

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
November 7, 2017

"For all items NOT on the agenda"

(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)

Voluntary Sign-In Sheet

- ✓ 1. Charles LeClerc
- ✓ 2. Roy Dahlberg
- ✓ 3. Nazzie Warden
- ✓ 4. Jim Glouner
- ✓ 5. Ellen Taylor
- ✓ 6. Edie Jessup
- ✓ 7. Jo Ann Huttman, Ph.D.
- ✓ 8. Valerie Gizinski
- ✓ 9. Jeff Knapp
- ✓ 10. Dave Meserve
- ✓ 11. Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg
- ✓ 12. Steve Madrone
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Date: ????

To: Everyone

Subject: We are educated to think in many ways

I and many others see many battles happening around the world. As a graduate of Humboldt State, one thing Mrs (or Miss) Grigsby taught during speech class was get to the point. As old, seventy plus year old forester (I emphasis "field experienced") of sound mind and body who has been forcibly retired for the last two years because his input was not accepted by California and world crowd, I form my **own** opinion based on truth and real world realities.

I do not accept the goobly-gook put out by media, Humboldt Board of Supervisors, most politicians, preservationists and protectionists, some well-off and not so-well off folks, California's Fourth Branch of Government (regulators), and many others. Being old, ignored, in the experienced minority, having hunting all over the western part of this country, fishing, free-diving, in general living a rural way of live, not being a dummy, and seeing real world truths, I see reality as the pits.

- Human groups like Christians and Radical Islamist will always fight each other. Maybe I believe in something greater than humans and a better way, but current real world truths are being missed
- Preservationists and protectionists fight timber harvesting, because they do not see how proper timber harvesting helps fish, other species, and provides sunlight, water, and food (nutrients). As lead manager of Elk Creek Plantation and forester, I saw many species depending on these things
- As one who has fought uncontrolled and uncontrolled fire, knows when fire is good and bad, and when proper timber harvesting can control fire, I see a lot going wrong.
- Played center in football at HSU and wearing my glasses, I saw head coach Sarboe, shake his head when Van Duran had me pulled from the game, HSU was playing SAC State, HSU was inside the 10 yard line, with four downs to go at SAC State, and SAC State got to go to the Camila Bowl (Spelling??)
- As one who has used hi-tech computers and knows when inexperienced (especially young humans) erroneously use computers, I see things going wrong.
- Trump lacking rural experiences and truths about rural life does not understand rural living, and I am still waiting for him to do right by rural folks. He is still getting blamed for many O'Bama screw-ups. With a history in timber, making wood products, I believe rural states made Trump President, humans in this country and world are divided, living in a county where number one private non-taxpaying private rural industry depends on timber, being a minority in California, and despite everything, I voted for Trump
- I have been in many marijuana grows, been confronted by marijuana growers, have refused bribes, had and have relatives and friends in law enforcement, had friend and fellow forester killed by a marijuana grower, and now have a concealed permit and am armed when I go into the field.
- I believe the country was against World War until the Japanese stupidly bombed Pearl Harbor
- I am not qualified to know many things, but as lead manager of Elk Creek plantation, I learned everything needs sunlight, water, and food (or nutrients).
- Rural life and life in more populous areas fight at cross purposes which divide us. Being grandson of a highway patrolman and with members and friends of law enforcement, it was hard to watch on TV a rancher get killed, and I wondered how we could have gone so far wrong.
- As an experienced field forester and rural person, I do not accept erroneous untruths about real world realities involving timber owners, farmers, ranchers, and many other things, and some of what I have learned, I better keep to myself.

I am experienced in some of world's realities, and I see the world's thinking divided. I believe many species and humans are headed for bad time. Experienced people like some of the older folks better look-out.

Charles L. Ciano, California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) #317

(An old tired field forester no one gives any attention who has lived in a working man's world)

P.O. Box 172, Cutten (near Eureka in redwood country), CA 95534, 707-443-2179

November 7, 2017

Chair Bass and Members of the Board,

I am here today to urge you to place the Shelter Crisis Declaration on your agenda before the end of the year or as soon as possible. I am asking you to do this as an act of love and good faith for the homeless and all the residents of Humboldt County. We simply do not have enough housing, and no affordable housing. We have thousands who have no where to go, no place to be, and who are so often defined as the problem rather than those experiencing the problem. We have a shelter crisis in Humboldt.

We know there are thousands of students at all levels of education in Humboldt that are unable to obtain housing. This is well documented. Our Point in Time Count of the homeless this year was woefully inadequate and several geographic areas were not even counted, but it is well known that we have at least a thousand plus more who are living rough on the streets, in the greenways or forests, seeking refuge at night in the alleyways, doorways and yards, old buildings or any where they can be hidden enough to avoid interactions with law enforcement because there is no place to go home to, no affordable housing, even though many of them have some wherewithal and work.

We have seen how this Declaration can work to create alternatives with the efforts launched by the City of Eureka since declaring a shelter crisis. A declaration gives clear direction to all decision makers about what projects and programs to support. A countywide, general declaration would be helpful to create housing solutions across the county.

Homelessness is compounded by many other complex and related issues, such as physical disabilities, mental health issues and trauma, substance use disorders, loss, grief and re-traumatizing daily. It is nearly impossible to get your life together when you have no place to go at night, no place where you can put your stuff, no place where you can sleep. When you don't have a place where you can bathe or engage in the biological necessities, where you can gather your things, where you can gather your life, where you can be who you are, where you can be at home, it is nearly impossible to get and keep your life together even without compounding issues.

There is often a stigma and a shame that comes from being homeless but the real shame is that we have made it nearly impossible for people who are the poorest of the poor to live with any dignity among us.

