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RE: Comments on Food Sharing in Downtown Hayward

To: Hayward City Council

I have owned and operated Cyclepath in downtown Hayward for 5 years, and am the current president of the Downtown Hayward Business Improvement Area Advisory Board. I believe in food security and a social safety net for at risk individuals and families, but current food sharing in downtown Hayward is detrimental to business and dangerous.

Food sharing programs help to concentrate transients in a single neighborhood, as those with poor transportation abilities will only stay within walking distance of their food source. We currently have a highly concentrated mixture of halfway houses, residential hotels, and transients in downtown Hayward. Without an integrated mixture of counseling and services, serving them baloney sandwiches does not serve their true needs.

My store is located between the creek and most of the food sharing. I have to deal with transients wandering into my store to keep themselves entertained. Their smell and demeanor make high end customers who are spending \$700-\$3000 on a bicycle feel uncomfortable. I kick out wandering transients 3-6 times a month from my store.

There is frequently human feces smeared on the walls near my shop, where transients defecate while leaning up against the wall. A picture is attached. Feces was removed from ground but smear was not cleaned.



I have had a difficult summer dealing with transients and my trash. They create a huge mess and my employees are forced to clean up. I have asked them to leave and they have threatened me. On Aug 3rd, in retaliation for increasing trash enforcement, my trash cans were lit on fire for the second time in year. Two fire engines responded, and I had to come out in the middle of the night to respond. A picture is attached.



On June 22nd, a transient on Methamphetamines walked past my store and vandalised my motorcycle. He then broke salt and pepper shakers at Juliens BBQ. I followed and called 911, and he picked up a trash can top at City Hall and broke a window. Currently City Hall still does not have trash can tops due to this incident.

On September 12, 2013 a transient came into my store and stole a bicycle. I chased him trying to recover bicycle. When I caught up to him he attacked me and in the course of restraining him he bit me and my toe was injured. A picture is attached.



Is this the city we want to live and do business in? Hayward residents and business people deserve better.

Here is glimpse of what this week's schedule looked like for me:

**Monday, Sept. 9th:** Speak on phone with Deputy Attorney about court appearance regarding motorcycle and city hall vandalism. Prepare and review my notes. 1 hour.

**Tuesday, Sept 10th:** Arrive at court 8:30 am to meet with DA. On witness stand for over 2 hours. Leave courthouse 3pm. 5.5 hours

**Wednesday, Sept 11th:** Transient in store. observe him for 30 minutes because families are shopping and do not want to make a scene. Families leave. Have conversation with transient to leave and not come back. 45 minutes.

Trash problems in back of store. Employee cleans for 30 minutes.

**Thursday, Sept 12th:** Incident#2013-00063625. Transient walks into store at 10:45 and steals bike. Attacks me during recovery and bites me. I am doing police reports and preparing evidence until 1PM. Employee fixes stolen bike for 1.5 hours and replaces damaged parts. I call in extra help to Cyclepath to cover shop before I can get medical treatment. I go to Kaiser to have bite wound examined, cleaned and toe x-rayed. Medical Assistant mentions she has never seen a bite like this. Receive antibiotics. Out of pocket medical costs \$60. Time spent: 5 hours for me, 1.5 hours for employee.

**Friday, Sept 13th:** Arrive back at work in pain.

Downtown Hayward is neither safe nor clean, and residents deserve better. Every additional transient downtown costs money for firefighters and police. Every "free" dollar of food downtown costs the city and downtown merchants at least \$100.

To: Hayward City Council

From: Ben Schweng, Cyclepath Hayward, 22510 Foothill Blvd

Date: October 1, 2013

Re: Suggestions for Food Sharing Permit Changes

I am the owner of Cyclepath Hayward and a member of the BIA.

I believe the following items should be added to the Food Sharing Permit process:

1. Require those providing food or other services to the homeless to provide adequate bathroom facilities including access to soap and water. Food sharing and streetside services concentrate homelessness, and there is a severe problem downtown with human waste that merchants must clean up. Porta-potties are required at all other outdoor events.
2. Require those providing food to also provide trash services to not overwhelm city services.