

## **A Look Inside Tent Cities for the Homeless Should Vallejo try it?**

From the office of Councilwoman Marti Brown:

Sunday, April 15, 2012 – Vallejo, CA – Andrew Heben, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati (UC) in Urban Planning and one-month-long resident of a “tent city,” will make a public presentation on Thursday, April 19, 2012 based on his bachelor’s thesis, exploring tent cities for the homeless in the United States. Andrew will discuss how tent cities work, the difference between sanctioned and unsanctioned camps, as well as issues to consider when establishing a sanctioned tent city.

“Pushing makeshift homeless encampments from neighborhood to neighborhood doesn’t solve the problem of homelessness; it simply shifts it, from place to place. The Wilson Avenue encampment—although now not as large--has simply moved to the edge of the White Slough. A tented encampment, located in an area that places the least impact on any given neighborhood, may provide an interim solution to a problem that has been difficult to solve. And I support further study of this concept,” explained Katy Miessner, Solano County Supervisor Candidate and Vallejo resident.

“As a watershed advocate, I don't like seeing my environment trashed; as a resident, I don't like seeing begging in the street; and as a realist, I know homelessness will not go away by ignoring it. I live in Vallejo and I care about the image and conditions of my community. This presentation is a much needed educational and proactive approach to seeking alternative and realistic solutions.” stated Doug Darling, Homeless and Watershed Advocate.

“As our homeless population continues to grow, the City of Vallejo needs a comprehensive approach and strategy for addressing the issues and challenges of homelessness in a compassionate and humane way that also protects the rights of Vallejo citizens and property owners,” said Councilwoman Marti Brown. “And a sanctioned tent city might just be one of those facets” Brown added.

### Event Details

Location: Hillcrest Baptist Church, 800 Lighthouse Drive, Vallejo

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: Free admission