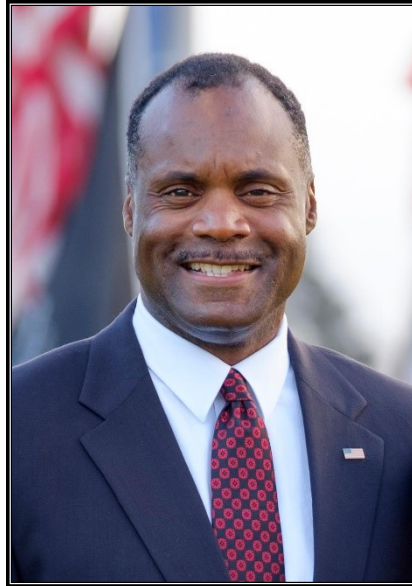


**HOMELESS IN PARADISE**  
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**CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 9**



**THE SPOTLIGHT'S GONNA SHINE WHERE IT AIN'T SHONE BEFORE**

**By Wanda Sue Parrott**

“**THROWING** shade” on the Monterey Peninsula started shortly after this column’s September 14, 2018 headline hit the ethernet: Kayla cockadoodledos council at Seaside City Hall.

If you’re not up on 2018 election-related lingo, the Oxford Dictionary says, “throwing shade” can be used as a phrase to “publicly criticize or express contempt for someone.”

What happened? An unknown person shot out an eye from a poster of Seaside’s youngest mayoral candidate, Kayla Jones, currently the sole black Seaside City Councilmember and the only female.

Does this sound like mudslinging-turned-scary? Read on!

Mudslinging originated as slang for hurling insults back in 1796 when Alexander Hamilton accused Thomas Jefferson of sleeping with a slave, and “dirty politics” American style was kicked off.

The then-dominant community of white politicians prevailed for another 200 years.

**The “Browning Of America” Threat**

Now the cultural/political transition called the “Browning of America” threatens to unseat the good-old-white-boys’ club struggling for survival from deep inside the national beltway to all points from border to border and coast to coast.

So, what does this have to do with local homeless issues? Plenty! And then some!

“Throwing shade” may have originated around two hundred years after “mudslinging” came into existence, but the phenomenon that’s evolving from within the Latino and black communities is just reaching fruition in Central California, and it’s happening concurrently with the rise of homelessness.

The stretch of dunes known locally during the early 1960s as “Slum of the Peninsula” is now the “Rising Star of Paradise.”

Or, to be more formal, that redeveloped stretch of special sand land is Seaside!

And the socio-political spotlight's gonna shine where it ain't shone before!

Why?

First, because Seaside is an example of cross-cultural community in which neighbors of every conceivable skin shade, religion and ethnic heritage coexist in relative constitutional harmony, and the city government reflects working embodiment of Article 21 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights as opposed to traditional wealth buying the power to rule.

Second, there's sheer strength in numbers!

See for yourself.

### **Article 21, Universal Declaration Of Human Rights:**

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

### **Seaside's Star Is About To Rise**

Seaside, the most highly populated town on the peninsula, with its 35,000 residents, is also the lowest per-capita income-earning city from among Marina, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel. That could make Seaside eligible for the biggest slice of the \$12.5 million Crisis Shelter pie that's about to be served cities in need of assistance with resolving homeless crises.

Of the three mayoral candidates in Seaside, two are persons of color; the other is a white, relatively unknown newcomer named Lisa Anne Tawhney who will be covered in a future column.

We've already met Kayla Jones. Let's meet Ian Oglesby, the peace officer whose seat Kayla took in 2016. She's less than half his age. Summiteer Ian turns 53 in November.

Here's an excerpt from our interview with him:

### **Meeting Ian Oglesby:**

Q. Please tell me about how you came here.

A. I was serving in West Germany for four years and four years in Fort Lewis Army Base, Seattle, Washington. I arrived in Seaside (Fort Ord) while in the U. S. Army in 1990. I am married to my beautiful wife Rita, with four children.

Q. What kind of peace officer are you?

A. Correctional Officer with the California Department of Corrections.

Q. What is your public service experience, besides being on Seaside City Council?

A. I have been serving in local community governance for the past 16 years, eight on the Seaside City Council.

Q. Kayla Jones, who is now opposing you for the mayor's chair, won your seat on the city council in 2016 when she was just 23. What are some of your other civic activities?

A. Planning Commission, Monterey College of Law, Seaside's Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Prevention of Youth Violence. Also, seven years on the United Way Monterey County Board.

Q. Anything else?

A. VFW Post 8679, Commander. NAACP. LULAC.

Q. You certainly have a lot of great experience in public service. Will you continue working if you win the mayoral race?

A. If elected, I will retire.

As mentioned, heads will turn toward Seaside once the HEAP money starts coming to the peninsula because the greatest chunk of money to help alleviate the homeless crisis could be allocated to Seaside.

So, what does this mean in a nutshell?

### **HEAP For The Homeless**

In August 2018, the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) announced launch of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), a \$500 million block grant program designed to provide assistance in cities and counties to address the homeless crisis throughout California.

HEAP is authorized by Senate Bill (SB) 850, which was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in June.

It allocates \$12,502,250 for the Monterey/San Benito County Continuum of Care (aka: Coalition of Homeless Service Providers) for distribution among member jurisdictions, of which Seaside's population is largest at 35,000.

To qualify, applicants must submit resolutions declaring a Shelter Crisis exists in their jurisdictions.

Monterey, with around 30,000 residents, led by approving said resolution at its September 18, 2018, city council meeting. Other peninsula cities with homeless populations should follow suit.

Funds will be allocated according to local percentages of homeless persons as determined by the 2017 Point in Time Homeless Census & Survey. Monterey/San Benito counties had 3,364 homeless people, or 2.505% of the total California homeless population.

If Ian Oglesby becomes mayor, he says, "Within the first 100 days of my administration, I and the council will submit a proposal to increase funding and/or create partnerships with local transitional housing providers" and "make sure Seaside has adopted a resolution of findings affirming a Shelter Crisis exists, making us eligible to partner with the county for SB-850 (HEAP) funding."

If all goes well, Seaside's new mayor's transition to peninsula prominence will be smooth, without mudslinging, throwing shade, or that other familiar electioneering tactic, the smear campaign!

### **Post Script:**

The morning after I submitted this column to Marge Ann Jameson for publication in the Cedar Street Times, I received a Facebook news item from Kayla Jones, candidate for Mayor of Seaside, that showed a photo of Ian Oglesby's campaign poster for Mayor of Seaside in which the center was ripped out. This is NOT the Spirit of Seaside.

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Photo: Ian Oglesby, Mayoral candidate for Seaside

Courtesy Ian Oglesby

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