



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

# HOMeward

## Street Journal

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## Sacramento County and City Declare Shelter Crisis

By Paula Lomazzi

For the County and City to be able to apply for Homeless Emergency Aid Program State funding, jurisdictions have had to have declared a shelter crisis. So the County did and the City is expected to soon follow. With \$19.9M of HEAP and the CA Emergency Solutions and Housing Program funding at stake, it is a simple act to declare a shelter crisis. To make the declaration, local governments must have determined a significant number of people are without the ability to obtain shelter and that the "situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons". The benefit of declaring this crisis is that some state or local regulations on standards of housing, health, or

safety can be suspended to unhinder solving the shelter crisis through opening additional public facilities to homeless people. The declaration makes the public entity immune from liability for ordinary negligence (not from gross negligence). Public facilities could be opened up for homeless people to use during the emergency. The County's Shelter Crisis will expire in one year.

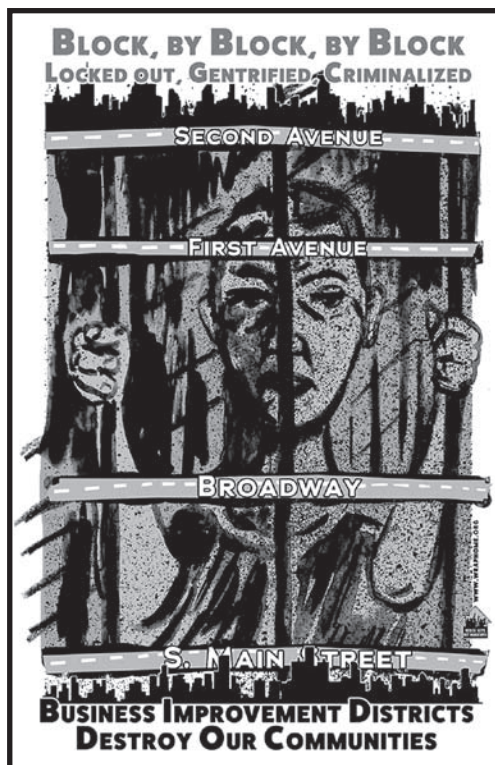
The County's declaration stated there were 3,665 persons experiencing homelessness and 2,052 were living without shelter. We can assume this is an undercount considering people trying to hide from public view and police, people sleeping on friend's couches and garages, vehicularly housed are often hard to identify, etc. We also can't count those in subsidized housing who without subsidies would become homeless.

With our local shortage of affordable housing, shelters seem to be the only immediate help for people living on the streets, at least until homeless housing program spots open up.

Even with a HUD Section 8 Voucher, apartments are hard to secure. In Sacramento there are 845 shelter beds for individuals and 129 units for families (387 average individuals in families). There are an additional 247 shelter beds in the winter. Of those shelters, some of the beds are designated for specific populations, such as veterans, those fleeing domestic violence, youth and young adults, and some men only or women only. A prior resource for the general population, Salvation Army Shelter, has just recently decided to serve only Veterans, though it has allowed non-veteran women in.

Collaboration is another requirement for the HEAP and CESH funding so the County, the City, and Sacramento Steps Forward will work together on addressing this crisis.

They should add this: Whereas we should have declared a shelter crisis decades ago and we should have ended homelessness before it started. What's wrong with us?



Big Bad Bids - Page 4



Street Soccer USA National Cup - Page 2



# STREET SOCCER USA NATIONAL CUP WAS HELD OCTOBER 5-7 IN OLD SACRAMENTO.

14 teams from 14 cities competed for the Social Change National Cup and to be among the 8 men and 8 women who will make up the SSUSA National team to compete in the Homeless World Cup in Mexico City. Street Soccer USA-Sacramento has had a team for eight years and serves youth, homeless adults and people in recovery, with a mission to fight poverty and empower underserved communities through soccer.

All Photos by Kayla Bejsovec





# Living In Cruel and Unusual Times

By Cathleen Williams

Today, I'm writing from Las Vegas. Just last week, I opened the local paper to find a story about a family of eight from Ohio who had arrived a few days before in the city's "courtyard" facility, where homeless people can sleep in a "secure, open air space." The courtyard was packed and couldn't take them. The surrounding shelters were packed and couldn't take them. Even if there had been beds, the shelters separate by gender, and this family, like many, refused to be separated.

