

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

September 14-20, 2018

### CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 7



### KAYLA COCKADOODLEDOS COUNCIL AT SEASIDE CITY HALL

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**CONSIDERING** the fact our human brain is believed to keep growing until age 25, did Seaside’s only female city council member suddenly attain the maturity of a young adult by publicly castigating her all-male peers?

If the young mother were 52 instead of 25, would stunned witnesses have reacted by asking:

What was her September 6 outburst about? A personal “#MeToo” sort of poke in the guts of the good old guys, or a warlike move designed to win votes from fringe-group voters from the LGBTQI+ community to homeless women in need of Seaside’s rumored future tiny-homes village?

Kayla Jones is running against gentle-giant activist and former councilmember Ian Oglesby, whose seat she captured two years ago at age 23—still just a “youth” (aka chick) by legal definition.

Now, she and Oglesby are competing for Seaside’s top council chair as Mayor Ralph Rubio is retiring.

So, what happened?

#### Like An Unwanted House Guest...

A long hearing was winding down about SROs (special resource police officers) on school campuses. As 11:30 p.m. loomed, a councilman’s comment evoked a salvo from Jones:

“You should be ashamed of yourself!”

Mayor Rubio snapped, “Please do not make value judgments!”

“It was my time to speak!” Kayla clucked.

Rubio cut her off. “We will reconvene at a later date.

I was stunned. “What happened? Did Mayor Rubio slap Kayla verbally by crowing louder than she cackled?”

Or vice versa? My limited knowledge of Kayla’s amazing progress is primarily that she spearheaded formation of the committee on homelessness.

During Council Reports, the councilmembers highlighted their activities over the prior two weeks as Kayla sat with quiet decorum until her turn, and then the metaphorical feathers flew as she ripped into the men with vocal power like talons of a fighting cock going for blood!

“Since being on this council for almost two years,” she began, “I have had sexual harassment... members of this board say I’m out of order...” She counted ways she was discriminated against: “I am young.” “I am the only woman on the council.” “I am black.”

Then, she declared, “This is unacceptable and I personally am going to start making noise whenever this happens!”

Start? She’d just squawked loud and clear!

To Kayla’s threat of war, Mayor Rubio murmured weakly, “Thank you” and councilmember Jason Campbell gulped, “I feel like that unwanted houseguest you finally get to say goodbye to.”

### **So What?**

Without trying, Kayla Jones had just invoked Article 7 of the United Nations’ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” which says:

*“All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.”*

America’s future rests with emerging leaders from today’s Summiteers like Kayla Jones. Did she drop anti-discrimination bomb or lay an egg? Time will tell.

Just three days before her public transformation from chick to full-fledged hen, Kayla posted:

### **Things I'm Thinking About On #LaborDay:**

“So many of my Seaside residents are living paycheck to paycheck. Residents, often seniors, are being priced out of this community and forced to move away from what they've called home for so long. . . I've advocated for: higher minimum wage; financial literacy programs; expanding our affordable housing ordinances; first-time homebuyer programs; expanding on union apprenticeship programs; hiring locals first; adding to our affordable housing fund (due to my efforts and the efforts of my colleague Dave Pacheco, we are projected to add up to \$40k/year due to short-term rental taxes); asked that the City look into what ‘affordable housing’ means for this area and how we can incorporate that into developer contracts... and more.

“...I understand the needs of this community because they are also MY needs. We are in this together.”

### **Coming Attractions**

Craig Malin, Seaside’s City Manager, has accepted my invitation to serve as a Summiteer. He will tell us about the rumored tiny-homes village proposed for Seaside.

Also, a rising problem with homelessness among students at both California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) will be explored at the monthly Friends of Homeless Women meeting on Wed., Sept. 26, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., St. Mary’s by the Sea Episcopal Church, 126 12<sup>th</sup> St., Pacific Grove.

Panelists discussing “Homelessness and Housing Insecurity for Students in Higher Education” will be: Joanna Snawder-Manzo, Care Manager, Dean of Students Office, CSUMB; LaKisha Bradley, director, Student

Services and Equity, MPC; Josh Walberg, Program and Scholarships Officer, Community Foundation for Monterey County.

Friends of Homeless Women is the outreach arm of the Fund for Homeless Women, a field fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. <http://fundforhomelesswomen.org>

Meanwhile, Summiteer C. Jonathan Shoemaker of Carmel offers this advice for surviving attack:

### **Chinese To Go**

By C. Jonathan Shoemaker

*I was there to get Chinese to go.  
He sat in a chair nearby.  
His skin was dark mahogany.  
I saw a sadness in his eye.*

*As our eyes met, I smiled at him.  
The sadness seemed to melt.  
His teeth flashed white against his skin.  
I paid my bill and left.*

*As I walked home in the chilly air,  
a happy warmth came over me,  
remembering the stranger's smile  
and how it made me feel.*

*I wondered: why do people hate,  
why do people fear,  
and why do they feel insecure?  
What weakness do they feel?*

*What makes them feel defensive  
with people different from them?  
Why can't they smile at strangers  
and share the warmth within?*

*And then I realized just why—  
when training us in combat skills—  
they made us roar like lions  
when lunging for the kill.*

*If we greet others with a smile,  
and look into the other's eye,  
we feel the warmth of brotherhood,  
and no one feels like killing.*

*And no one has to die!*

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Photos: Kayla Jones: Did candidate crow like a hen or cackle like a cock at city council meeting?

Photo courtesy of Kayla Jones; White chicken: Visual image of feral poult in San Juan Bautista symbolizes emerging youthful politicians, Photo by John H. Schultz

Contact [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com) or call 831-899-5887

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