

# City Solutions – Harvey West

Findings of a Take Back Santa Cruz  
Research Team

# Team goals and research

- Goal
  1. To assess if there are safety issues in the Harvey West area
  2. To identify what is causing the safety issues
  3. To make best practice recommendations
- How the research was done
  1. 18 Harvey West Businesses were interviewed
  2. A well run Day Services Center was measured against the SC Day Resource Center

# What we learned from our research

The current Santa Cruz Day Resource Center model is not working -

- The SC Day Resource Center is causing an unsafe environment for their clients and the Harvey West Community.
- The Homeless Services Center, located at 115 Coral Street, is using a substantial proportion of city resources.

# Harvey West Business Survey

- When asked about neighborhood safety, the average score was 7 or “concerned”
- 100% have experienced at least one or more of the following in the past year:



<b>Business has experienced in a year:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Property Vandalism	14	4	0
Threats/aggressive behavior	14	2	2
Theft	11	7	0
Burglary	6	12	0
Loitering	16	2	0
Piles of trash	18	0	0
Needles on the property	13	5	0
Open drug use or dealing	12	6	0
Other-Prostitution	4	0	0
Sleeping on the property	3	0	0



# HSC's Use of City Resources in 2012

- The HSC staff placed 727 calls for police support
- 229 (94% Emergency Medical Tech calls to serve the homeless) were made to Coral Street and the immediate neighborhood
- The police response to transients, homeless, or persons providing the address of 115 Coral Street:
  - 2044 people arrested (42% of all SC police arrests)
  - 3616 people (32% of all SC police citations)

# There are Safety Issues in the Community and at the HSC

- 18 Harvey West businesses were interviewed. 100% experienced at least 1 crime in the past year. Many interviewees mentioned the issue is with the day client's at the HSC.
- Since there are presently no current screening processes in effect, a sexual offender could be using the Day Resource Center and be within 50 feet of the HSC's playground.
- There are no formal client background checks to determine if a DRC client is violent even though families are nearby.

# Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Comparison

Demographics	Santa Cruz	San Luis Obispo
County population in 2011	264298	271969
Number of homeless the county in 2011	2771	2129
Number of homeless per 10,000 in 2011	105	78
Number served per day at the Day Center	112	120-190
Homeless and Day Service Center combined calls to police in 2012	727	132*
Combined police calls to immediate area of HSC and DSC in 2012	?	345*
Combined citations issued to persons listed as transient or listing the HSC/DSC address	3616**	1062*
Number of citations issued by the police in 2012	11323**	8002*
Percent of citations issued to persons listed as transient or HSC/DSC in 2012	32%**	13%
Combined arrest of persons listed as transient or listing the HSC/DSC address	2044**	1333*
Number of arrests by the police in 2012	4908**	3494*
Percent of arrests issued to persons listed as transient or HSC/DSC in 2012	42%**	38%

# City Responsibility

- The City owns the land at 115 Coral and rents it out to the Homeless Services Center.
- As a partial benefactor for 115 Coral Street, the city should withhold funding until the following safety changes have been made to the Day Resource Center.

# 10 Changes to the Day Resource Center

1. Change the client intake process:
  - Require a client to present a government issued photo id
  - Perform a formal sexual offender check
  - Perform a formal background check that includes outstanding warrants and citations
  - Have the client sign a Rules of Behavior sheet that lists consequences and suspension policy for each rule.

# Safety Changes 2 - 5

2. Deny all services to a person who has an outstanding warrant or who is a sexual offender
3. Have a webcam in several locations inside and outside the facility
4. Permit a SCPD drug sniffing dog to perform a facility check at random times
5. Have the HSC fund a SCPD Community Safety Officer and place them in the area prior to, during, and after meal services

# Safety Changes 6 - 8

6. Have the Day Resource client do a specific chore for each service received
7. Have the HSC fund First Alarm in the Harvey West Area from 7 PM until the morning shift.
8. Change the DRC mission statement to:
  - **To create opportunities for clients to secure employment and to transition back into productive society.**
  - To provide a safe haven for homeless individuals and their families from the elements and access needed services.
  - To coordinate multiple services in a centralized location through a number of healthcare and human-service providers.

# Safety Change 9

9. In six months, have City staff evaluate if the 10 measures are in place and if the changes have made an improvement on the:
  - City's Police, Fire, EMT resources
  - Safety of the Harvey West community
  - Homeless Services clients
  - For the purposes of transparency, require the HSC to issue a public annual report

# Safety Change 10

Our last recommendation –

10. Relocate the Day Resource Center away from Harvey West within the next 3 years.