

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

February 19-25, 2021

MONTEREY PENINSULA MAKEOVERS – Part 8



Chris Minglana

Seaside, California resident kicks off local discussion about homeless on Nextdoor

SO, YOU SAY YOU WANNA GET RID OF HOMELESSNESS?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

FOLLOWING former President Donald J. Trump’s impeachment-trial acquittal on Feb. 13, this message appeared on Nextdoor in response to last week’s Homeless in Paradise column: “I see you snuck in Trump to blame for California’s problems.”

If Chris Minglana from the Lower Kimball-Hilby area of Seaside was correct, I told myself, I’d better reread my own writing to see how I conveyed such an idea. So, here are my 56 words that referred to Trump in the Feb. 12 column headlined “What would you do if handouts were up to you?”

“During this week - when attention has been focused on the second impeachment proceedings against now-former-president Donald J. Trump - only minor attention has gone to local homeless issues... If then-President Donald J. Trump had foreseen the outcome of his calls for action, would he have kept his words that incited insurrection to himself? Who is impeaching whom?”

My reaction? Chris Minglana’s message felt inspired, as if the Muse had touched his heart with his message over the Valentine’s Day weekend, in what I saw as a 348-word poem.

Did I feel attacked? No. I felt honored to have moved a reader to eloquently express his honesty, so I asked for, and received, Chris’s permission to publish his prosaic message.

I reset it in poetic format. added a title and did ultra-minor editing on one or two words.

SHADOWBOXING

By Chris Minglana
Seaside, California

I see how you snuck in Trump
to blame for California's problems.
Maybe, if the state wasn't incentivizing homelessness
and wastefully spending our hard-earned tax money
on people who come here to freeload
off of the taxpayers,
we wouldn't have literally every city exit
off of Highway 1,
covered with garbage and homeless encampments.

You wanna get rid of the homeless?
Stop giving them handouts, stop feeding them
and stop giving them our tax money.
They'll move along to the next city
where the suckers will feed this consistent problem.
I see these transients every day.

I remember a time when helping a homeless
person was the "right" thing to do
because they were people in need.
Nowadays, over 1/4 of all homeless live in California.
Why? Because we enable them to live here
and mooch off of our system.
I'm not saying there are people that don't need help.
They're out there homeless.

I'm just sick and tired of seeing panhandlers
running up on my children asking for money;
the bum lady who tried to steal my kids' dog

Because she was so mentally lost that she thought,
in her own mind, that they aren't the right owners;
that dude who shadowboxes at the stop lights;
the army vet that sits around doing nothing at
Walgreens in Seaside but ask for money.

Or, seeing my once-beautiful area
of the Monterey Peninsula starting to look
like some run-down drug zone
while I'm being called insensitive for losing sympathy
for these people.

I pay WAAAYYYY too much in
taxes and rent
to live in an area slowly turning into a dump
while people with their hearts on their sleeves
wanna keep feeding the homeless epidemic
in our area.

If you feel so inclined to help them,
take them into your home rent free
and pay their food, rent, clothing,
and survival needs
like a REAL person who wants to proactively "help"
the homeless situation.

Stop reaching into hard-working people's pockets
who are one emergency away
from being in their same position.

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And The Reactions Were?

Within hours of the post going public, neighbors from Monterey County were responding online and via e-mail. This e-mail is from a homeless woman whose comments will be continued next week:

HC, Monterey

Wow! That would be a great topic to cover. I'm getting riled up.

Once when I offered to a homeless panhandler a bag with a hot meal from McDonalds, he said, "No, ma'am, just give me the money. I'm trying to get enough money to get back to my property in another state. I really like it here, but it's so expensive that I'm panhandling and homeless, even though I have inherited money from my family, to keep me from spending my money."

I'm homeless, but I'm trying to get a place again so I can have surgery, recoup at home instead of a nursing home, go back to school online, and get back to be part of the community again, like serving on a board or committee to help our city solve their problem of homelessness and other issues.

KG, San Benancio Road

Thank you for sharing this information, and for being so emphatic. Some of the comments on this post are really disgusting and lack human decency.

WSP, Seaside

My answer to Chris Minglana's question - whether I sneaked in Trump to blame for the problems with local homelessness - is no.

Why? Because of an element lead manager Jamie Raskin, (D-Maryland) used in defining the former president who was subsequently acquitted and is, therefore, eligible to run for public office again: *deranged*.

Would I open my home to the homeless? Read next week's column.

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"Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by independent journalist Wanda Sue Parrott. It appears in Facebook, Nextdoor, and *The Cedar Street Times* at www.cedarstreettimes.com and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Copyright 2021 by Wanda Sue Parrott.