

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

October 23-29, 2020

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 52



*Photo courtesy of Sand City Mayor
Mary Ann Carbone*

SAND CITY'S MAYOR ANSWERS "AN OPEN LETTER TO MARY ANN CARBONE"

By Wanda Sue Parrott

FOLLOWING my posts last week on Facebook and Nextdoor titled "An Open Letter to Sand City Mayor Mary Ann Carbone," she e-mailed her answer.

If you're curious about our comments regarding a commercial of Mayor Carbone with Steve McShane at the soon-to-open Casa de Noche Buena shelter in Seaside, implying he is the **ONLY** candidate who supported the project, read on!

You'll find our e-mails reveal that Wendy Root Askew, Steve's opposition for the District 4 Monterey County Board of Supervisor's seat, also supports helping the homeless.

Both worthy candidates are running as Democrats after his recent conversion from the GOP.

An Open Letter To Sand City Mayor Mary Ann Carbone (October 12, 2020):

Honorable Mayor Carbone:

I was shocked and saddened to see Steve McShane's new TV commercial tonight claiming he is the "only" candidate who advocated for specific (involuntary) kinds of homeless shelter in the area, for it is not entirely true.

Several of my old Homeless in Paradise columns prove that retiring Monterey County Supervisor, District 4, Jane Parker, and her aide, Wendy Root Askew, both advocated for shelter for the homeless at least three years ago in which the Safe Parking program administered by Orphan Productions, Inc. (One Starfish) made possible overnight parking in the lot of the county offices in Marina. At least 15 vehicles occupied

by homeless residents have been located on the lot which is not “a shelter” per se, but does qualify as legal space in which “to shelter.”

In my humble opinion, the attempt to steal the thunder of his opponent casts aspersions on the integrity of Steve McShane and, unfortunately, on you because you appear to aid and abet him in the misleading stretch to grab votes.

Truth is, two years ago, after HEAP funding became available to communities with homeless crises, Jane Parker and her worthy, hard-working aide, Wendy Root Askew, actively participated in brokering the partnership between the county and city of Seaside that led to the soon-to-open shelter known as Casa de Noche Buena, which is on county land within the city of Seaside.

Steve McShane seemed like an honorable man before I saw this sleazy ad.

How did you happen to get pulled into it?

You are a very nice woman of integrity, trust and honesty and I hope your image is not ruined.

I am sending this as an e-mail and am also posting it as an open letter to you. . . and an invitation for you to reply, because the production of such an untrue ad is not nice, but you are nice!

Jane Parker and Wendy Root Askew are also nice and deserve credit where it is due.

Thank you. May the muse be with you.

Wanda Sue Parrott

The Honorable Mayor Mary Ann Carbone’s Response (October 15, 2020)

Good morning, Wanda Sue Parrott:

I have not seen the commercial yet but would like to clear up any misconceptions that you may have about the statement for Mr. McShane.

I was asked by Mr. McShane to go over to the Casa de Noche Buena Shelter which is being organized by Community Human Services and the Gathering for Women. Both Mr. McShane and I serve on the Community Human Services board.

Mr. McShane asked me to make a commercial for his involvement in the community and to showcase the new shelter with him.

This shelter, as well as the one in Salinas, was made possible from the HEAP funding and will help shelter those in dire need of shelter on this side of the peninsula.

By no means, in any way, was it my intent to steal anyone’s thunder, as there are so many caring individuals who do so much to try and find a way to help with homelessness and the services that go along with them.

I hold both Jane Parker and Wendy Askew in high esteem, as well as all elected officials.

It is not my intent to, as you say, steal anyone’s thunder.

I have an open-door policy or am a phone call away should you like to discuss this any further.

Respectfully,

Mayor Carbone

What A Difference A Word Makes!!

This event wouldn't have transpired if one 4-letter word hadn't ruffled my feathers: ONLY!

In the TV commercial, Mayor Carbone states Steve McShane is the ONLY candidate who has voted to expand sheltering and practical solutions to housing and homelessness.

Why not say he's "A candidate who has voted to expand sheltering and practical solutions to housing and homelessness?"

Since I spotted the commercial on October 12, a flyer promoting ending involuntary homelessness in Monterey County has come from McShane's election committee in a media blitz reminiscent of publicity surrounding release of Donald J. Trump's 1987 book "The Art of the Deal" about which publication the hyperbole-spouting author said, "I like thinking big. I always have. . . If you're going to be thinking anyway, you might as well think big."

Mayor Carbone's photo and statement appear beside McShane's statement that he "will introduce a Housing First initiative immediately upon taking office" and then promises "The County will provide housing for ALL homeless persons that agree to treatment and work."

Next day I got a 12 in. x 14-1/2 in. affordable housing flyer with three boxes proclaiming in big red checks that Steve McShane is the ONLY candidate who will . . .

Wait!

Forget the hopeful hyperbole.

Let's post an Open Letter to Steve McShane asking who not only writes, but approves, his messages.

Join me?

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About this Column: "Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by the author. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this column appears regularly on the last week of each month in the Cedar Street Times at www.cedarstreettimes.com (and as periodic FLASH columns).

It also appears on Facebook, in Nextdoor and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request and your e-mail address to the contact info below.)

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