

Anthony Plautava

*A visit to any shopping place in Eureka will reveal a lot of empty store fronts. Count the number of empty opportunities in bayshore mall, in downtown and old town eureka.*

*Our immediate attention is drawn away from this problem to the even bigger problem of the homeless and that's as it should be--as long as the lifestyle homeless continue to conduct a lawproof lifestyle around town, there will be no tourism, no commerce.*

*I dont think theres been a study done on it, but there exists a correlation between property values and homeless activity. If there is more pride per square acre of property then there is a higher liklihood that homeless activity wont be tolerated. That means less dumpster fires and drug dealing.*

*There is an easy solution that could be implemented immediately. The city council needs to get on the phone and start inviting businesses--large and small--to relocate to Eureka. No it is not an easy sell, California is not a business friendly environment, but with the assistance of city staff, the council should be able to compile a 5 minute presentation to show to perspective businesses.*

*We would all feel better if there were less empty storefronts, and I believe it would be one more competent strategy toward significantly decreasing the number of "lifestyle" homeless.*

*Things have been going well the last two weeks, with the code enforcement guys tearing down two different slum locations. It's great to see local police enforcing camping laws and keeping the lifestyle homeless from settling. Now we just need to get the local charities on board. Local Charities must stop feeding homeless that are using meth or heroin. If we can get the charities to pull their weight, maybe we can turn this city around!*