

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment



From: Kristen Walker <kristen@kristenwalker.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 12:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Please Help Santa Barbara City With Homeless Crisis
Attachments: Screen Shot 2022-04-27 at 12.11.29 PM.png; Screen Shot 2022-04-27 at 12.11.17 PM.png

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I would like my comments to be included in the minutes of the next meeting.

Thanks,
Kristen

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Please Help Santa Barbara City With Homeless Crisis
Date: Wed, 27 Apr 2022 12:34:17 -0700
From: Kristen Walker <kristen@kristenwalker.com>
To: steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org, bob.nelson@countyofsb.org, jhartmann@countyofsb.org, "ghart@countyofsb.org SupervisorWilliams"@countyofsb.org

Hi Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

Recently there was a discussion on a local mom's Facebook group about the humanitarian crisis unfolding daily in Santa Barbara.... encampments of unhoused people, many suffering from mental health issues and drug dependency. The comments on the post were overwhelming. So many local moms are concerned by what they see downtown, including many longtime local residents who have never seen things so bad.

I read with interest an article that talked about how the city needs help from the county to effectively tackle this crisis.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.noozhawk.com/article/council_looks_at_homeless_situation__;!!fs0MJmijOm0!sL21T08fXi_P4-eCfGstPcyK4oQvjHzgWvcf3pY2NTRImpy3hrveu6MMif7hkay5t96LvKCIkwHpKXS4_N67uI\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.noozhawk.com/article/council_looks_at_homeless_situation__;!!fs0MJmijOm0!sL21T08fXi_P4-eCfGstPcyK4oQvjHzgWvcf3pY2NTRImpy3hrveu6MMif7hkay5t96LvKCIkwHpKXS4_N67uI$)

Please help! We need support. The situation is getting worse and worse.
Please help by providing a Solutions Court in the South County.

-Kristen



Lindsay Kolasa

Yesterday at 11:27 AM - 🌐

...

I've got to vent. Things are getting out of hand.

I write this as a person who wants people to be supported ---> creative solutions ---> out of the box thinking.

Something has GOT to SHIFT.

Sooooooo... Yeah.

I didn't need to see that man's ball sack and bit today. Really. You know. I worked in the Tenderloin in SF for FIVE YEARS. So, I know what it's like to walk the streets with a large houseless population. I did so -- 5 days a week -- for 5 years when I was in my mid-to-late 20s.

The reason that the TL had such a concentration of houseless folks is that the majority of services for that community was located in the TL. As well, the SROs that try to support and house these folks are located there as well.

It makes *sense* to see such a large population of houseless folks in that neighborhood...

I have some heart-warming stories that I witnessed on those streets and I have some horrific stories that I witnessed.

Flash forward to today -- 2022 -- Santa Barbara.

A sleepy, coastal CA town? Um. No. Maybe 20-30 years ago.

People drive around here as if they are in the trenches of New York City. Impatient. Risk-taking. Aggressive.

State Street is actually worse than anything I've ever seen in the Tenderloin in SF and that says a lot.

Santa Barbara, apparently, is not equipped to meet the needs of the houseless folks that are piling up on State Street. SB probably has no idea what is happening to itself.

No. Idea.

With such great wealth disparity...you get a big houseless population.

That's just how it is.

Working with the houseless population is all about pain management. These people are in pain. An enormous amount of pain.

Most places just don't want to deal with it. So then, this is what you get...something like State Street...where people are crumpled on the ground in the doorways of empty storefronts.

So, what is Santa Barbara going to do? Do they even know what to do?

Alas.....

Alas.....

.....I really did not want to see a man sitting on the ground lift his giant black cloak revealing his naked body (yes, and ball sack) as he shifted his body a bit.

I'm still in shock.

I was pushing my daughter in her stroller. Did she see that happen? I pretended like it didn't happen and I whisked around the corner to get us off of State Street.



