



## FACT SHEET: 10 REASONS TO SUPPORT THE MORATORIUM ON SACRAMENTO CITY ANTI-CAMPING ORDINANCE



### MORATORIUM:

***SRCEH calls for an immediate moratorium on the enforcement of the Sacramento City anti-camping ordinances until there is full implementation of the Sacramento Mayor's Downtown Housing Initiative – creating 1,500 units of affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness.***

### 10 Reasons to Support the Moratorium:

#### **Ordinance runs counter to federal policy: Cruel & Unusual Punishment & Loss of Federal funding:**

1. US Department of Justice [DOJ] filed a statement of interest on 8/5/2015 opposing the Boise ID anti-camping ordinance stating that if homeless people “had nowhere else to go” it violated the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment as “cruel and unusual punishment;”
2. Housing & Urban Development [HUD] [August 2015] stated that within a year communities that criminalize homeless people may find it harder to obtain funding [Ann Olivia- Director of SNAPS]
3. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness [USICH]: opposes the forced dispersal of encampments as “...not an appropriate solution...”

#### **Sacramento City has 11 anti-homeless ordinances & codes:**

4. 5 restricting “standing, sitting or resting”
5. 3 restricting “sleeping and camping”
6. 3 restricting panhandling

#### **Unequal enforcement of Anti-Camping Ordinance; Expensive & Negative Consequences:**

7. Between 2004 – 2014 – 69% of the Sacramento Police Departments crime reports on homeless “offenses [831 out of 1,201 reports] were on the anti-camping ordinance [MC 12.52.030] - Homeless people are cited for activities that go on in suburban parks every weekend where people there have no fear of citation.
8. Between 2012 – 2014 the Sacramento Park Rangers issues 2,700 illegal camping citations; 2014: 617 citations issued, 249 camps cleaned, 455 Ranger hours and 2 Department of Human Assistance [DHA] referrals made; from January – June 2015 they have issued 539 citations, 433 camps cleaned, 314 Ranger hours and 0 DHA referrals. Thus, from 1/1/2014-6/30/2015- the Rangers have issued 1,156 citations, 682 camps cleaned, 769 Ranger hours and 2 DHA referrals. The fine for not paying the citation is \$230. If the person can't pay the fine then the citation goes to warrant – creates a barrier for homeless people to obtain identification; employment & housing.

#### **Lack of shelter capacity & lack of affordable housing:**

10. The 2015 homeless count documented 2,650 homeless people at any given time in Sacramento County – 36% of whom are outside due to the lack of capacity of the emergency shelter system and lack of affordable housing.