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To: [Patrick Slayter](#); [Sarah Glade Gurney](#); una.glass.seb@sonic.net; [Neysa Hinton](#); [Diana Rich](#); [City Council](#); [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Public comment for the Sebastopol council meeting tonight on SAV "safe parking"
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:05:34 AM

Morning Mary, Here is my public comment for the council meeting tonight on transient 'safe parking'

This time last year concerned Sebastopol citizens watched as our council folded to a state funded takeover of our only downtown hotel by the county, despite there being only short term running costs funding guarantees provided by the current state fashion for lavish funding of 'housing' the 'unhoused'.

A year later Sebastopol has lost tourist tax and spending revenues, we have 27 people 'housed' in the hotel guarded by a hostile security detail being paid 24/7 to protect their inmates from the outside world. A large coterie of 'non profit' attendants for these supposedly covid vulnerable inmates bring them three meals a day, art classes and who knows what else.

Last year the council said 'there is nothing we can do, it's not our decision' as they let the hotel fall to the current local political trend of providing for anyone who shows up on our state's streets. Given a massive and deadly drug epidemic it is not hard to see where this leads.

We have a substantial 'homeless' population living on the Joe Rodota Trail, around the Laguna and of course in various RVs around town (despite local citizens not being allowed to live in RVs as housing on their own land and infrastructure!).

Morris street is an embarrassing hub for this, a 'feature' camp site and open drug scene, a blight on what should be the gateway from the tourist area of town to our Laguna.

The council is now holding an irregular meeting to discuss adding 'parking spaces' for more indigents next to our local recreational facilities for families. At what point will the penny drop that a small town with a very limited budget is significantly over contributing to an ideology that will eat every resource you have? We see all over the western world how well meaning but naive co dependent politicians dig huge fiscal holes for themselves thinking they are providing 'solutions' for 'homelessness'.

In December 2019 our hard working local public works staff spray painted on Sebastopol roads and pavements to mark all the areas that needed repair. It looked like a graffiti art project - there was so much that needed fixing. We have fire engines in dire need of upgrade and repair, parks in disarray and being used as campgrounds and open drug scenes by indigents.

Sadly we also have a very out of touch and naive supervisor and county board who urgently need to study places where drug culture is more under control: Holland for example has legalized drugs but you will go to jail if you are caught in public shooting up unless you go into well organized treatment.

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/information/general/dutch-drug-policy.htm>

We also have a huge co dependent 'non profit' industry, many aligned with a 'legalize recreational drugs' movement who promote the idea they are emulating places like Holland. In reality what is happening is that more and more money is being poured into misguided and costly enabling of a drug lifestyle at taxpayers expense.

If you'd like to see this in action the drug dealers regularly show up around 4:30 am on Morris street. The police have been regularly told about a black car they use for their deliveries.

I spent a lot of time and energy pointing out to our BoS and their bureaucracy what works elsewhere:

Using county land and infrastructure for 3 distinct triaging locations for transients because substance abuse casualties have never different needs and handling requirements to the mentally ill, while transients without these problems and the legitimately homeless (the rent moratorium has ended) should never have to commingle with the first two categories.

It is willful and wrong to continue with this expensive ad hoc usage of city resources. Funding quickly dries up for band aid projects which establish rights for people to assume they can camp in sanctioned locations.

Sadly our city council chooses to literally discuss moving the legal lines on these topics - debating moving the street markings

to go around the homeless encampment on Morris Street for example -instead of pressuring our county to use some of the huge tracts of land and infrastructure they own to tackle these serious societal problems head on instead of insulting tax payers about 'NIMBYism' as they secrete campers around neighborhoods taking advantage of grants and funds the state dribbles out in a completely opaque and underhand fashion with little citizen involvement.

I've been involved with these local problems for 14 months. They are getting worse and my patience is running out with the credibility of our local political decisions. This will become a major election issue going forward, we have to put an end to the slow erosion of budgets and quality of life while providing adult supervision and triage for those in need.

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Thanks Mary! I'll try and join the call tonight.

Oliver Marks [REDACTED]

