

A. Mantova 4/8/2018

*Eureka deserves a better future. A city with a beautiful harbor, soaring redwood trees and a comfy small town vibe; it's a wonder that Eureka has been so poorly run.*

*As property and violent crime continue at an alarming rise, our City Council has accelerated the problem by approving a needle exchange ordinance, and the permissive atmosphere that comes with it!*

*The streets of this town are not safe. I've heard you tell me all about it. You are afraid to shop at your local store. You are more likely to think twice about shopping in Downtown Eureka. The truth is you want to shop locally, but you're tired of being panhandled, intimidated and harassed.*

*So am I. There is no excuse. Our community is ready for solutions to the complicated problems of crime, empty storefronts and the thousands of dangerous needles on our streets. You and I are not bound by political ideology or special interest groups. Quite simply, all we want is for our local government to function properly and create a safe environment. It's time to raise our standards.*

*You and I are ready for a change that involves:*

*+ Reducing the number of criminal drug addicts roaming the streets by enforcing camping ordinances. We should take it a step further--encouraging landowners to protect their buildings from blight. If we can have less neglected properties, you and I will see less drug dealing and vandalism.*

*+ Empowering successful rehabilitation programs while discouraging poorly-designed practices that enable addiction.*

*+ Eureka has a high number of empty storefronts. What a difference it would make if our City Council invited businesses and industries to relocate to our area! Leadership can go a long way.*

*+ Explore tax incentives for landlords to upgrade their buildings, including such improvements as removing alcove overhangs and tax deferral incentives for adding privately funded security cameras and fencing.*

*+ Our Eureka Police Department still has several empty positions on it's roster, this is causing the city to pay expensive overtime costs while adding an unfair burden to our police officers. We've tried sign-on bonuses, but it's not the money that's the problem. A change in City Council leadership might be enough to encourage aspiring officers to choose Eureka as their place to work.*

*+ Recognize the determined efforts of our local charities and clean-up groups like Pacific Outfitters who are working hard to clean our streets of bio-hazardous needles and other debris. The City has a responsibility to maintain safe parks and streets. I've spoken to many parents who don't feel safe letting their children go out and play!*

*+ Demand that Humboldt County and Sacramento do their part to help Eureka fight crime and reduce the number of criminal drug addicts roaming our streets. While the city is often the victim of bad state policy, engaged local leadership can get a lot accomplished!*