So the mother slept on the asphalt in the parking lot, holding her 3 year-old daughter and 6 year-old son. Her fiancé slept a few feet away with four other kids in their purple 2002 Chrysler Voyager.

Almost two hundred families are waiting for housing in Southern Nevada. More arrive every day. *There could be work here.*

Las Vegas is a city of contradictions. A city of close-up dreams where you can live for a day like a millionaire. City of sin, they say proudly. The suicide capital of the country, yet also the unlikely desert outpost where neon flashes and money flows: A city where you can find a job sweeping and serving and showing off your sequined flesh – in the street, if nowhere else. City where you can make a new start, as this mother said to the newspaper reporter: *Had to leave Ohio, nothing for us there – but we'll get on our feet here.*

I'm writing from Las Vegas, because I'm working on a trial – the "patient dumping" case against Nevada's state-funded Rawson Neal Hospital. This is where Nevada's poorest mentally ill patients are brought through the doors for respite and treatment. For a period of years – I don't know how long this went before the State of Nevada got caught -- hundreds

of these patients were put into taxis by hospital staff and taken to the Greyhound bus station, carrying prepaid tickets to out of state destinations. They called it "Greyhound bus therapy."

Once on the bus, these Rawson Neal patients were dispersed across the nation, to cities as far away as Alaska and Maine. Isolated and alone, often disabled and psychotic, patients traveled without money, without food, sometimes without identification or even a coat, to places where they had never been before, where no family or friends or other resources existed to protect them from their own delusions and hallucinations – or from the weather.

Disabled, mentally ill, in 2012 James Brown stumbled off the Greyhound from Las Vegas to find himself in Sacramento. On the stand, he told a story of being sent by bus from Rawson Neal after being diagnosed with psychosis and developmental disability. He was told to call 911 when he arrived, sleeping under a trailer in the rain that first night.

Which brings us to the recent federal court case, *Martin v. City of Boise*, which held that the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment of the U.S Constitution bars the criminal punishment of homeless people for living outside unless they can obtain shelter.

"Sitting, lying, or sleeping," the Court said, are "universal and unavoidable consequences of being human" – humans are "biologically compelled to rest." Therefore it is cruel and unusual to criminalize them, to punish them, *for being human.*

So far, the City has taken the position that its enforcement of the anti-camping ordinance

is not affected by the Boise decision. The homeless community on Ahern Street has been "removed" and the people dispersed to unknown destinations. From what we hear at Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, the police threatened, but did not issue, citations or make arrests, so maybe no Boise violation. But, again, living in cruel and unusual times when you can sweep away dozens of people who have nowhere else to go.

The County of Sacramento's Board of Supervisors held a hearing on the impact of the Boise case. They were reassured by the Park Ranger representative who told them homeless people are now being criminalized in other ways, including citations for littering, water pollution, smoking, fires, consuming alcohol, and possession of shopping carts in the parks. In fact, it was reported that citation numbers along the American River Parkway have not fallen in the weeks since the Boise decision was published. They have increased.

In the course of the hearing, it became clear that the Board of Supervisors were focused on a single concern – how to "move people along." The County's had "great success" in doing so, according to one Supervisor.

To use the word "success" when human displacement is the issue: living in cruel and unusual times.

Several representatives of the public rose and spoke. Bob Erlenbusch, from the Coalition to End Homelessness, noted that it never ceases to amaze – all the talk of trash and waste at homeless camps, and not a word about bathrooms and trash bins. No discussion of the public health crisis from the lack of safe water and sanitary conditions, even though Hepatitis A and now Typhus are being spread through homeless communities.

"You would think," he concluded, "that the logic of Boise would trigger discussion of providing shelter, rather than continuing to figure out ways to criminalize homeless people."

Allegra Taylor also stood up. She said, "I'm here to speak up for the homeless. You put the emphasis on everything but the human beings, from veterans to aged-out foster kids to seniors. You always try to make it look like you are trying to beautify our city but our residents are suffering. Start thinking about human beings: You are failing us."

