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The Advocate

eNews

NCH Newsletter

July 29, 2011



Top 10 Anti-Homeless Laws

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

The National Coalition for the Homeless would like to offer a preview of our upcoming report on the criminalization of homelessness by choosing the top ten most ridiculous anti-homeless policies enacted in cities across America.

Our criminalization report will offer narratives for many more cities and occurrences than the ones listed here, as well as rank the nation's ten "meanest" cities. Here are 5 of the top 10 most anti-homeless policies. Check the [Bringing America Home Blog](#) to see the [Top 5!](#)

Top 10 Most Ridiculous Anti-Homeless Laws

10. "Homeless Meters" – Multiple Cities

[San Antonio TX](#), [Virginia Beach VA](#), [Anchorage AK](#), and many more cities across America are installing converted parking meters to collect donations for homeless service organizations.

9. **RV Sleeping Ban** – Venice, California

In 2010, Venice CA began strict enforcement of [an ordinance](#) banning sleeping in RV's. This action is reportedly due to resident claims of annoyance from noise and inconvenience from the bulky vehicles. But many homeless live in RV's, and they need to be close to the city so they can access services.

8. **Smoking Ban** – Sarasota, Florida

[A ban on smoking](#) in some public areas in Sarasota, FL may sound fine at first: after all, New York City recently banned smoking in public parks. But the real issue here lies within the City Commission's intentions, not the validity of the effects of



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Up Coming Events

August 21-28: [Homeless World Cup, Paris 2011](#) takes place at the Champs de Mars, Paris France

October 13-16: [National American Street Newspaper Association](#) is holding their 2011 Conference-Back to Our Roots in Nashville, TN.

NCH in the News

Herald-Tribune (July 11) - [Sarasota cracks down on homeless](#)

The New York Times (July 12) - [Kip Tiernan, Founder of First Shelter for Homeless Women, Dies at 85](#)

second-hand smoke or cigarette butt pollution.

7. **Water Sprinklers** – Manteca, California

“Creative” is one way to think of this method of keeping the homeless from sleeping in public parks in Manteca, CA. “Cruel and unusual” is another. In order to discourage the homeless from camping in Library Park, the city purposely changed the water sprinkler schedule so that people could not sleep in the park without an unwanted shower.

6. **Bench Removal** – Sarasota, Florida

In response to complaints about gatherings of “vagrants” in public parks from downtown Sarasota FL condo residents, the city decided to remove the presumed host of these gatherings: benches. Sarasota went forward with its [plan to remove the benches](#) in Selby Five Points Park in May 2011 in order to please those who pay “[the highest property tax value in the county](#)” by discouraging the homeless (and apparently everyone else) from using the park.

For more information on the criminalization of homelessness, you can visit our [2009 Homes Not Handcuffs Report](#) and our [2010 report on Food Sharing Prohibitions](#). Be sure to check out the [top 5 Most Ridiculous Anti-Homeless Laws!](#)

By Daniel Honeycutt, NCH Intern

NCH Releases Faces of Homelessness Videos

NCH is happy to announce that you can now view and share the Faces of Homelessness videos on the [NCH YouTube channel](#). These videos have been shown at events and shared nationwide, proving to be a powerful educational tool to all audiences. After many years of providing copies to due-paying members and educators, we are happy to have to opportunity to be able to offer the Faces videos to a wider audience online.

[Check them out](#) and share them with your friends, family and followers! But more importantly: become a [member of NCH](#) today! Help us continue to be able to offer great resources for students, government officials and people experiencing homelessness to make positive and lasting change in their communities.

[Faces of Homelessness I](#)

[Faces of Homelessness II](#)

Sun Sentinel(July 20) - [Broward Sheriff's Office pressing for national law on anti-homeless hate crimes](#)

California Health Line (July 21) - [Medicaid Waiver Good News for L.A.'s Homeless](#)

WB - Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Service Provider
www.dol.gov

U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau released Trauma Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guidebook for Service Providers. A great resource + best practices. Download now: <http://www.dol.gov/wb/trauma/index.htm>

Special thanks to our recent donors and renewed members:

Kimberly Allard, Gaelan Armstrong, Jon Ballew, Stephane Dahan, Michael Dahl & Rebecca Rassier, Jacob Goldberg, Jennifer Holstien, Paula Johnson, Wendy McQuistion, Jule Monnens, Nara Nayar, Larry Olson, Peter Orvetti, PiTe Pan, John Parvensky, Suresh Paul, Michael Rossi, Carolyn Sechler, Soheil Shayegh, Brian Tiffany, The Aberdeen Foundation, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Hilton HHonors, Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County, Indian Mills Home & School Association, Plasmanet, Rostin Ventures, These Storied

NCH is offering recommendations to its readers for free and low cost resources for grant writing, technical assistance, capacity building and other useful and cost effective suggestions.

**Streets and the Volusia/Flagler
Coalition f/t Homeless**

Today's Recommendation...

USICH Solutions Database Project

Purpose

A key strategy within Opening Doors is to identify and promote the use of best practices within the field. As a result, USICH is building a searchable database that will serve as a central repository for information on promising practices and innovative programs.

Criteria

To be considered for inclusion in the database, the program must meet the following criteria:

- The practice/program model targets persons experiencing homelessness or most at risk for homelessness.
- The practice/program model has demonstrated results.
- Core components of the model can be funded with Federal resources.

If interested, contact...

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