

This is AM with your CC

We need to Improve Eureka. Especially Old Town, but again: We need to Improve all of Eureka. I am not talking about more parklets. And no, I don't want to see any "Needle Sharing stations," and most definitely we do not need to spend anymore money on the homeless!

As a rule, "Eureka values it's bums more than its businesses." Eureka, values its virtues, more than fixing it's problems.

That's some great bumper-sticker material right there!

Eureka residents as well as public officials would rather feel good about themselves than face the ugly problems that are destroying our town.

Eureka has taken the wrong turn many times, and the way out is going to be difficult for people to support. Some of the solutions are going to seem counter-intuitive. To others, anything that judges the homeless will seem insensitive and mean-spirited. Many of these people will move away, out of Humboldt for greener pastures before they will support smart policies and good ideas. Despite how terrible things have gotten, do not expect a consensus, do not expect unity on how to deal with Eureka's bums! Even the two-time destruction of Betty Chinns' warehouse, even that wasn't enough to change the minds of Eureka's residents.

I used to assume that there would be a red line, of what Eureka would tolerate. I was wrong. The lifestyle homeless are Law-proof. They don't care if they get arrested. The result is a severe escalation toward violence.

1. The bums are setting up camps--now I can understand the desire to live a tax free life. But did you ever see someone work so hard at being poor? If the Lifestyle homeless spent their energy working with a helpful charity toward their own recovery,-- instead of stealing and panhandling for drug money--they could all get off the streets real quick. Unfortunately they want the world on their own terms, which means they siphon off all the money that is meant for the homeless who actually need it--the mentally ill and those very few that are actually not making a choice to be homeless.

2. Assaults among the homeless--going up. The latest camp at 3rd and A streets saw several fistfights.

3. There is a drug house very close by to where I work-- this illicit pharmacy never stops dealing--despite the occasional police raids. It's kind of like a CVS or Walgreens--but for Meth-heads!

I don't have much time left on this comment. Here are some potential solutions:

1. For our charities: Do not feed any homeless that appear drunk or high.

2. For our police: Treat the homeless camps like the P-O-P treats drug houses. Shut them down before they get started. You know where they are.

3. For the Building Department: Make sure you use the full weight of government to punish slums and blighted buildings.

4. For our city council: Stop funding the homeless, there are plenty of resources for the few that seek them.

I think those are easy solutions that would solve the problem! Let's get to work!