

I am sad and disappointed to be here again tonight, as I felt we'd accomplished so much just 4 weeks ago. As I'd understood it, this ordinance was to be tabled until both sides had gotten together and worked out some particulars, including a viable site for a community center.

So I'm sure you can imagine my surprise when I learned of this special session.

What's worse, the "new revisions" in the ordinance all but ensure that those of us who are trying to share what little we have with those Hayward citizens that are hungry, or homeless, are stopped cold. A million dollars in liability insurance? Seriously? And I have to be considered a business just to get it. 500 to 1500 dollars is one of the world's biggest lowballs, by the way, unless you'd be willing to gamble on say, "Fred's insurance". You are looking at 2 to 3 times the 500 to 1500 amount penned in this report. Fred was willing to do it for 2200 a month as long as he had a profitable time in Vegas coming up. Gamble on such a thing as this? Not bloody likely. Not me.

The thing is, no one person here alone defines a "community". You don't, and neither do I. The only way a community is defined is by its people as a whole. Government is FOR the people, and BY the people. Together WE ARE the people - so it makes sense to me that we come together AS A COMMUNITY, rather than choose sides on an issue with this kind of impact and significance, and WORK TOGETHER to address it. Not factionalize and be enemies - REALLY work together.

The Good Book says the poor will always be with you. It's a fact, and I said the same thing 4 weeks ago.

Homelessness and hunger will ALWAYS be here. Accept it. However, by passing this "new revised" ordinance, we are forced to go from 11 feedings per week, to only 2 per month. Hungry people will do whatever it takes to not be hungry, so be prepared to deal with a soaring crime rate related to shoplifting food.

Also, I believe you'll need to change Hayward's "Heart of the Bay" moniker to read "Heartless of the Bay" - because it is my opinion that only the most heartless of people would rather pass this ordinance than come together with those of us on the front lines and create an ordinance or resolution that reflects an entire community's view rather than one that serves only a few.

Give us some time - 90 days - give us a chance to talk to new partners and better organize so that we can bring some better options to the council. REAL options that serve the whole community rather than what this ordinance does. I guarantee WE can raise the bar, because this "new improved" ordinance keeps it so low that the only way IS up.

Thank you.
Kevin Valley