Living in cruel and unusual times: *We have a lot of work to do.*



Police sweep in October displaced residents living in tent community on Ahern Street - Photo by Chrystal Rose Sanchez

# I'M BIG.....I'M BAD.....I'M A BID!!

## Western Regional Advocacy Project Report

Patrolling and controlling our public spaces—sidewalks, streets and parks—Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are privatizing our downtowns and main thoroughfares. Our public spaces are becoming corridors and shopping centers that are welcoming consumers with open arms and excluding everyone else. Most particularly impacted by this emerging trend are the houseless communities, who are seeing these areas to rest and sleep, free from harassment and criminalization, shrink.

BIDs have been growing significantly across the United States. In California, BIDs have grown exponentially since the passage of the Business Improvement District Law of 1994, which expanded their budget, autonomy and authority. One hundred eighty-nine BIDs have been identified in 69 California cities surveyed. What began as a way to supplement public services within geographically defined boundaries has turned into massive beasts with large budgets, controlling public space and being significantly funded with tax dollars with little to no oversight.

Even though BIDs control large swaths of private and public land, many people do not know what a BID is. However, most people could probably point out the BID Ambassador and street cleaning teams, whose brightly colored uniforms are a common sight as they give tourists and shoppers directions, pick up garbage, and pressure wash sidewalks. A positive sight for many, but behind the scenes, BIDs have become powerful lobbies, crafting or supporting ballot initiatives and legislation to push anti-homeless loitering, sit-lie, sidewalk obstruction and other laws, ensuring the further criminalization of homeless people and compounding the day to day harassment of the houseless community. As shown below, the increase in BIDs directly correlates to an increase in local anti-homeless laws.

BIDs are formed when business owners and/or property owners come together, petition for their establishment and get approval from the local government. Once the BID is established, the local government collects an assessment (tax) from all the property owners within the district, including the local government on publicly owned parcels. Funds

from this tax are then turned over “to a nonprofit or to a quasi-governmental agency run by the BID organization’s board of directors.” Some BIDs are run by business owners, who are primarily focused on bringing in more shoppers, while others are run by property owners, who are interested in attracting tenants who can pay higher rents for storefronts and/or housing. In effect, our local governments are turning taxpayer dollars over to private businesses, which use that money to create a more “safe and attractive” consumer environment. There are well over 1,000 of these special districts throughout the United States, whose main function is to drive poor and homeless people away from the neighborhood by hassling them, enforcing the sit-lie law and other discriminatory tactics, including contracting with the cops to step up enforcement of “quality of life” offenses, thus criminalizing homeless and poor people’s existence.

“It is my understanding that the people who ride around on bikes waking up the homeless are not supposed to put their hands on anyone... If I’m breaking the law a San Diego Police Officer is to do something about it- not some flunkie on a bike who has no badge, [and] won’t tell me his name,” stated a complaint filed by a homeless woman in San Diego, who was awakened by a BID security guard when he rode his bike into her.

To be clear, we are not just talking about houseless people when we talk about BIDs criminalizing non-consumers. BIDs do not want anyone in their districts from whom they cannot profit. This includes street vendors (Permit Betty), buskers and anyone who is hanging out in the neighborhood but not looking to purchase anything. Laws against sitting on the sidewalk and other such laws are always discriminately enforced, specifically with the goal of removing people who are not wanted, from public spaces.

From a study by UC Berkeley Law School Policy Advocacy Clinic conducted for the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP) to understand the effects Business Improvement Districts have on houseless communities in California, “BIDs violate California law when they spend property assessment revenue on policy advocacy... BIDs may violate additional state laws when they spend

assessment revenue collected from public properties within their districts on policy advocacy.... BIDs and their agents may violate state, federal and international law through their policing practices, including the infringing on the legal rights of homeless people.” This study, “Homeless Exclusion Districts: How California Business Improvement Districts Use Policy Advocacy and Policing Practices to Exclude Homeless People from Public Space,” is the first of its kind containing groundbreaking research on how BIDs impact our local communities.

