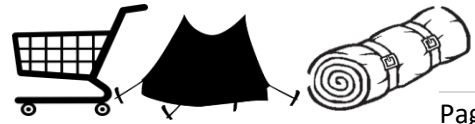


California Homeless Union Statewide Organizing Council



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For Immediate Release:

Homeless Union Responds to D.A. Thien Ho's Lies About Camp Resolution and Threats of "Criminal Liability"

**"The D.A. is panic peddling with his sensationalist, distorted
and insincere 'concerns' about hazards."**

**"The Union and the City have been working for weeks on
issues that Mr. Ho now seeks to exploit only to advance his
political career."**

Apparently not happy that he remains under investigation by the California State Bar for violations of professional conduct -- charges filed in August by Homeless Union attorney Anthony Prince¹--Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho is now targeting Union leaders as well as homeless advocates "Safe Ground Sacramento" and the City of Sacramento for allegedly maintaining a public nuisance at Camp Resolution.

Once again, Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho is playing a deadly game of politics and deception with his threat to criminally prosecute the City of Sacramento, homeless advocate Safe Ground Sacramento and, possibly, officers of the Sacramento Homeless Union.

Thien Ho's 9-page letter of November 14, 2023 is replete with distortions and false statements, including, for example, that Camp residents are being exposed to trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachlorethene (PCE). In fact, however, in a letter dated January 13, 2023 to the City

¹ On September 7, 2023, the State Bar Office of Chief Trial Counsel issued a letter confirming that the complaint had been assigned for investigation. (Case Number 23-O-22281, Thienvu Quang Ho). Among other things, the complaint charges DA Ho with using a threat of criminal prosecution to force the City of Sacramento to violate a federal injunction to cease clearing homeless encampments during this summer's extreme heat.

of Sacramento, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, its laboratory “*did not detect* TCE and PCE in outdoor air samples.”² (Emphasis added.)

As to the false assertion that there are Camp residents in tents on soil that is contaminated with benzene, a byproduct of gasoline exhaust emissions, the same letter reported that “the presence of benzene in ambient air is consistent with statewide conditions *unrelated to subsurface soil vapor*.” (Emphasis added.)³

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In addition, D.A. Ho’s letter completely ignores the fact that the majority of Camp Resolution residents are in trailers that they either own or were supplied by the City that sit four feet off the ground and which fully comply with the requirements set forth by the Water Board as they do not “enclose the area under the vehicles in a manner that prevents or limits air flow between the ground and the bottom of the vehicle or trailer.”⁴

Of course, there is no disputing that at one time the Colfax site was a maintenance yard and there should always be concerns about environmental conditions, but there is no doubt that D.A. Ho’s letter is a tissue of distortions, false statements, out-of-context quotes and inflammatory language.

It is the height of hypocrisy for this District Attorney to feign false concern for the well-being of the unhoused when it was only weeks ago on August 7, 2023, in the middle of triple-digit temperatures, that he was insisting—at the threat of criminally prosecuting the City -- that 16 homeless encampments located in the shade be immediately removed.⁵ This was four days after Federal Judge Troy L. Nunley had ordered the City to stop clearing encampments during the heat wave. Our Union was not about to let the County’s chief law enforcement officer get away with such a blatant contempt of court, and immediately responded:

“We believe that your conduct and that of the Office of Sacramento District Attorney under your direction, in importuning the City of Sacramento to violate a federal court order and, more broadly, your threats of criminal prosecution of the City, appropriation of funds and public resources to pursue the criminal investigation of the City, your public solicitation of ordinary citizens to provide “evidence” against unhoused residents of Sacramento and your less than truthful public pronouncements in service of your public campaign against the unhoused by way of your demands on the City, raise substantial questions as to your honesty, trustworthiness and fitness as a lawyer in other respects.”⁶

These concerns form the basis of the ongoing State Bar investigation of D.A. Thien Ho.

It must be remembered that Camp Resolution was formed by homeless women fed up with being pushed from one street corner to the next, facing brutal winters, deadly summers,

² Letter of January 13, 2022 from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Pg. 3.

³ Letter of January 13, 2022 from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Pg. 4.

⁴ Letter of January 13, 2022 from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Pg. 2.

⁵ See, Letter of August 7, 2023 from D.A. Thien Ho to the City of Sacramento

⁶ See, Prince letter to Thien Ho, August 7, 2023.

sexual assault, vigilante violence and sweeps that robbed them of the few possessions they needed to survive. These are the dangers that the homeless face *every day*, dangers that took the lives of some 200 unhoused Sacramentans last year. Where has Thien Ho been all this time? Where was this official who one day rails against “homeless criminals” the next day becoming the “champion” of the unhoused, playing all sides and every side so long as it advances his political career.

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If Thien Ho thinks his distortions and threats are going to frighten the Sacramento Homeless Union, he better think again. His phony concern for the homeless is a fraud and he is a disgrace to the office that he holds. For our part, we will continue to fight for housing and the rights of the unhoused. In some cases we work with the City, in other cases, we find ourselves in opposition. On Camp Resolution, we have had a little of both, but overall, we have addressed and resolved issues and will continue to do so.

What we don’t need is the unprincipled, dishonest and politically-driven interference of this district attorney.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Anthony D. Prince,
Lead Organizer/General Counsel
California Homeless Union and
Attorney for Sacramento Homeless Union