

# MILPAS ACTION TASK FORCE

## HELPFUL TIPS FOR RESPONDING TO COMMON PROBLEMS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

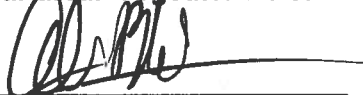
The Milpas Action Task Force is a group of residents, business owners, and City government representatives, non-profit agencies and concerned individuals focused on resolving problems in and around the area of Casa Esperanza homeless center.

Trespassing, vandalism, aggressive panhandling, illegal camping, and public drunkenness are crimes that most have experienced in the area. Loitering, although not a crime, is also a recurring problem.

**The first step to resolve these problems is for you to be involved as part of the solution.** When you witness any crimes or suspicious activities in the area we ask that you do the following:

1. **Call the police (911 or 897-2410).** Enforcement and/or corrective actions will only take place if you report the problem. **Be a good witness and sign a complaint if needed.**
2. **Sign a Police Department Authority Letter.** This will allow Patrol Officers to enforce trespassing and other violations on your property after business hours. Contact the Police Department at 897-2392, or via their webpage, [sbpd.com](http://sbpd.com). There you can print out an authority letter, and return it by mail, fax, or e-mail.
3. **Call the Casa Esperanza Homeless Center.** If you have concerns, complaints, or questions regarding the homeless or Casa Esperanza operations please contact them at the **designated Good Neighbor line (805-979-8715)**. If you leave a message, it is transferred automatically to staff via email. Clients who receive meals or services at Casa Esperanza are prohibited from engaging in certain activities, such as panhandling and loitering, in the vicinity, and will be denied access to those services if they do not comply with all policies and laws.
4. **Address Recurring Issues.** Recurring issues can be addressed by physical means, such as lighting, fencing, or changes to landscaping. The Police Department Beat Coordinator (897-2332) will be glad to review these issues with you to see if there may be a solution.
5. **Get Involved.** If you would like to become more involved with improving conditions in the Milpas Street area or keep track of what is going on, please visit the Milpas Community Association website, [mcasb.org](http://mcasb.org). Their current phone number is available at the website.


**We encourage everyone who receives this letter to get involved to help reduce these problems in our area. Together we can make this a better area for business, residents, and visitors.**



Alan Bleecker  
Milpas Community Association  
President



Rev. Mark Asman  
Casa Esperanza Homeless Center  
Board President



Paul Casey  
City of Santa Barbara  
Community Development Director