“Their entire job is to push homeless people out by harassment, pressure washing the streets, and calling the cops on folks. They are also hiring formerly homeless people to harass other homeless people and removing them from their economic corridors,” remarked Benjamin Donlon of Right To Survive in Portland, Oregon, on Clean and Safe, a 213 block BID that touts itself as the “oldest, largest and most successful BID in the nation” created by several adjacent BIDs, Clean and Safe controls all of downtown and Old Town Portland.

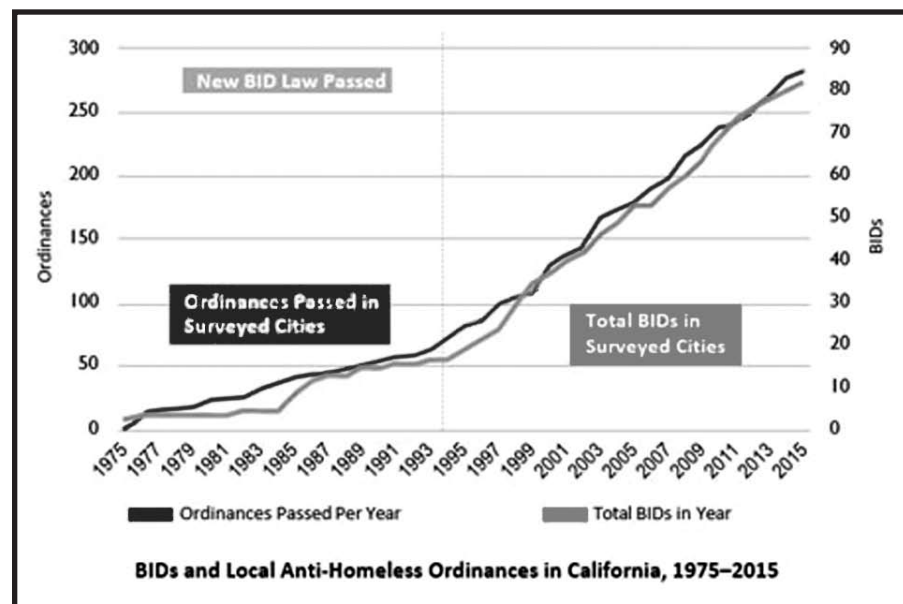
As General Dogon, an organizer from L.A. Skid Row can attest, “Cops will pull up and go right up to the BID guard and pull him to the side and have a conversation with them, and then walk over to the homeless person and tell them what they did wrong. The BID guards then began to think that they are the police and that they have the power. The community ambassador is really the community oppressor.”

A classic example of BID control of public space is the Urban Camping Ban in Denver, Colorado. Terese Howard of Denver Homeless Out Loud said, “When the unauthorized camping ban was passed in Denver, The Downtown Business Partnership (a prominent BID in Denver) listed in their annual report that they were successful in the lobbying of the unauthorized camping ban. Further, the Downtown Business Partnership supports enforcement of sit-lie laws, enforcement of unconstitutional panhandling bans, and further architecturally pushes homeless people out of their districts by removing benches, water fountains, bathrooms and trash cans.”

“BIDs will go Block by Block to ensure that every sidewalk, street and park serve to benefit the businesses that are in the district. Public Space has become nothing more than the hallways of a shopping mall, and if you are in that hallway you better be there to shop, or someone will chase you out.” Said Paul Boden of WRAP.

With the release of the study, “Homeless Exclusion Districts: How California Business Improvement Districts Use Policy Advocacy and Policing Practices to Exclude Homeless People from Public Space,” we hope to bring greater awareness to how our shiny new shopping spaces are created, and what goes into their creation—mainly our tax dollars and our freedom.

You can download the Homeless Exclusion Districts report at [wraphome.org/homeless-exclusion-districts](http://wraphome.org/homeless-exclusion-districts)





# Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee Press Conference at City Hall

## Staff Report

*Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee had a press conference at City Hall to announce the release of Berkeley Law School's report about Business Improvement Districts and how they impact homeless people. The report was written for Western Regional Advocacy Project, of which SHOC is a member. This is Niki Jones' speech at the event.*

My sincere gratitude to the researchers at the Policy Advocacy Project and to the individuals who shared their voices, whose experiences drive the purpose and substance of this report. And to the advocates, here locally, that have been sounding the alarm on the very real impact of Business Improvement Districts on our communities for some time now, calling us all to pay attention.

