is it just an agent working for the insurance company? Who really has control over our health care?

With the current medical system, millions of Americans are not covered. Others with current health problems are either denied health care insurance coverage, or are losing what health care insurance they do have simply because it is not profitable for the insurance company to keep treating them.

The most important thing I came away with is this: We need a Single Payer health care system that will provide quality health care to every person in America - every person. Not just some but all, because health care is a Human Right!

One of the more amazing people I had the honor to meet was an 8 year old young man named "Martin". This youngster actually took comprehensive notes of the conference and said that he wanted to start a kid's chapter this year and represent next year. I am looking forward to seeing the kids represented next year.

Safe Ground Update

By John Kraitz

Although Safe Ground lost on its last attempt to set up a site, Mayor Kevin Johnson told members that there would not have been any shelter space at all if it had not been for Safe Ground's public advocacy. Safe Ground's influence helped to create 269 winter shelter beds, out of which our members got 22 vouchers for 22 beds in a motel, and those members who needed to went indoors. That doesn't mean that Safe Ground has been sleeping. Besides the people in the motel rooms, 91 people have recently signed up in the hope of improving their lives and ending their homelessness.

SG came out in support of the Mayor's Steps Forward at a big press conference. SG will support anything that will help people out of their homelessness.

We are still working on getting a cottage style community that would be a partial solution to homelessness, at a far less cost than the conventional shelter system. It would include counselors, self-help meeting space, showers, kitchen and several sleeping cabins, and raised garden areas.

This still isn't enough - we have to do more. The winter beds available only serve about 10% of the total homeless population known to sleep on the streets.

Safe Ground is planning to host winter pilgrimage beginning on the 29th of December with a March and Rally. The pilgrimage will be a daily march to a new site every day, since staying on private property with the owner's permission for 24 hours is legal. This should provide a way for 50 to 100 people to stay dry and warm at night for the worst part of the winter.

The concept of Safe Ground is not unique to Sacramento. The People Project of Eureka has very similar goals to SG and SG went to show support. We arrived to find a small tent city set up in the City Hall parking lot. There were about 20 to 30 people. The first night the unity and empowerment in the camp left me with the impression that people were starting to take control of their own lives. The second night the police came in and ruined all that, once again proving that City Governments do not want Safe Ground. Hopefully our City Council in Sacramento is coming around and going to help us craft a real solution instead of using police brutality as a tool of influence... Think Housing, not Handcuffs.

On International Human Rights Day members of SG went to Fresno to visit the Pamela Kincaid Neighborhood Center, a new homeless outreach project. A tent city is also standing in Fresno. The police had given until Dec. 16 for the camp to disperse, but because of the advocacy of the people at the Pamela Kincaid Center, the deadline was extended to January 6. Once again this shows that homeless people can have a voice. At the press conference they held, they confessed to seizing foreclosed houses for homeless people, but wouldn't say where the houses were.

Its inspiring to see people in other cities trying to help the homeless find the hope they lost.

NOTICE OF PARTIAL CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF HOMELESS PERSONS CLAIMS AGAINST SACRAMENTO COUNTY FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE CONFISCATION AND/OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

IF AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 2, 2005, TO DATE, WHILE HOMELESS, YOU LOST PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF IT BEING REMOVED, CONFISCATED, AND/OR DESTROYED BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFFS, SACRAMENTO COUNTY PARK RANGERS, OR SACRAMENTO COUNTY EMPLOYEES, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO MONETARY COMPENSATION DEPENDING UPON ANSWERS GIVEN TO QUESTIONS ON A CLAIM FORM.

There is a proposed partial Settlement of a Class Action lawsuit, **Lehr, et al. v. Sacramento County, et al.**, pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. The lawsuit concerns the confiscation and/or destruction of homeless persons' property by Sacramento County and their agents and employees.

What is the Litigation About?

The case defines the class included in this partial settlement as follows:

All persons who, while homeless, lost property as a result of County seizures and destructions from the period August 2, 2005, to date.

What are the Terms?

If you lost property as a result of County seizures and/or destruction during the period of August 2, 2005, to date, you may be entitled to compensation.

