

# ✓ Town Clock hours restricted

## City Council limits early-morning use

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SANTA CRUZ — It now will require a permit to be at the Town Clock between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. after the City Council voted Tuesday to limit park hours.

"I just think that breathing time for the facility is healthy," said Mayor Jane Yokoyama, who sided with the majority in the 4-2 vote.

Councilmen Scott Kennedy and Don Lane were in the minority. They sought to uphold the appeal of the Parks and Recreation Department's decision to limit use of the area.

Councilwoman Katherine Beiers did not attend the afternoon session of the council.

Kennedy said he opposed posting hours at the clock because "somehow the action being taken is in direct contradiction to the desired effect."

He said it's not true, despite the public's perception, that the hours posted on signs at the Town Clock already are being enforced.

In fact, said Kennedy, the drop-off in the number of people in the area came after Municipal Court Judge Tom Kelly ordered anyone cited by the police not to go back until their case is settled.

Kennedy called this order a "draconian measure," and that it will have a "limited time-span."

Once the court cases are settled, the people will return to the Town Clock,

despite the limiting of hours by the council.

"I think this is fostering an illusion; an illusion that may be short-lived," said Kennedy. "I see this dynamic as a manifestation of a mood in this country of criminalizing the homeless."

He said the council must "address the diversity in this community (and) this decision by Parks and Recreation doesn't take us far down the road . . ."

The appeal was spearheaded by numerous homeless people, including David "Won Ton" Jacobs, who accused the council of sounding "like you work more for Hitler than the Constitution" after the vote.

Councilmen John Mahaney and Louis Rittenhouse were interested not only in setting the hours, but also landscaping the clock area to make it more attrac-

tive, as well as less inviting to people who want to sit or sleep in the fountain area.

Jim Lang, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said the city's consultants who are working on a downtown streetscape plan will include ideas for the Town Clock.

Included in the streetscape plan is an area at the head of Pacific Avenue that would be designed for ease of public gathering.

Although the council set the hours restriction for the Town Clock, they ordered Lang to waive the \$15 fee for anyone who seeks permission to temporarily stop the curfew for special events.

They also asked for a report to be completed in four months detailing how many permits had been sought, and how they were handled.