To pay attention to how those with wealth use their power and influence to disparage, coerce, and degrade the situation of the poor. Pay attention to how those with power listen well and smile wide for those with capital infused business interests, yet shut down and roll their eyes at those poor, black, brown, indigenous, and disabled who bring their trauma-infused human interests. And where there is intersection and those interests seem in conflict you will see Sacramento City officials do the work for Business Districts instead for those experiencing hardship every time.

At a widely attended public hearing on solutions to homelessness, the Mayor, Steinburg, proved his allegiance time and again to the idea of profit over the wellbeing of people. With service providers, advocates and people experiencing homelessness in the room, it was to the leader of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership Executive Director that Darrell said, "Deon, tell us what to do. We'll do it." All the while tuning out the pleas for bathrooms, running water, the opportunity for stability and community through encampment, the right to exist and rest poor in public space, basic dignity and



Cathleen with Niki Jones Speaking

human rights that should be experienced by all.

All these Business Districts have opposed these rights for people in what they have claimed as their boundaries. They lobby against public restrooms, drinking fountains, the right to ask for help. Statewide they fought the right to sleep and rest as a being human demands, they spoke out in unison here in Sacramento just last year to ensure that people of faith could not exercise their faith through sheltering those on the streets, they commonly complain about those who pass out food and other survival supplies that literally keep people, our neighbors, alive on the street.

There are over 2000 pages of emails between BID executives, high ranking Sac PD officers, and Sacramento city officials. Instead of understanding and coordinating more effective strategies to address the housing crisis, poverty and homelessness, these emails tell a story of how BID members, city officials like Emily Halcon, and the Sac PD coordinated lawful and unlawful ways to remove people from public space, not for the wellbeing of the individuals but for the supposed economic vitality of the city.

You see, when they say "Quality of Life" infractions, this is where there is a divergence of values. While we value the quality of life of all individuals, their

ability to survive and achieve stability and peace, this form of policing, advocated for by business districts, police departments, and district attorney's offices is an effort to protect consumers, businesses, and private property in a larger effort to maintain and expand safety for capitalism, "quality of life" for capitalism, all the while criminalizing and further disenfranchising the poor, the houseless, the disproportionately Black, Brown, Trans, and Disabled, criminalizing our elders, our youth, our community.

We are here to call out this divergence in values. We stand for the lives of our people, each other; we stand for our city, we stand to be compassion in our city, even as city officials continue to prop up the senseless strategy of moving tired people around, of criminalizing and harassing them and their property, this strategy that public health experts have testified surely leads to premature death.

We stand for compassion over dehumanizing business interests in our city, we stand across the state, the region. We stand with our siblings in the bay, in LA on Skid Row, in Chico, we stand with the fighters in Portland and Denver, where everywhere we are saying, "Public space is for the public, people demand dignity, and the right to survive."

We demand that officials on the state and local levels reassess these Broken Windows/ Quality of Life policies. Listen to the people whose lives are at stake instead of those with the largest financial stake in the game. We connect this struggle to history, as the poor were not the first to be pushed around on this soil, to be unwanted and to be policed out of space. We remember Jim Crow, we remember Ugly Laws and Anti-Okie Ordinances, we remember the genocide of the indigenous people of this land...all for profit, all for power, all to deny others the human right to survive and thrive so that they and whoever they've determined to be their kind can prevail and stockpile. Today, we come together to expose the way this is ongoing in our cities and say, we have had enough, we are fighting back.

**THE TRUMPS****BY LINCOLN BERGMAN**

I.

HEAR the thumping of the trumps  
Lying trumps!  
What a hellish heap of hatred stinking in the  
dumps  
How it bumps lumps pumps,  
A most distressing sight  
As the newscasts over-sprinkle  
Media steps up its hoodwinkle  
With a macho urge to fight;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In imperialistic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so scarily just thumps  
From the trumps, trumps, trumps, trumps  
Trumps, trumps, trumps  
From oppression and repression of the trumps.

II.