Defendant County will pay \$200,000 under the terms of the settlement which will be used to compensate all persons who, while homeless, lost property as a result of County seizures and destructions from the period August 2, 2005, to date. Homeless persons wishing to recover compensation (either \$350 or \$750 depending upon the level of their loss), will have to obtain and submit claim forms which will be evaluated pursuant to the terms of the settlement and payments distributed, if the Court approves the partial settlement, shortly after the final Fairness Hearing.

For more information or to receive a claim form, consult the website or call the toll free number below.

What Are My Legal Rights?

If you wish to share in the Settlement Fund you must file a claim as discussed below. If the Court approves the Proposed Partial Settlement, you will receive a payment if you qualify. You will also be bound by all of the Court's orders. This means you will drop any claims you may have against the Defendants covered by this Partial Settlement.

If you wish to file a claim you must complete a Claim Form. You can get a Claim Form by contacting the Claims Administrators, in writing, at the address given below, or by calling the toll free number. Claim Forms must be signed and post-marked no later than **February 18, 2010**.

When Will the Settlement be Approved?

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California will hold a Fairness Hearing to decide if the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate at 2:00p.m. on March 25, 2010, at the United States District Court, 501 I Street, Courtroom 7, Sacramento, California.

If you remain a member of the Settlement Class you or your counsel have the right to appear before the Court and to object to the Settlement. However, in order to object, you must file a written objection, as outlined in the Stipulation of Settlement and long form notice. Objections must be filed with the Court by February 18, 2010.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, YOUR RIGHTS, AND A COPY OF THE NOTICE:

VISIT: www.sacshoc.org or Call: (888) 442-2477 toll free

**Or Visit: Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC),
1321 North C Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**

PLEASE, DO NOT CALL THE COURT OR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO.

Against All Odds

by Lillian Hanson

"He is the nicest person I've ever known. I've never known anyone who knows Glenn that doesn't say nice things about him. He's awesome. He's the only person who can keep me on the right path. When Glenn speaks, it's most always to build and strengthen. I have a lot more to learn from him." These are the words of Tracie, wife of G. P. Bailey, composer and musician of the homeless.

Son of a navy flight instructor, Glenn was born in Pensacola, Florida. H. G. Bailey put himself through the Atlanta Law School. Joyce Bailey, a music "aficionado" possessed a large collection of the vocal groups of the day for she loved to sing, mostly in choirs and glee clubs. As he grew up, Glenn found himself often in the living room, surrounded by a vast musical collection which had been assembled by his parents.

"My first musical memory is hearing Les Paul's guitar and wanting to make that sound. I didn't know what the sound was but I was determined to make it. It was heaven to me. I received rhythm from dad who was a drummer and the singing from mom." Glenn recalls. Throughout High School and College, Glenn sang in glee, choirs, and various ensembles, loving every minute.

One day, Glenn found himself singing at a wedding, accompanied by a guitarist. The guitarist kept on playing chords which belonged to other songs, much to his dismay. Glenn determined at that moment to accompany himself on the guitar from then on. As fate would have it, a guitar was accidentally left at his home by a friend and this enabled Glenn to teach himself the guitar for one and a half years. This was no easy feat considering the many times that his friend returned for the guitar, however, Glenn and his 20 year old friends rose to the occasion, providing sufficient distraction to insure that the guitar would not be found right away.

A house on D Street was the rehearsal home of Slo-loris, an iconic early 70's Sacramento band and this became Glenn's new home after he ran away from his father's home. Surrounded by musicians of good taste, Glenn commenced to absorb the music. Brien Matson, trombone, went on to a stellar career, playing with the likes of Tina Turner and Tom Jones. He is now the president of the Honolulu Musician's Union. Dennis Farias, also played with Tina Turner and

Tom Jones as well as Engelbert Humperdink. He played trumpet in "Nick of Time" which won a Grammy.

Glenn launched his own musical career in 1977 at the Virgin Sturgeon in an acoustic duo. Unfortunately, Disco arrived and folk music took a back seat. At this point, Glenn moved to the Russian River area and became a "regular working guy". His first life altering accident occurred there leaving him with a severe head and neck trauma. Glenn returned to his father's home in Sacramento. Music was no longer an option for Glenn for several years, after which he returned to Russian River where he played professionally until the floods of 1995 destroyed his trailer and all his belongings leaving him homeless. One year later, he found himself pushing a shopping cart living behind an abandoned building in Santa Rosa. He managed to get a job as a care provider with a girl in the nearby apartments. But, in 1999, while transferring his friend into a wheelchair, Glenn fell to the ground paralyzed on his left side. Once more, Glenn's musical career came to a screeching halt.

