



Bob Lamonica <boblamonica@gmail.com>

Fwd: [SC4B AdvisoryTeam] Write or call your supervisor

1 message

Bob Lamonica <boblamonica@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 1:06 PM

To: Iwalani Faulkner <equitytransitsantacruz@gmail.com>, Santa Cruz County Democratic Party <cruzdemocrats@gmail.com>

I never had the opportunity to thank you for your Leadership, Ms. Faulkner. No wonder you were anointed. Bob

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Iwalani Faulkner** <equitytransitsantacruz@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 9:29 AM

Subject: Re: [SC4B AdvisoryTeam] Write or call your supervisor

To: Glenn Glazer <glenn.glazer@gmail.com>

Cc: Bob Lamonica <boblamonica@gmail.com>, Glenn Glazer <glenn.m.glazer@gmail.com>, <sc4b-advisoryteam@googlegroups.com>

Bob,

As with many old(er) white men today, especially those over 60YO, you seem to be seriously ignorant with regards to the systemically driven extreme wealth gap that has driven an increasingly larger percentage of our hard working community members into poverty. This is by design, over the past 50 years, where the seeds of oligarchy took hold and have now become a weed bed of corruption. If you do not understand the what and why our own young adults, who work full time, cannot afford to buy or even rent an average home in Santa Cruz, then you are ignorant and not paying attention, wrapped up in a reality which has long passed us. People are being driven into homelessness by a corrupt system.

I look to my own upbringing, on a family farm, and having gone onto working 2-3 jobs to put myself through undergrad and grad school at UC Davis. 35 years ago, this was feasible! We are a family of well educated hard workers. TODAY, my own son who is pursuing graduate school is getting paid LESS MONEY as a student employee than I made 35 YEARS AGO!!! This makes it near to impossible for our young adults to make ends meet and avoid DEBT. The system we have allowed to grow in this country has been established to put people in debt at a young age and KEEP THEM IN DEBT for their lifetime! I used to work over the hill in the biotech industry making a handsome income, but even that job would no longer afford my being able to live here if we hadn't bought a shack of a home 30 years ago in this county. And when I decided to stop driving 3 hours+ daily to commute over-the-hill, I was appalled to learn that the average pay for workers with decades of experience and a masters degree was a paltry \$25 per hour, I was livid. No wonder people cannot afford to live in this county. I had the luxury of being able to start my own business after obtaining additional certifications, but this is not the case for a majority of workers in this county. I was able to do this because my husband was able to carry the costs while I acquired the certifications needed to start my own business. Not everyone has that luxury.

Across the nation, there is NO CITY where a person can afford a 2-bedroom apartment on minimum wage! This is because of the corruption that has grown through corporate greed. The extreme wealth gap and the raging machine of private equity that has bought up a HUGE percentage of our nation's single family homes, apartments, hospitals, farms, fire engine manufacturing, senior facilities and so forth, selling assets, firing highly qualified staff and replacing them with low paid less qualified staff, and jacking up prices for 'we the people', means that the cost of just about everything has skyrocketed while people's incomes have essentially crashed. My son is making less as a graduate TA than I made 35 YEARS AGO - and that is BEFORE inflation!!!

The inhumanity that is placing people on the streets today is based on a system which is BROKEN! People 55YO and older were alive at a time which saving money and the cost to expense ratio was reasonable, but rapidly shifted, thanks to Reagan. The percentage of people 60YO and older who were able to save was far greater than it is today, so people in my generation have been able to save for retirement. But our own children face a crisis. They are paying more than 50% of their incomes towards their cost of living, when 30% is the recommendation. They are going without medical care and are unable to afford saving and are leaving college with huge amounts of school debt, which they are told they must do to get a good paying job. Most young people cannot afford to live in this community and cannot attend undergrad or grad school unless they can live at home with their parents, or unless their parents are very wealthy, or if they are willing to be strapped to DECADES of debt as incomes rapidly have decreased relative to the cost of living.

While a majority of people on the streets today are SENIORS, the desperation which is permeating our country has forced more and more young adults into homelessness. Even many UCSC students are living out of their cars. And while I think it is disgusting, I know well-meaning landlords who are charging nearly \$2,000 per month for small studio spaces about 200 ft Sq because they say that is the going rate!!! Kudos to ANYONE who realizes this is wrong and keeps their rents down to a reasonable and affordable rate. When the average person is making about \$25/hr here they are not even going to be able to share the rent in a studio that small.

A majority of the people on the street have been people who struggle with mental illness and substance abuse, often because they are battling a system which continues to chew them up and spit them out. Not having safe housing prevents them from any chance of recovery. Our best way to address this issue is to INVEST in PEOPLE, providing them with the basics so they can recover, and the dignity which promotes their recovery. We MUST change the SYSTEM, or the poverty in this country will continue to skyrocket. Lenders circle like vultures at every turn. It is like offering salt water to people floating in lifeboats.

What we are seeing now is a rapid increase in the number of seniors falling into poverty, barely holding onto their homes, barely able to afford food and medicine, and an increase in our YOUNG ADULT population who are falling into despair because, even if they are working full time, they cannot afford the basics!!! Many extremely smart young adults are falling into substance abuse because they feel NO HOPE! Those young adults who can move back home with their parents are doing so. THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN!

Your ignorance displayed through your comments shows not only a lack of empathy but a blatant disregard for the reality that so many people are facing right now as well as ignorance for how the system is failing so many people.

I encourage you to do better. Educate yourself.

Kind regards,
Lani

On Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 8:41 AM Glenn Glazer <glenn.glazer@gmail.com> wrote:

Appalling. Bernie would be ashamed to read this.

Best,

Glenn

On 11/04/2025 08:11, Bob Lamonica wrote:

If you are indigent and can't do it stealth, round them up.

Best,

Bob

On Nov 4, 2025, at 8:06 AM, Glenn Glazer <glenn.glazer@gmail.com> wrote:

Are you seriously advocating for rounding up the unhoused?

Best,

Glenn

On 11/04/2025 07:52, Bob Lamonica wrote:

What's needed, and what's beginning to be implemented in cities like San Jose are 24/7 monitored ingress/egress containments. Then "navigation" as funds manifest, the sooner the better. If you are indigent and can't do it stealth, round them up.

Best,

Bob

On Nov 3, 2025, at 6:04 PM, Glenn Glazer
<glenn.glazer@gmail.com> wrote:

Tell them that the life of the unhoused is hard enough as it is without the County destroying what shelter they may have.

<https://lookout.co/santa-cruz-county-plan-to-demolish-abandoned-oversized-vehicles-stalls-amid-homeless-concerns/story>

Best,

Glenn

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Best regards,

Lani Faulkner, Director
Equity Transit - Tránsito de Equidad
www.EquityTransit.org
831-278-1007