Hear the wiseguy macho trumps  
Fascist trumps  
What a racist exclamation their rhetoric up-  
pumps  
Through polluted air of night  
How they bully with armed might  
Stir up anger, hate, and fright  
Sing false patriotic songs — out of tune  
So their dirty ditty floats  
As venture capital gloats  
Beneath a blood-red moon!  
As from solitary cells,  
What a sob of suffering voluminously wells!

How it swells!  
How it dwells  
On the Torture! how it tells  
Of the madness that impels  
False flagging, endless bragging  
Rapists who hate feminists  
White and male supremacists  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps,  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps, trumps,  
Trumps, trumps, trumps --  
Nickel-dime-ing, sexist sliming, of the trumps!

III.

Hear the loud alarum trumps --  
Brazen trumps!  
What a tale of terror, now, their turbulence tells!  
In the startled ear of night  
How they scream out their affright!  
To drown out the right to speak,  
They can only shriek, shriek,  
Out of tune,  
In a clamorous sad choir 'midst the fury of the  
fire,  
In a mad expostulation with the racist fascist fire,  
Leaping higher, higher, higher,  
With a decadent desire,  
And a twisted-sick endeavor  
Now — all goodwill to sever  
Beneath the pale-faced moon.  
Oh, the trumps, trumps, trumps!  
What a tale their terror tells  
Of Despair!  
How they clang, and clash, and roar !  
What a horror they outpour  
Of pollution of the climate changing air !  
Yet the ear, it fully knows,

By the twanging,  
And the clanging,  
How the danger flows and grows;  
Yet the nose distinctly tells,  
In the smelling,  
And the swelling,  
How the danger stinks and swells,  
By the smelling and the swelling in the anger of  
the trumps --  
Of the trumps --  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps, trumps,  
Trumps, trumps, trumps --  
Tyrannical slave manacle of trumps!

IV.

Hear the thumping of the trumps --  
Coal mine trumps!  
Forked tongue promises are hissed!  
Black lung coughs persist  
In the silence of the night,  
Children shiver with caged fright  
At the melancholy menace of trump tone!  
For every growl that bloats  
From the hate within their throats  
Is death drone.  
And the people — ah, the peeps —  
Dwelling homeless in the streets  
Weary to the bone,  
And who, toiling, toiling, toiling,  
In a censored monotone,  
Ridiculed by gangsters rolling  
On the human heart a stone --  
Con-men of endless greed --  
Turn cold shoulder to great need --  
They are Ghouls:  
And the King of Fools who bleats;

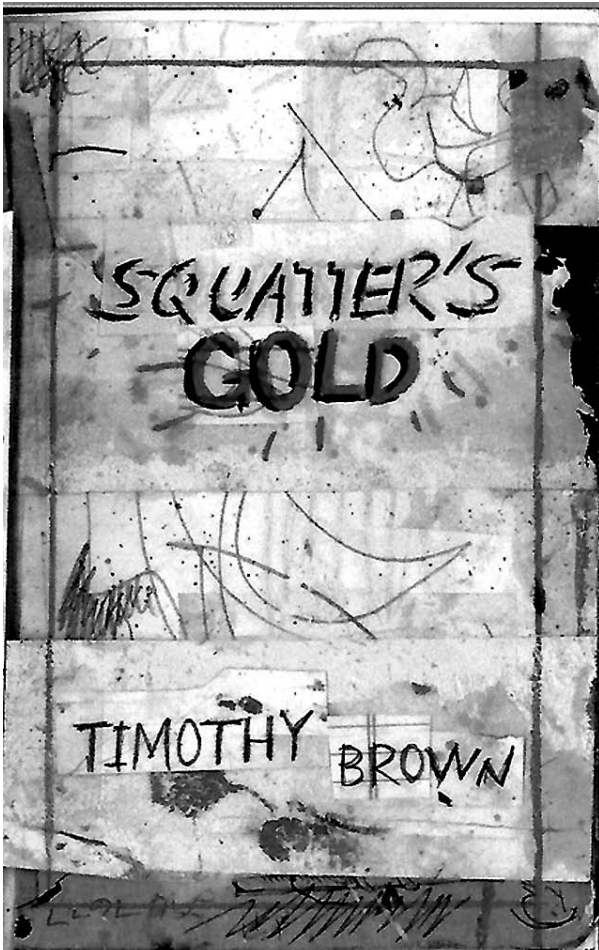
As he tweets, tweets, tweets, tweets,  
Tweets  
Odious orders of the trumps!  
Thumping Liberty's cracked bell  
Selling missile, bomb, and shell  
More war roars of trumps!  
As they scream out, and they yell;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a hugely heinous rhyme,  
To the dirges of the trumps --  
Of the trumps:  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In narcissistic rhyme,  
To the slowing by the trumps --  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps --  
To the robbing by the trumps ;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In crass colossal crime  
As he mis-tells and misspells  
Words that ooze like cesspool slime,  
Like oil pipelines of the trumps --  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps --  
To the lying of the trumps,  
Of the trumps, trumps, trumps, trumps --  
Trumps, trumps, trumps --  
The lying and the spying of the trumps.

