

## Letter to be added to public record for the next City Council Meeting Regarding Amicus Curie Brief

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Mon 5/1/2023 2:31 PM

To: cityclerk <cityclerk@watsonville.gov>;citycouncil <citycouncil@watsonville.gov>;Eduardo Montesino <eduardo.montesino@watsonville.gov>;Vanessa Quiroz <vanessa.quiroz@watsonville.gov>;Maria Orozco <maria.orozco@watsonville.gov>;Kristal Salcido <kristal.salcido@watsonville.gov>;Casey Clark <casey.clark@watsonville.gov>;Jimmy Dutra <jimmy.dutra@watsonville.gov>;Ari Parker <ari.parker@watsonville.gov>

Cc: 'Andrew Goldenkranz' <agoldenk@gmail.com>;'Glenn Glazer' <glenn.glazer@gmail.com>

📎 1 attachments (264 KB)

SCCDCC\_LetterOfSupportSSPsv5.1.23\_WVcouncil.pdf;

Dear Watsonville City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Chair Andrew Goldenkranz and the elected voting members of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC) to enter the attached letter into the public record for the next scheduled Watsonville City Council (Council) Meeting. The SCCDCC is a strong advocate for science informed policy making and transparency in governance. We are writing to request the Council contact the clerk of the court regarding case number C095659 *Grant Park Neighborhood Association Advocates et al. v. Department of Public Health et al.* in the 3rd District Court of Appeal and formally withdraw your support for the amicus curie brief that was submitted on March 6, 2023.

Please do not to hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Regards,  
Cyndi Dawson

Elected Member District 3  
Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committeere  
831-325-4802





# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

May 1, 2023

Watsonville City Council  
275 Main St., Suite 400 (4th Floor)  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Re: Amicus curiae brief filed in *Grant Park Neighborhood Association Advocates et al. v. Department of Public Health et al.*

Dear Watsonville City Council:

The Democratic Party and the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC) stand up for science, health equity and access to health care. On those grounds, we are writing to request you formally withdraw your support for the amicus curiae brief regarding case number [C095659](#)<sup>1</sup> *Grant Park Neighborhood Association Advocates et al. v. Department of Public Health et al.* in the 3rd District Court of Appeal.

In February of 2021, The SCCDCC passed a resolution (Attachment A) citing the overwhelming evidence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the scientific community that Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) reduce overdose deaths, disease transmission, needle litter and costs for local governments. The resolution called out the strong community benefits of SSPs administered under the California Department of Health Guidelines. Both the County and non-profit led local SSPs are administered under these guidelines.

In December 2021, the California Superior Court dismissed a lawsuit filed against California Department of Public Health and the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County by a small group of community members alleging California Environmental Quality Act violations. Among other issues cited by the court, they found the lawsuit was moot due to recent legislative action([AB1344](#)<sup>2</sup>) that exempts California SSPs from CEQA review.

As Democrats we strongly advocate for maximum public involvement and transparency in governance. We question any government action, including submitting legal documents on a topic of high public interest, without robust public noticing and opportunities for public input. The amicus curiae brief recently submitted was voted on in closed session excluding the public from the process.

The SCCDCC is disappointed by both the process and your decision in this matter. We request you formally withdraw your support of the amicus curiae brief. We are happy to help arrange for local experts to present at your meetings to discuss the strong scientifically supported

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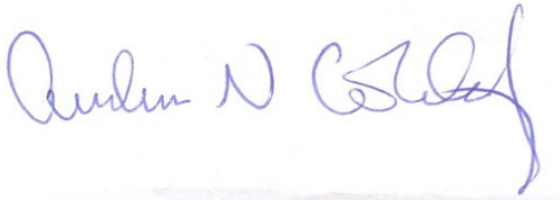
<sup>1</sup>

[https://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/partiesAndAttorneys.cfm?dist=3&doc\\_id=2375009&doc\\_no=C095659&request\\_token=NilwLSEmLkw7WzBBSCltUEpJUFw6UTxbKiNOXz9RICAqCg%3D%3D](https://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/partiesAndAttorneys.cfm?dist=3&doc_id=2375009&doc_no=C095659&request_token=NilwLSEmLkw7WzBBSCltUEpJUFw6UTxbKiNOXz9RICAqCg%3D%3D)

<sup>2</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1344](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1344)

community benefits of SSPs. Santa Cruz County has developed a notable model of a County administered SSP working closely with the non-profit Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County SSP to extend access and expand services leading to an increase in positive outcomes for patients and our communities. We encourage on-going support of this effective public-private partnership. We put our trust in practitioners and local experts like the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newell who continues to support this public-private collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew N. Goldenkranz", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

