

After several months of negotiations, the County and City have agreed to enter into a Stipulation and Order for Preliminary Injunction, with homeless advocates and thereby, halting a lawsuit for 12 months. The lawsuit was filed April 2018 by Homeless Action! and three homeless individuals after County officials notified homeless individuals at encampments behind the Dollar Tree that they would be closing the encampment. The lawsuit argued that the County and City failed to reasonably accommodate their disabilities with adequate shelter placements prior to being displaced from public property. Homeless advocates also argued that the County and City were seizing and destroying homeless individuals property without prior notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

The preliminary injunction will be overseen by U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria, who will be able to enforce any violations through a dispute resolution process.

Under the preliminary injunction, the County and City have agreed that before the County Park Rangers or Santa Rosa Police Department enforce their anti-camping laws against a homeless individual within the City limits, they must work with homeless outreach workers to offer an adequate shelter bed to the individual, reasonably accommodating their verified disabilities.

The County and City have agreed that an offer of placement will be appropriate for each individual's needs. The adequacy of the shelter will depend on each individual's circumstances, such as mental disability, physical disability, possession of service animal or pet, and religious or ethical convictions. The adequacy will also depend on the conditions of the facility, including whether it presents health

or safety risks, it must be available for 30 consecutive days or more, the shelter must be open days and nights.