V.

So amidst this hate's persistence  
Let us find enough resistance  
To abhor and send forevermore  
To history's garbage dumps  
The trumps, trumps, trumps, trumps  
Trumps, trumps, trumps!

## Tim Brown Wrote a Novel That Takes Place in Sacramento

**"Squatter's Gold"** a debut novel of fiction by long time Sacramento homeless and affordable housing advocate Tim Brown, was published in July 2018 by NFBPublishing.com. This Sacramento story of homelessness, treasure and murder begins with a historic prologue about 1850 Sacramento, the gold rush and the historic Squatter's Riots.



The story then jumps to Sacramento 2002: A crime mystery of murder, gangs, and found treasure. A story of colorful homeless campers and their personal struggles; The politics of homelessness and advocates at an interfaith center; Protests, justice and redemption. The cast of haunted, but at times funny heroes and villains and scenes of charity, murder, drug use, recovery and civil disobedience are inspired by actual events drawn from the author's thirty-five years of experience as a street activist, social worker and creator/manager of homeless and housing programs in Sacramento, CA.

"Squatter's Gold is a compelling, vivid read whose underlying consideration of social issues will linger in the mind as much as its story of a struggle for gold and new opportunities." Diane Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review.

Author Timothy Brown is a former Executive Director of Sacramento Loaves & Fishes and the former Director of the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative (A Sacramento City/County collaboration which cut chronic homelessness by over fifty percent in just four years, 2007-2010).

Squatter's Gold is available in paperback at Amazon, Beers Books, Time Tested Books or NFBPublishing.com. for \$14.95

## *A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:*

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# Resources List

**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. 916-442-0331**St. John's Shelter:** Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 916-453-1482**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: 916-447-3268**Next Move (formerly SAEHC)** 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 916-455-2160**Volunteers of America Family Shelter:** Adults w/children only. Apply Tues.-Thurs. 1-3 pm 1490 Blding B, N. "A" St. 916-443-4688**Day Shelters****Friendship Park:** Between 12th St. & Ahern on 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. 916-447-3268**Loaves & Fishes:** 1321 N. '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 916-452-2866**Food-not-Bombs:** serves free food in Cesear Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.**Foundation of Faith Ministries** 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 916-452-7078**Safe Haven Calvary Christian Center:** 1300 North C St. 8 am Sun, Coffee, Women's clothing, Service 9am: Wed. 6 pm bible study.**Women & Children****Maryhouse:** 1321 N. '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. 916-454-9688**Youth Services****Wind Youth Services:** Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages 12-17, call **1-800-339-7177**: Emergency shelter for ages 18-24, call **916-561-4900**. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health**Free Clothing****Sacramento Food Bank:** 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 916-456-1980**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am sign-up, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 916-447-3268**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 916-452-7078**Medical****Mercy Clinic:** For homeless adults, children: 1300 block of N. 'C' Street next to fire station. 916-446-3345**Sacramento Dental Clinic:** 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Blding) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 916-874-8300**Mental Health****Guest House, 600 Bercut Drive.:** Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 916-440-1500**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. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 916-699-1536**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: 916-920-2952**AIDS / HIV****AIDS Housing Alliance** provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 916-329-1093 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. 916-443-3299**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. 916-447-2437**Harm Reduction Services:** 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 916-456-4849**Alternative Test Site:** Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 916-874-7720.**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. 916-446-0368**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. 916-551-2150**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 916-736-0616**Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation** (916) 658-1880**Veterans****VA Outreach:** 1-800-827-1000**About SHA**