Andrew Goldenkranz  
Chair, Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Adopted Resolution of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee on Supporting the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County February 24, 2021**

WHEREAS an increasing number of Democratic leaders, including many of the recent 2020 Presidential candidates<sup>1</sup> support increasing funding and access to harm reduction and addiction services because there is overwhelming evidence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>2</sup> that these services reduce overdose deaths, disease transmission, needle litter and costs for local governments;

WHEREAS the Democratic-led California State Legislature passed the California Harm Reduction Initiative which allocated \$15.2 million through the Budget Act of 2019 to increase Syringe Services Programs<sup>3</sup> and the county “brick-and-mortar” syringe services program can not meet all the needs throughout Santa Cruz County, especially Watsonville and San Lorenzo Valley areas;

WHEREAS the HRCSCC has received a \$400,000 grant to be used over 3 years from the California Department of Public Health’s California Harm Reduction Initiative which requires them to abide by strict guidelines<sup>4</sup> and accountability when administering their program which is supported by our public health officer Dr. Gail Newel, and exemplifies the compassionate approach to our fellow humans championed by the Democratic Party;

NOW THEREFORE the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee hereby:

RESOLVES that Syringe Service Programs administered under the California Department of Health guidelines, including the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County programs and services, provide a significant positive benefit to our communities by:

- reducing overdose deaths;
- reducing county government healthcare costs by reducing substance-use related infections and viral infections like HIV and hepatitis C virus;
- serving as a bridge to healthcare and addiction recovery services;
- protecting the community and public workers by reducing the spread of infectious disease and reducing needle litter in the community without increasing criminal activity or drug use;
- having required reporting to our health officer and Health Services Agency.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/10/20851108/opioid-epidemic-2020-democratic-presidential-candidate>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-factsheet.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://shorturl.at/zGY58>

<sup>4</sup> <https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf>

Further Reading and other sources of info.

[https://www.harmreductioncoalitionofsantacruzcounty.co](https://www.harmreductioncoalitionofsantacruzcounty.com/)

[m/ https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-](m/https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-summary.html)

<summary.html> <https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/>

[https://cruzgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/750668821e704dd3a89b14d](https://cruzgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/750668821e704dd3a89b14d00cdbf5f7)

<00cdbf5f7> [https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-](https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf)

<opt.pdf> [http://ftp.costamesaca.gov/costamesaca/planningcommission/agenda/2019/2019-07-](http://ftp.costamesaca.gov/costamesaca/planningcommission/agenda/2019/2019-07-08/PH-6-Att-1.pdf)

<08/PH-6-Att-1.pdf>

<https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2019-10-25/court-order-all-but-bans-mobile-needle-exchange-program-in-costa-mesa-and-other-o-c-cities>

<https://beta.documentcloud.org/documents/20421648-cdph-petition-complaint-12-08-20pr>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-factsheet.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358593/>

<https://gallery.mailchimp.com/902a267c624a31780f2479ee0/files/12644347-94f6-4c7d-9ca9-f44db80585fe/CO>

[RRE Press Release 1 .pdf?utm\\_source=California+Contacts&utm\\_campaign=75f6a1fa1e-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_06\\_21\\_02\\_58&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f14d0ac822-75f6a1fa1e-238789817](RRE_Press_Release_1.pdf?utm_source=California+Contacts&utm_campaign=75f6a1fa1e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_21_02_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f14d0ac822-75f6a1fa1e-238789817)

[https://harmreduction.org/blog/harm-reduction-coalition-selected-to-lead-15-2-million-california-harm-](https://harmreduction.org/blog/harm-reduction-coalition-selected-to-lead-15-2-million-california-harm-reduction-initiative/)

<reduction-initiative/> [https://www.lac.org/assets/files/LAC-polling-sheet-](https://www.lac.org/assets/files/LAC-polling-sheet-combo-no-crops.pdf)

<combo-no-crops.pdf>

<https://www.lac.org/news/lac-2020-policy-recommendations-promoting-access-to-care-health-justice-and-equity-opportunity>

<https://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2018/public-support-for-needle-exchange-programs-safe-injection-sites-remains-low-in-US.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2019-01-24/opioid-crisis-harm-reduction-struggles-for-acceptance-in-us>

<https://harmreduction.org/issues/establishing-rural-programs/>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/10/20851108/opioid-epidemic-2020-democratic-presidential-candidate>

<https://drugpolicy.org/press-release/2020/09/syringe-access-bill-california-signed-law-governor-newsom>