Glenn returned to Sacramento, arriving at the doorstep of a childhood friend. With his disability, Glenn bought a guitar thinking that he could still write if not perform. In spite of his numb left hand, Glenn managed to play the guitar once again. The numbness of the hand proved to be quite a challenge, for suddenly, in the middle of a song, it would stop working, unable to cooperate. Quickly, Glenn would improvise:

a strum, then, a hammer-on or a pull-off, or some other guitar trick to awaken the hand. Sometimes, he would simply start singing. As a last resort, he would slap the hand on his thigh as he continued the song. Thus Glenn developed a totally unique style which continues to this day.

In the summer of 2006, Glenn suffered the first of two heart attacks, another major setback. As a result of this, Glenn developed a healthy lifestyle to which he attributes his stamina and his desire to perform returned. During his recovery, Glenn found himself watching an excessive amount of TV, namely Good Morning Sacramento on Channel 31. Glenn performed live a theme song for channel 31 which he had written. He performed many more live broadcasts for Channel 31 until he suffered a second heart attack in January of 2007. The day after he left the hospital, Glenn performed live for Channel 31 and then he began to perform at open mic's around town.

In April of 2008, Glenn and Tracie met at Caesar Chavez Park during a concert and they married in October of 2008. Tracie is a homeless activist and Glenn found himself swept up in the movement.

One day, John Kraitz was visiting Glenn, when John received a phone call from some campers who were being told that they had to move now. They were nowhere near town. At that moment Glenn thought to himself "where are they

going to go...we still don't know." The song came. The first CD was released in October of 2009 and the second CD will be released in January of 2010.

Glenn was inspired to write his songs because no one else was doing it that he knew of. He identifies with the homeless because he himself was homeless.

Glenn states, "The cause has rejuvenated my song writing career. I recently performed my first live show in over a decade at Luna's which went well. The intent of the songs is to wake people up as to just who these homeless people are. They are us. My songs are about real

people and real incidents. Songs in the new CD feature David Moss and John Kraitz, noted homeless leaders. In the tradition of Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie, I have attempted to portray an American situation because we can't fix it if we don't know about it. I'm telling everybody. I see myself as a patriot. I was told as a child that America was the 'land of the free.' At this time, I don't think that this is the case. If just one of us is not free to lay his head on the ground then none of us is free. Remember, there are many homeless veterans."

The CD's are available on CDBaby.com



Glenn & Tracie

Bob Dylan Brings Christmas Cheer to Those Without Homes

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by Angus MacSwan
Reuters

LONDON, UK - Singer Bob Dylan reminisces about Christmas past, turkey dinners and his favorite holiday songs in a rare interview in a magazine for homeless people. The 68-year-old singer has baffled fans and critics with his new album "Christmas in the Heart" — a collection of carols and traditional yuletide songs delivered in his croaking voice.

All proceeds will go to charities for the homeless and hungry in the United States, Britain and 80 poor countries. Asked why he picked those organizations, Dylan told the interviewer: "They get food straight to the people.

No military organization, no bureaucracy, no governments to deal with."

The exclusive interview appeared in The Big Issue magazine in Britain and similar street papers in North America. Dylan — born Robert Allen Zimmerman — said that although Jewish, he never felt left out of Christmas as a boy growing up in Minnesota. He recalled "plenty of snow, jingle bells, Christmas carolers going from house to house, sleighs in the streets, town bells ringing, nativity plays." His idea of a good Christmas dinner was roast turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy, collard greens and all the trimmings.

The songs on the Christmas album were "part of my life, just like folk songs," he said. Why does Christmas have the best songs? "Maybe because it's so worldwide and everybody can relate to it in their own way."

The release of the Christmas album has only added to the enigma of Dylan and caps an eventful year for him.

He played more than 100 shows in Europe and North America as part of his "Never Ending Tour" and topped the charts in Britain and the United States with his album "Together Through Life."

