

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Homeless: Why Does the County Not Like Sebastopol?  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:23:17 AM

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Following the last Council meeting where the topic of warming centers came up in response to a public comment, the Press Democrat published an article on the readiness of the County to protect the homeless from cold weather.

The article stated that Mayor Rich, in what must have been one of her first official acts, got the County to give up \$10,000 to help keep the 47 unhoused homeless in Sebastopol warm. This would be welcome news, but the article goes on to say Sonoma is going to get \$25,000 to help their 40 unhoused homeless. The article raises questions about appropriate hours and locations for warming centers that meet the needs of the homeless. The article fails to ask the question why does the County not like Sebastopol?

In the recent census Sebastopol had 87 homeless compared to Sonoma with 40. Sebastopol has the highest per capita number of homeless in the County. We have the highest per capita number of "sheltered" homeless as well. As a small town we are supporting three shelter projects with Park Village, Elderberry Commons and the RV Village. With three shelters it is no wonder that there are more than twice the number of homeless in Sebastopol compared to Sonoma. I don't believe the County took away any of Sonoma's hotels. According to the 2023 Homeless Census Sonoma does not provide any housing to the homeless.

We were promised by the County on the video justifying the takeover of our only downtown hotel that the County would be there for us. We are down somewhere between \$200,000 and \$400,000 in TOT tax and we got back \$10,000. Our county elected officials don't seem to like us.

	2022 population est	2023 Homeless Count	Population supporting 1 homeless person	% population homeless
<b>Sebastopol</b>	<b>7,338</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
Cotati	7,453	15	497	0.2%
Cloverdale	8,809	9	979	0.1%
Sonoma	10,466	40	262	0.4%
Healdsburg	11,709	33	355	0.3%
Windsor	25,789	26	992	0.1%
Rhonert Park	44,326	210	211	0.5%
Petaluma	58,652	245	239	0.4%
Unincorporated	130,927	429	305	0.3%
Santa Rosa	177,181	1160	153	0.7%
County Total	482,650	2254	214	0.5%