Erin Beth Grote and 13 others

53 Comments



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Mandi Wyatt

Just a question... Has anyone notice that Ventura Main Street is completely different now? The couple of times we went there within 2 years. There homeless population is almost nonexistent. It was so filthy before but it's almost like SB is what Ventura ... [See more](#)

Like Reply 6h Edited



↳ Whitney Ater replied · 4 Replies 2h



Sasha Kap

My young daughter and I saw a man defecate next to the bus stop in front of Sprouts on Milpas! It's definitely sad but we need change.

Like Reply 2h



Kristen Walker

This is an interesting article about the situation. The city is saying they need help from the county because the county can get funding the city can't get and has resources the city does not have. Councilwoman Kristen Sneddon said the council needs to find 282 overnight shelter beds to address the need in the community. https://www.noozhawk.com/.../council_looks_at_homeless...



NOOZHAWK.COM

Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse:
'We Need to Get in the County's...

Like Reply Remove Preview 9m

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Lindsay <lindsaykolasa@riseup.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:23 PM
To: Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Williams, Das; sbcob
Subject: State Street Recovery

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Board of Supervisors,

Let me open by saying that my daughter and I didn't need to see a man's ball sack and bit two days ago on State Street. Really.

You know. I worked in the Tenderloin (TL) in San Francisco (SF) for FIVE YEARS (2003-2008). So, I know what it's like to walk the streets with a large houseless population. I did so -- 5 days a week -- for 5 years when I was in my mid-to-late 20s.

The reason that the TL had such a concentration of houseless folks is that the majority of services for that community was located in the TL.

As well, the SROs that try to support and house these folks are located there as well.

It makes *sense* to see such a large population of houseless folks in that neighborhood...

And, by the way, I have some heart-warming stories that I witnessed on those streets and I have some horrific stories that I witnessed.

Flash forward to today -- 2022 -- Santa Barbara.

A sleepy, coastal CA town? Um. No. Maybe 20-30 years ago.

State Street is right on par with things I saw in the Tenderloin in SF and that says a lot about the current state of Santa Barbara's 'commercial corridor.' Wow. It's unbelievable what this city has allowed to transpire on its most walked street! Incomprehensible!

Santa Barbara, apparently, is not equipped to meet the needs of the houseless folks that are piling up on State Street. And, maybe...just maybe...it has no idea what is happening to itself.

With such great wealth disparity...you get a big houseless population.

With unmitigated trauma...you get a big houseless population.

With a poor diet...you get mental health issues and a big houseless population.

That's just how it is.

Working with the houseless population is all about pain management.

These people are in pain. An enormous amount of pain. I figured this out from my time in the Tenderloin. Gabor Mate effectively writes about this in his book, 'Realm of the Hungry Ghosts' --

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://drgabormate.com/book/in-the-realm-of-hungry-ghosts/__;!!fs0MJmijOm0!pojwWxMmGPuNo0qqLwv8vGTxObQnDW6ts_4SufGkqu_zDMdCG1ZG_SORa7p3UsutaulsOf o2PnRuv1K9S82uCFc41w\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://drgabormate.com/book/in-the-realm-of-hungry-ghosts/__;!!fs0MJmijOm0!pojwWxMmGPuNo0qqLwv8vGTxObQnDW6ts_4SufGkqu_zDMdCG1ZG_SORa7p3UsutaulsOf o2PnRuv1K9S82uCFc41w$)

Most places just don't want to deal with pain and addiction. So then, this is what you get...something like State Street...where people are crumpled on the ground with oozing sores on their skin in the doorways of empty storefronts...

So, what is Santa Barbara going to do? Do they even know what to do?

Alas.....

.....I really did not want to see a man sitting on the ground lift his giant black cloak revealing his naked body (yes, and ball sack and bit) as he shifted his body *for awhile*.

I'm still in shock.

I was pushing my daughter in her stroller. Did she see that happen?

I pretended like it didn't happen and I whisked around the corner to get us off of State Street.

I won't be going back.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Kolasa
1035 Miramonte Dr
Santa Barbara, CA 93109