

ERIN DUNN

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I am going to ask a favor today from those of you involved in the untaxed cash business that we have in Humboldt County. No matter where you live you are part of a community—you have kids that go to school, or you use available services from time to time—like the hospital and fire department. Or you are going to need one of those services in the future.

I want to ask you donate to your community. Make a sizeable anonymous donation to your local hospital, or buy cookies for an outrageous amount at the school bake sale.

Most of us want to feel a part of our community and we genuinely care about our neighbors—we want contribute in some way in order to make not just our own life better, but better for the people we know and love.

We need your help to keep our services viable and operating. I don't have children, but I know that keeping

our schools funded is important for us all. I haven't had to call the fire department to respond to a fire in my home.

But I might. And if I should need the fire department, I want them to be there and be there quickly. *And have what they need to best do their job*

Whether we are in a business that provides taxes to our community or not, we all need to contribute. And I can't help but believe we all WANT to contribute and feel a part of our community.

Many of you in the cash untaxed business in our County DO contribute. And I thank you for that.

But if you haven't donated recently, please consider donating to your local hospital. Maybe you haven't even stepped inside your local hospital, but I guarantee you are going to want your hospital up and running if an accident befalls you or a family member—a broken leg, cut, serious burn, can all happen in an instant.

Please consider donating to your schools. As trite as it may sound, the kids are our future. With State budget cuts, and local dollars stretched thin, our schools are in a precarious position and it's up to all of us to pitch in.

There is talk of eventually making our green cash crop legal—which will include taxing the product. But until then, we need you. We need you to give ^{to be generous} to your community—_{back} whatever that means to you. The schools, the hospitals, the fire department—all of us—will appreciate your donation.

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce