



HAYWARD
CHAMBER *of*
COMMERCE

10/10/13 15:54 DLK

Oct. 3, 2013

Hayward Mayor and City Council
777 B St.
Hayward, California 94541

Mayor and Council Members,

The Hayward Chamber of Commerce is in support of city staff's recommendation presented Oct. 1 to implement a Food Sharing Event Ordinance establishing a permitting process for those wanting to provide food in downtown city parks. We also support the accompanying proposed ordinance to protect our parks between sunset and sunrise to address the bad behaviors that occur there at night.

After reviewing the positions of different sides in the matter, the chamber's Government Relations Council comes down solidly on behalf of downtown residents who suffer from harassment as well as businesses who on a near-daily basis deal with those who drive away customers by aggressive panhandling, intimidating confrontations, and loitering. (And we witness these occurrences from our downtown chamber offices). Business owners tell us their property is routinely subjected to public defecation and urination, and that litter includes used drug paraphernalia. Our downtown business members tell us this behavior and residue in many cases is directly related to outdoor food giveaway programs and their patrons.

We endorse the pilot program to evaluate the implementation of these ordinances, in particular the one that would govern the time, place and manner in which food sharing events can occur in city parks in the downtown area. The permitting process would help the city by regulating these open food giveaways and assist in recovering costs for cleaning and repairs. It also protects those benefiting from the handouts by requiring food providers have the appropriate food-handling permits.

If the chamber can be of further assistance in the matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Kim Huggett
President & CEO