

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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Column #113



SELL THE SIZZLE, NOT THE STEAK!

Part 4: How to exercise your hometown rights to Freedom of Speech

By Wanda Sue Parrott

RULING autocratically seems to be the incoming administration's style of forthcoming national governance.

If Republican elector Christopher Suprun's influence goes viral, the Dallas paramedic may cause traditional electoral-college dominoes to collapse. He declared he won 't vote for Trump on Dec. 19.

Last Mon., in his *New York Times* op-ed, Suprun said, "I am here to elect a president, not a king."

Will Suprun's personal Declaration of Independence add sizzle, or fizzle, to the outcome of the Nov. 8 election in which Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but her rival took the electoral college votes?

According to the msn report, "The law doesn't mandate that electors vote according to the result of the state's presidential election."

Nor does the law dictate what we can do at local level to mitigate actions the incoming administration threatens that could exacerbate homelessness on the Monterey Peninsula.

So, what can we do that's easy, enjoyable, affordable and legal?

Write A "Personal Declaration Of Independence"

Write our own "Personal Declarations of Independence" that set forth at least one patriotic act each of us vows to fulfill as grassroots "We the People" citizens next year.

Here is my Personal Declaration of Independence, with spaces left blank so you may copy this document and fill in your own data, if so moved. Or, preferably, write your own declaration:

"I, (your name), hereby set forth my resolution(s) for the year 2017 to practice grassroots democracy by participating in local government through contact with and attention to city council in (name of city) for the purpose of defending the People's 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech."

(Sign and date)

If so moved, attach a copy of the 1st Amendment, the words of which appear on this flag by the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund (CBLDF) and file in a safe place like a socks drawer or safe deposit box.

Getting Started

Next step is to set your declaration into motion between now and the new year while newly elected and reelected councilmembers and mayors are being sworn in. Write a friendly welcome e-note with a brief message of encouragement for positive action on an issue that's meaningful to you.

You may copy and use my letter or compose your own. By so doing, we collectively set local wheels of democracy spinning before the presidential transition of power on Jan. 20 in Washington, DC.

An Open Letter To Monterey Peninsula Mayors And Councilmembers

Congratulations and thanks for serving on the (name of your city) City Council.

You will soon be invited to join the peninsula-wide coalition of cities in the Matching Funds Challenge, a cooperative project started three years ago by Pacific Grove and currently administered by the City of Monterey.

Each participating city pledges to contribute at least \$1 per resident to this fund which gives grants to non-profit providers of services to the homeless of all cities on the peninsula.

Because of uncertain national administrative plans for dealing with homelessness, conjoining our local efforts enables us to sustain the spirit of cooperation that enables the seven cities of the Monterey Peninsula (Marina, Sand City, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Carmel and Pacific Grove) to retain distinct independence while remaining interconnected on the oft-cited stretch of California coastline known as "Paradise."

When your city council is invited to pledge as a participant in the 2017 Matching Funds Challenge, please vote yes.

Thank you.

(sign with your name and e-mail address)

E-Mail Addresses Of Mayors And Councilmembers

Here are names and e-mail addresses to which your messages may be sent. Mayors' names are first, followed by councilmembers.

- **Carmel by the Sea:** Steve G. Dallas, dallasforcarmel@gmail.com; Carolyn Hardy, chardy824@gmail.com; Jan Reimers, janetr2016@gmail.com; Bobby Richards, letsgocarmel@gmail.com; Carrie Theis, carrie@carrieforcarmel.com;
- **Del Rey Oaks:** Jerry B. Edelen, cityhall@delreyoaks.org; Dennis G. Allion, cityhall@delreyoaks.org; Layne Buckley, cityhall@delreyoaks.org; Kristin A. Clark, cityhall@delreyoaks.org; Patricia "Pat" Lintell, cityhall@delreyoaks.org;
- **Marina:** Bruce Carlos Delgado, bdelgado62@gmail.com; Nancy Amadeo, nancyamadeo@gmail.com; David W. Brown, davidwaynebrown@aol.com; Gail Morton, gmorton@montereyfamilylaw.com; Frank O'Connell, frank@oconnell4us.com;
- **Monterey:** Clyde Roberson, roberson@monterey.org; Dan Albert, albert@monterey.org; Timothy Barrett, barrett@monterey.org; Alan Haffa, haffa@monterey.org; Ed Smith, smith@monterey.org;

- **Pacific Grove:** Bill Kampe, bkampe@cityofpacificgrove.org; Ken Cuneo, kencun17@icloud.com; Rudy Fischer, rudyfischer@earthlink.net; Cynthia Garfield, cynthiagarfield93950@gmail.com; Robert Huitt, huitt@comcast.net; Bill Peake, bpeake@cityofpacificgrove.org;
- **Sand City:** David K. Pendergass, sandcitymyr@aol.com; Jerry Blackwelder, jerry@sandcityca.org; Mary Ann Carbone, maryann@sandcityca.org; Craig Hubler, craig@sandcityca.org; Todd Kruper, todd@sandcityca.org;
- **Seaside:** Ralph Rubio, rrubio@ci.seaside.ca.us; Dennis Alexander, dalexander@ci.seaside.ca.us; Jason Campbell, jcampbell@ci.seaside.ca.us; Kayla Jones, kjones@ci.seaside.ca.us; Dave Pacheco, dpacheco@ci.seaside.ca.us.

Chris Suprun is second of 38 Texas electors to default on his non-binding promise to support the candidate of his party. Last week Texas elector Art Sisneros (Rep.) resigned rather than elect Trump. Sisneros will be replaced when Texas electors convene in Austin on Dec. 19.

Meanwhile, local leadership transitions are transpiring smoothly and next week we'll take an imaginary visit to city hall in preview of your own in-person journey into council chambers where we know who won!

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