



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **23rd ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

Members of the public are invited to share in the 23rd annual Homeless Memorial Service, to be held on Tuesday, December 21st 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 2021. The event is presented by Housing Matters, the Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons Health Project, Wings, and the Salvation Army.

The Santa Cruz 2021 event is a virtual one, and can be attended by the entire community via the following link: <https://bit.ly/31lfbY2> . 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.

As of today, 94 persons experiencing homelessness have died on the streets of Santa Cruz County this year – more than one per week. This is 17 more people than last year, representing a 22 percent increase, and is the highest number in the past 23 years. People experiencing homelessness have much shorter life expectancies and are more likely to suffer violence, trauma and other health issues.

### **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.

**WHAT:** 23rd Annual Homeless Memorial

**WHERE:** <https://bit.ly/31lfbY2>

**WHEN:** December 21st, 10:00 am-11:30 am