



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **22nd ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

Members of the public are invited to share in the 22nd annual Homeless Memorial Service, to be held on Friday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Held in conjunction with the National Homeless Persons Memorial Day each year for the last two decades, the event honors homeless community members who passed away in 2020. The event is presented by Housing Matters, the Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons Health Project, Wings and the Salvation Army.

The Santa Cruz 2020 event is a virtual one, and can be attended by the entire community via the following link: <https://bit.ly/2lxVKba>. You may also search "Santa Cruz Homeless Memorial" on Eventbrite.com. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the webinar link and further instructions.

Shelter residents at the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Veteran Memorial Halls will be able to watch the ceremony on simulcast. A simultaneous reading of the annual report and statistics will be available in Spanish.

As of today, 77 homeless persons have died on the streets of Santa Cruz County this year – more than one per week. This is 19 more people (33% increase) than last year, and is the highest number in the past 22 years. People experiencing homelessness have much shorter life expectancies and are more likely to suffer violence, chronic disease and other health issues.

**WHAT:** 22nd Annual Homeless Memorial

**WHERE:** <https://bit.ly/2lxVKba>

**WHEN:** December 18th, 10:00 am-11:30 am

### **About the Homeless Action Partnership**

The Homeless Action Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homeless service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and Federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the HAP.