He was also detained by police in New Jersey in July when homeowners spotted a hooded

man wandering around their street in the rain. The young police officer failed to recognize the Oscar and Grammy-winning songwriter.

The Christmas album has also renewed speculation among Bob-watchers about his current faith, if any. He was a Born Again Christian from 1979-81 and released three religious-themed albums.

He cryptically told the interviewer: "I am a true believer" but did not elaborate further.

Courtesy of Reuters
© Street News Service:
www.street-papers.org

Coffee Ice Cream, Billy and Me: A Tribute to a Quiet Advocate

www.SideBySideWithTheHomeless.org

By Linda Kelly-Baker

Billy was never quite sure what year he was born, but it was in New York City about 55 years ago. His name was William McManus, though everyone called him "Billy". His mother died while he was quite young and Billy's alcoholic father did not provide for him and younger brother Robert. In the 4th grade, Billy quite school to run numbers to make money for food. Later on, Billy joined the Air Force and when he was discharged came to find his brother in Sacramento, CA. According to Billy, Robert's wife was not open to him staying with them and he ended up homeless on the river.

Occasionally, Billy lived inside, was married a few times, and held small jobs, including working part time for Loaves & Fishes where we met. He lived in a bush near the American River bike trail. His four dogs were his "kids". I was always amazed at how he controlled them without ever raising his voice.

Billy was a pioneer and humble advocate for those living outside. When cited for unlawful camping, Billy took the challenge and chose to stand up for what he believed was right. He asked for a jury trial so others like him could live in peace, free from harassment, from park rangers, and local authorities. In 2003, this small, scruffy homeless man sat in court with his lawyer and faced the polished Sacramento City attorney. It created a lot of media attention. Billy went through several trials and retrials, calmly doing what he felt called to do. It was stressful. He was severely harassed by officers on the river, one time having all his possessions destroyed. In spite of it all, he persevered.

I accompanied Billy to most of his court dates. At the conclusion of each trial we celebrated at

Leatherby's Ice Cream Parlor with his favorite: coffee ice cream. He won his first case, but eventually was fined and told to stay away from the American River where he had lived for most of his adult life. He moved across the county line to live on the Sacramento River.

I continued to visit Billy in his camp on the Sacramento River, checking on him and his dogs, bringing food and candies. Every time I visited, Billy was the most gracious host. He offered me a rickety chair or a milk crate salvaged from somewhere and we would sit and visit. He always let me know that God and he were talking and things were OK. Then he would escort me down the levee road to my car, telling the dogs to stay put, gave me a hug, and saw me off.

Eventually, I brought a few friends out to meet Billy, including my husband-to-be. Each one was welcomed with humble grace and openness. He had a certain wisdom about the world, even though he never ventured very far.

When I visited, he always asked about staff and people he knew at Loaves & Fishes, and seemed to know how they were before I told him. He was tuned in to all things in some mystical way. Billy came to live like a hermit, yet was surrounded by friends who camped within shouting distance. They were like family, closer than some families I know. They watched out for each other. Young men came to him for advice and women friends poured their hearts out to him. One man said Billy led him to God.

Of course, Billy did not live an exemplary life, but who does? Billy taught me about acceptance of what is. He taught me courage and gentle confidence in standing up for what I believe. He showed hospitality even in the midst of squalor; grace in simplicity of living, and in just being exactly who he was. He touched my heart.

Billy thought he had lung cancer and resigned himself to dying on the river in his camp - that's what he wanted. He told me he was

not afraid to die. One day in late October, he struggled hard to breathe. His friends convinced him to go to the emergency room and 911 was called. His first day there he asked me to bring him coffee ice cream. The next day they put him on a ventilator. Billy was in ICU for two weeks while we tried to find his brother who had moved to Texas years ago. He could not be found. On Monday, November 9th, with several friends, a Loaves & Fishes staff person and I, we prayed and sang Amazing Grace as the ventilator was turned off and he took his last breath.

I cried many tears for Billy, my friend and teacher. It was my honor to officiate at his memorial service at Loaves & Fishes on November 20th, after which coffee ice cream was served.

Originally published in the Side-by-Side Newsletter, Winter 2009 edition. Reprinted with permission of the author.



Billy McManus and some friends, August 2008



The Obituary list was not available for this issue, any names will be included in the next issue.



