

TO: MAYOR, MICHAEL SWEENEY  
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, MARK SALINAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, BARBARA HALLIDAY  
COUNCIL MEMBER, FRANCISCO ZERMENO  
COUNCIL MEMBER, MARVIN PEIXOTO  
COUNCIL MEMBER, GREG JONES  
COUNCIL MEMBER, AL MENDALL  
DAVID KORTH  
SARA LAMNIN

From: Jeannette Johnigan  
Hayward, CA 94542

Date: October 29, 2013

Wow, to go from 9 places I could eat a week to 2 places per month! I will try not to panic. I am 58, disabled, on social security living in "affordable housing" that takes more than 60% of my income.

I became involved with HaywardCAN a few years ago. Until that point, when I drove by Portuguese Park and saw people standing around or in line, I thought folks were just having some sort of celebration. On my hungry days I would wonder if they would mind in I crashed it so I could eat. Then I found out about the GRID. I started at Portuguese Park because it is far less intimidating than having to walk into a building.

The documents surrounding this ordinance seem to combine Homelessness with Hunger. NOT everyone that is HUNGRY is HOMELESS! Not everyone that is homeless participate in meal programs. Although some people are both, hungry and homeless, the two issues are separate and should be addressed that way.

Outdoor meal problems feed people until either the food is gone or 45 minutes to an hour has passed. These are people who are giving from their heart, sometimes from their own pantries. They have no need to keep track of numbers. Even if only one person showed up to eat, they were glad they could be of service and the day was not wasted. Food pantries serve many people who are hungry and some that are hungry and homeless, numbers are available. However, what are we to tell people that are hungry?

Sure, there are a few bad behaviors. However, I must say given the chance, the homeless police their own. For example, there was a person last year that thought it was her right to use others property as if it were her own, creating many problems in the community. The homeless community pooled their money and put her on a bus to the east coast so she could be with her family. Problem solved. The comments I have heard of late is with reference to the cameras that were installed. Why are the people committing the destruction of property, public defecation/urination, etc. not punished for their bad behavior? Why haven't the films been shared with the public or at the very least played during a council meeting. Have any of you seen the results of the camera installations, i.e., film, pictures, slides, anything that would show the people who are doing these objectionable things? Why not set up a homeless commission, one that would deal directly with the bad behaviors. Peer council. Instead, you are presented with the proposition of an ordinance that is punitive and threatens the freedom of everyone who has the desire to serve others or help others. Does council feel that the food providers that this ordinance is directed at be willing or financially able to comply? I don't. I think they will just pull out, even though this is just the being of the cold and rainy season. What choice do they have? The cost alone is a deterrent to compliance I know from personal experience that \$1,000,000.00 in commercial liability insurance cost over \$1,000 per year.

We would love to move it inside, where? Is there any type of incentive for property owners to offer property for this endeavor, from the City of Hayward? I hope that if you do decide to accept this ordinance as it is written, that you will review it at the end of 6 months and if it is not doing what you expected, remove it from the books.

Even though we did not get the assistance I had hoped, we are still moving forward. We are still looking for a central location for a center that provides services, including meals to all persons in need. We still need your support, not necessarily financial, however definitely not shackles or chains!