We need to move beyond "services" and focus on those for whom the services don't apply; they don't fit the criteria of mentally ill enough or disabled enough. They are worthy and they are our elders, brothers and sisters and children. We need to open our hearts and new spaces for them to have a safe, legal place to be. We simply are not ok as a community with leaving them out there because they aren't deemed deserving, or because we can't find permanent housing for them.

Please, Supervisors, to put the Shelter Crisis Declaration on your agenda as soon as possible so we can properly explore the benefits to all for declaring a shelter crisis.

Thank you,
Nezzie Wade





Human Rights Commission

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Support for a Shelter Crisis Declaration, November 7, 2017

I have been a member of the Human Rights Commission for four years. During that entire time, the issue of homelessness has been a front-and- center issue and so it is to this day.

Many groups and individuals have offered ideas to address chronic homelessness, associated violence, property issues, mental health and addiction problems and more, yet here we are again.

The Human Rights Commission has sought extensive community input on the many aspects of homelessness both within Eureka, Southern Humboldt, and elsewhere. We have not always read from the same script as some advocates, but we have always paid attention. Housing First is a fine concept, but it alone is not enough. Whether we are talking about Tiny House Villages, Sustainable Villages, nomadic camp grounds, or any other concept, the discussion needs to take place.

The ONE body that can and should address this issue head-on is the Board of Supervisors. You not only have the legal authority to act, you have the moral authority as well.

The Human Rights Commission endorses this effort for you to get a Shelter Crisis Declaration and possible solutions-based actions on the earliest possible agenda. A single supervisor is needed to be the leader on this board to get a serious dialogue going.

A Declaration by this board can ultimately change the course of this discussion for years to come. A declaration could save lives. Inaction will guarantee continued suffering. Inaction also, absolutely guarantees, we will be having this discussion again and again until you do make such a declaration.

Sincerely,

James Glover, Chair Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

**Winchell Dillenbeck
AHHA Board Member**

Homelessness continues to be a serious problem in Humboldt County. Rural homelessness is diverse. People from all walks of life, including families with children, employed and unemployed workers, elderly residents, veterans, disabled individuals, youth and individuals are impacted by homelessness.

Every community reports homelessness to be a challenge. Bigger communities often note the lack of affordable housing and essential supports (mental health, addictions, domestic violence) to be a major challenge in addressing homelessness. In rural centers, this issue is even more acute. There simply is not enough funding and service capacity to offer diverse supports needed.

Lance Morton, a member of the Human Rights Commission, recently stated that there is no political will to solve the homeless problem.

Lynette Mullin, Homeless Services Program Manager, recently concluded in her report to the Human Rights Commission that there was NO COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STRATEGY.

There is a shortage of affordable housing in Humboldt County. Affordable Housing units have multiple problems. New housing developments are slow to be built with complex zoning laws. The shortage of affordable housing leaves many eligible residents on long waiting lists for subsidized housing. The partnerships are often with private real estate developers in the profit sector which makes low wage earners unable to afford the new housing developments.

Transitioning from temporary to permanent housing is difficult due to the shortage of affordable housing.

People are upset about the encampments and people on the street – whether it is because they feel sorry for them or because they do not like them.

Tiny house villages and sanctuary camps are a necessary intermediary step until enough affordable housing can be built.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to place a Shelter Crisis Declaration on the agenda. Doing so will allow public input and discussion for the lack of housing for homeless individuals and families in Humboldt County.

Good morning. My name is Karen Paz Domínguez and I come to you after submitting my request through the conventional channels to no avail. I have served you in the capacity of Assistant Auditor-Controller for the past 3 months and I have become aware of the desperate situation the Auditor-Controller department finds itself in.

We are severely understaffed. I say severely because the absence of just 1 employee has proven to have a detrimental effect on our ability to meet deadlines and identify misstatements in a timely manner. Cross-training and shared responsibilities are options that we don't have because each one of us is overloaded with tasks.

Earlier this meeting, you approved an MOU that provides a DHHS employee to the Auditor-Controller's office to help alleviate the burden on the Auditor-Controller's limited staff. Unfortunately, this is only a band-aid fix to a deep laceration. The DHHS employee who has been working in our office announced that this Thursday will be her last day and we do not have a back-up already in place as DHHS has to go through the entire hiring process first.

Considering that this county operates on a budget of over \$300m, great care should be taken to ensure that the financial auditing arm of the county has the resources it needs to function at a level that allows for the prevention and eradication of unethical and fraudulent financial activity. You've received independent audit reports each of the last 8 years that listed material weaknesses outlining the need for additional accounting staff in the auditor-controller department. This is not a frivolous request – it is rooted in an urgent need.

Currently, the accounting staff tasked with auditing, maintaining, and overseeing the financial activity for 40 county departments and subdivisions, 50 school districts and special districts, and 150 trust funds consists of just 8 staff members – 1 of whom has been on medical leave for over 2 months. We provide Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Accounting, Reporting, and Auditing services to the entire county government. I am not including the 4.5 full-time equivalent positions in our separate payroll division whose entire focus is the accurate payroll, taxation, and retirement benefit process for over 2,000 current and former county employees. Allocating only 8 positions to the entire auditing function of this county is poor management and can lend to the judgment that transparency and accountability for public funds is not top priority.

The families and businesses that struggle all year long to be able to pay their property taxes do so with the expectation that that money will be safeguarded and spent wisely. We need the tools, resources, and support to fulfill the expectations the public has of the auditor-controller's office. With great care to not exploit public funds, I am asking you to please allocate additional accounting staff positions to the Auditor-Controller department and I invite you to visit us right down the hall and see our situation for yourselves. Thank you very much for your consideration.