

The vote was quick and surgical — 7 in favor and 2 opposed. On April 22, though, even Dias joined his fellow councilmembers to unanimously ratify the sitting ban on its second reading. On April 29, the Community Homeless Alliance staged the first of many demonstrations against the new ordinance.

Pandori's box has been opened and the evils within unleashed. Can we close it before every city in California is sickened? Before every residentially-challenged citizen is unwelcome in his or her own land? Are the merchants and property owners prepared for the lawsuits and protests which will result? Can we, as a people of conscience, afford to sit this one out?

may
~~April~~ 1997