

Resolution to Fight for Dignity in Survival and Lasting Solutions for People Experiencing Homelessness

WHEREAS African Americans and people of color represent a disproportionate amount of the homeless population and are also disproportionately punished for “crimes of survival” such as sitting or sleeping in public spaces and buses, receiving free food, or parking a car for more than 72 hours; and

WHEREAS everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status in Santa Clara County deserves, at the very least, a chance to survive with dignity; and

WHEREAS people subjected to sweeps or “abatelements” have everything taken from them, such as one person living in Columbus park in San Jose who had their loved one’s ashes taken away, or others losing basic necessities for survival such as wallets, paperwork, and social security cards; and

WHEREAS solutions such as access to safe parking and permanent supportive housing, mental health and addiction resources already exist in this county and have proven to increase the quality of life for those living on the streets and to reduce crime;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party commits to fighting for dignity in survival for those living on our streets in Santa Clara County, and will work with directly impacted residents to create real, lasting solutions for everyone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports legislation, such as AB 1431, the California Housing Security Act, which would provide greater housing security, such as by subsidizing the cost of housing, and will urge elected officials to support measures to provide greater housing security and encourage voters to support such elected officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Members of Congress who represent any part of Santa Clara County and that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party will work with individuals and groups who advocate for persons experiencing homelessness with the purpose of working alongside them to find real solutions centered on people directly impacted by homelessness.

Submitted by Aastha Bhagat