I want to see **HOMeward**,
a newspaper produced by homeless people, expand in Sacramento.
Enclosed find my donation of \$15 for a one year subscription.

Please mail my copies to:

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and mail to: PO Box 952 • Sacramento, CA 95812

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HOMELESS RESOURCES

Night Shelters

Salvation Army: 12th and North B St. 30 days per year: Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents: Men/Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. **442-0331**

St. John's Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. **453-1482**

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: **447-3268**

SAEHC, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center: 4516 Parker Ave. 24 hrs: Family Shelter: Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge, single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability **455-2160**

Day Shelters

Friendship Park: 12th St. & North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services

Meals

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, **Evening meal**, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. **447-3268**

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 No. C St.: **Lunch** every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays .

Women's Civic Improvement Center: Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 **lunch** M-F **452-2866**

Helping Hands: 3526 5th Ave. Sundays, 8-11 breakfast, sack lunch, clothing

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in Cesear Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.

Women & Children

Maryhouse: 1321 No. C St. suite 32: **Breakfast** for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

Wellspring 3414 4th St.: T&Th full **breakfast:** M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. **454-9688**

see *Wind in Youth Services* for young adults

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. **456-1980**

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Wed. only. Call for appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am **447-3268**

Medical

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. **446-3345**

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm **874-8300**

Mental Health

Guest House, 1400 N. A St.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic, M,W,Th,Fri., 8-11:30am Tues 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: **443-6972**

TLCS Intake Offices: 1400 N.'A' St. Blding. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F **440-1500**

Genesis: Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. Next to Friendship Park gate. **699-1536**

Youth Services

Diogenes: youth 16-21 yrs old. Hot Line call **1-800-339-7177**

Wind Youth Center: 701 Dixieanne Ave. Serves youth ages 12-20. Breakfast and Lunch; Clothing; Laundry and Showers; Case Management. Drop-in Hours: M - F from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Sat 10am to 2pm. **443-8333**

Crisis Intervention

WEAVE: Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: **920-2952**

Sacramento Mental Health Center (County): 2150 Stockton Blvd (at T St.) 24hr. Will evaluate anyone for voluntary or involuntary psychiatric care due to danger to self or others. In-patient care facility, drop-in. **732-3637**

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. **979-0897** weekdays.

CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service): 1500 21st ST. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. **443-3299**

Breaking Barriers: Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. **447-2437**

Harm Reduction Services: 3640 40th St.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. **456-4849**

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. **874-7720**.

Legal Aid

Disability Rights, CA: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY: **(800)776-5746**

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic: 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. **446-0368**

Legal Services of Northern California, Inc: 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. **551-2150**

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. **736-0616**

Miscellaneous

Francis House: 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30 am M-W & 1-3 pm M-F: walk-in or referral providing resource counseling, advocacy, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth Certificates, plus motel vouchers for qualified families. **443-2646**

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. **874-2072**

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. **227-0300**

Medi-Cal: 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. **916-874-2256**

Social Security Office: 8351 Folsom Blvd (College Greens Lite-rail stop) M-F 9am-4:30pm **381-9410**: Natl line **1-800-772-1213**

About SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens which promotes decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

You may call for info:
(916) 455-4900

Individual Membership dues:
Standard: \$50;
Low-income, Student: \$10

Organizations:
\$200 - \$1,000
Dues based on organization budget, please call to get estimate.

Send donations to:
Sacramento Housing Alliance
1800 21st St. Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Mail or bring your ad to the Homeward office. Try to keep it under 25 words.

Jobs Wanted

Give hope and happiness. Give a job, such as moving or yard work, to a homeless worker.

Call
Loaves & Fishes
job phone at
832-5510;
Or mail to
Loaves & Fishes,
Jobs for Homeless,
PO Box 2161,
Sac, CA 95812

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer
Free Consultation
(916) 658-1880

Infoline is now:
211 Sacramento
Dial 211
for tele-info & referral service

California Youth Crisis Line:
1-800-843-5200

Health Rights Hotline:
551-2100

VA Outreach:
1-800-827-1000
Homeless VA Coordinator:
(916) 364-6547

Welcome to HOMeward:

Please help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or SHOC or Homeward.

Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the authors' intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed .

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in NASNA member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.

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The paper may be reached at:
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