

This is AM for your CC

I keep thinking about other topics to talk about it. There are so many other conversations I'd rather have. But every morning that I drive to the store, I'm reminded about the biggest local issue that you care about. Especially if you live in Eureka.

And it is of course, the homeless, and the crime that follows.

In past comments, I've shared strategies that would turn the tide. Here is a quick recap, and then I'll add some final thoughts.

Number 1, we need to recognize that not all homeless are the same. I divide them between those down on their luck, probably 15%, those that are mentally ill at about 25% and then 60% that I call lifestyle homeless, and those are the criminals that use drugs, that steal and so on. Our city and charities make the mistake of treating all three groups the same.

Number 2, our charities need to "use food as a tool," and refuse services to people that are clearly using drugs or alcohol. Anything else leads to the enabling of destructive behaviors. The charities do great work with group #1, and it should continue. However charities do a lot of destruction when giving services to group #3, the lifestyle homeless. The word has gotten out, and lifestyle homeless from around the country are coming to Humboldt.

Number 3, The city needs to use it's authority to clean up blighted buildings and bust up the slums. I took a look at the Eureka budget, and it shows very little activity for "Line 242 abatement projects fund," and the line "540 Building fund." I'll admit im not educated on the budget, but I am assuming either of those categories is where this energy would show. If the city needs more money, it could review how much money it spends on overtime. for year 2015 to 16, and not counting Police or Fire overtime because that's a separate thing, the city spent over \$122 thousand dollars on overtime.

Number 4, Law Enforcement needs to enforce camping laws and keep the Lifestyle homeless from sleeping in Eureka. Yes, that means not allowing anyone to sleep in doorways, or in alleyways.

We face a pandemic and I believe the cure exists, but it requires we think clearly--these 4 strategies must be part of cleaning up Eureka. Getting any one of these four things done would be a miracle, and I believe having the public push for all four would clean Eureka up--real quick.