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

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

**(916) 455-4900**  
<http://sachousingalliance.org>909 12th Street, Suite 114  
Sacramento, CA 95814***The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.*****Homeless VA Coordinator:**  
(916) 364-6547**Mather VA Social Works:** help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064**Sacramento Veterans Resource Center**  
7270 East Southgate Dr. 916-393-8387**Miscellaneous****Francis House Center 1422 C St.** Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocate; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. **(916) 443-2646****Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:** 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 916-456-1980.**Social Services:** 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 916-874-2072**Employment Development Department (EDD):** 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 916-227-0300**Medi-Cal:** 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256**Social Security Office:** 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 916-381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213**211 Sacramento**Dial 211  
for tele-info & referral service**Califorina Youth Crisis Line:**  
1-800-843-5200**Health Rights Hotline:**  
551-2100**Narcotics Anonymous Hotline**  
1-877-NA-6363

## Welcome to Homeward:

Help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, a 501c3. 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 opinion of other SHOC or Homeward participants.****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 author's 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 INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 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 for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.**All correspondence can be sent to:  
Homeward Street Journal  
PO Box 952  
Sacramento, CA 95812The paper may be reached at:  
(916) 442-2156The paper may also be e-mailed at  
[homeward2@yahoo.com](mailto:homeward2@yahoo.com)On the web at:  
<https://sacshoc.org/homeward>

## Sojourner's House on the Ridge

Over a hundred people are experiencing homelessness on the Paradise Ridge. Half are sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, such as parks, creek beds, and cars. They are neighbors, as most have lived in Butte County for years, and were living in Butte County when they became homeless.

Sojourner's House on the Ridge (SHOR) is devoted to creating a stronger community by opening doors to self-sufficiency, dignity,

and hope for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of losing their shelter.

SHOR is located at 6189 Clark Road in Paradise and is open Monday through Friday from noon to 4pm. Services include housing assistance; employment assistance; use of computers, phones, copiers, fax; snacks, coffee, and fellowship.

Call for more information:  
(530) 872-1162

*"I have worked since I was 14-years-old. I left a job of 7-years working at an international steel company with great benefits for a job opening at the hospital in Quincy, California. I came to California from Ohio and found myself homeless when the job fell through." — Julia, an intern at Sojourner's House on the Ridge*



*"I was able to get into an automobile and it has put me light years ahead. A vehicle has made me more mobile allowing me to access non-profit organizations and move my life forward at a much greater pace." — Chad, A Sojourner's House on the Ridge Guest*



Executive Director Virginia Underwood, Board Member and volunteer Stephen, Richard a volunteer, Julia a homeless Intern and Ron a volunteer outside SHOR's new digs!

# The CHICO VIBE

Made possible by our supporters...

Chico Housing Action Team  
Bob Woods, Ed Mayer, Lucy Gould  
Friends of Tyler Rushing & Chico350

## Writing for Donuts

### Breaking Free

Finally breaking free. Not being what my mom wanted to be. I'm so down and ready to leave, adventure, explore. I go through phases of wanting to be part of society and days when I just wanna sleep under the stars, away from this whitewashed world, out where everything's growing every second...

That way I truly feel thankful. Time to find a new town to settle in.

-Kadiatou

### Reason

The brain has the ability to reason, yet your heart is what gives life reason. When you find something that transcends reason, don't be surprised if it's your heart.

-Kyle

### Gone

Gone  
What was is it now.  
Creating fastens reality. Splurged  
Tightening grip - hold it in, they say  
Express the best before puppets play  
And tingle, trickle your way  
Before they claim  
And will say  
You're gone....  
.... GO.

-Paige

### Truth is the Whore

Truth is the Whore  
Now we see lies  
That are televised  
Through TV screens  
Catastrophes and war  
Truth is the whore  
No more  
We've been ignored.

-Anonymous