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Agenda Date: 1/28/2021  
Council Meeting

2021 JAN 28 P 1:20  
CITY OF FRESNO  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

# FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



## Information Packet

### ITEM(S)

#### File ID 21-243 (Unscheduled Communication)

Community Emails Received.

1. Homeless Task Force

#### Contents of Supplement: Community emails.

### Item(s)

#### **Supplemental Information:**

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

## Marco Martinez-Velasquez

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**From:** Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:01 AM  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** Unscheduled

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear council,

We all know that addressing the housing crisis for our unsheltered is a long process, one which I hope may be addressed with the Planning and Community Development plan that is coming up.

In the meantime, we are continuing to see cruel treatment of our homeless by our Homeless Taskforce. Yesterday, after a storm, the taskforce was trying to move people from H Street while it was cold and still raining. What we heard from Mayor Dyer later that day was not what we, who were there and with those on the street, heard and saw. Dyer said that they were asked to move their belongings from the streets and could have items stored. What really happened was that people were told to leave or be arrested, as is the common practice with the HTF. They took tents of people who left to get services from MAPS. I was right there when a couple returned and asked if the HTF took their tent and belongings. I believe it's only because of advocates that they were allowed to stay there. People were soaking wet trying to move things. No one was given a shelter and services came after attention was brought to the situation.

In addition to continuing to displace people when they have nowhere to go, the HTF seems to always do these things when there is severe weather. We've seen people be told to move in the middle of a triple digit day. We've seen people moved, without being offered services when the daytime low was below freezing. Four years ago, it happened right after Christmas on a freezing cold day and sleeping bags and tents that Fresno EOC, WANI, and other organizations helped gather and provide were thrown out.

We can help our street family keep things clean without pushing people around. Dyer is right that that has accomplished nothing, which is true.

When the motels are ready for housing, it will only house a small fraction of those who need shelter and housing, when there are over 3,000 people so it is just one part of the effort.

Please council, direct our city, the FPD, to stop senseless sweeps.



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Bernard Canez

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**From:** Tower District <[towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:21 PM

**To:** Jerry Dyer <[Jerry.Dyer@fresno.gov](mailto:Jerry.Dyer@fresno.gov)>; Luis Chavez <[Luis.Chavez@fresno.gov](mailto:Luis.Chavez@fresno.gov)>; Nelson Esparza <[Nelson.Esparza@fresno.gov](mailto:Nelson.Esparza@fresno.gov)>; Esmeralda Soria <[Esmeralda.Soria@fresno.gov](mailto:Esmeralda.Soria@fresno.gov)>; Miguel Arias <[Miguel.Arias@fresno.gov](mailto:Miguel.Arias@fresno.gov)>; Tyler Maxwell <[Tyler.Maxwell@fresno.gov](mailto:Tyler.Maxwell@fresno.gov)>; Mike Karbassi <[Mike.Karbassi@fresno.gov](mailto:Mike.Karbassi@fresno.gov)>; Garry Bredefeld <[Garry.Bredefeld@fresno.gov](mailto:Garry.Bredefeld@fresno.gov)>; Yvonne Spence <[Yvonne.Spence@fresno.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Spence@fresno.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Tower District Community Letter of Request for Injunctive Relief

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Good Evening Mayor Dyer and City Councilmembers,

We appreciate your having received and acknowledged our letter and having allowed time for public comment at today's meeting before your deliberations. We had several community partners, businesses and residents that missed yesterday's deadline for endorsements before we transmitted our letter requesting injunctive relief. Due to the short notice, several partners including the California Restaurants Association and The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce had to conduct previously unscheduled committee and membership votes outside the normal order of business in order to sign on. We are requesting that this updated letter dated 01/28/2021 be added to the official record.

*With Gratitude,*



*Tyler Mackey*

Executive Director

**TOWER DISTRICT MARKETING COMMITTEE**

(559) 445-1586

[towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 6048/ Fresno, CA 93728

On Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 5:30 PM Tower District <[towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good Evening Mayor Dyer and City Councilmembers,

The Tower District Marketing Committee has been working with its members and the Tower District's Residential and Commercial Property Owners to prepare this letter requesting injunctive relief due to the pending sale and triggered re-zone of the Tower Theatre. The community feels it is important that the City intervene to protect held and pending sensitive use permits, and prevent the devaluation of commercial and private property. Attached you will also find a link to a google spreadsheet of additional endorsers (also at the bottom of the letter). We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and look forward to a fair resolution.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SFHzVNQd-GjGSWDueFbxzYlnW-09UW90\\_cR6urgKhc4/edit?fbclid=IwAR29jZQnw1hHWIw60sMM1bQ7uG8sF6GFNTEMT7m94I76fNvMgOg4jZtWQW0#gid=1197785228](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SFHzVNQd-GjGSWDueFbxzYlnW-09UW90_cR6urgKhc4/edit?fbclid=IwAR29jZQnw1hHWIw60sMM1bQ7uG8sF6GFNTEMT7m94I76fNvMgOg4jZtWQW0#gid=1197785228)

*With Gratitude,*



*Tyler Mackey*

Executive Director  
**TOWER DISTRICT MARKETING COMMITTEE**  
(559) 445-1586  
towerdistrictmarketing@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 6048 / Fresno, CA 93728

January 28, 2021

To The Honorable Mayor Jerry Dyer;  
The Honorable City Council President Luis Chavez,  
The Honorable Vice President Nelson Esparza,  
The Honorable Councilmember Esmeralda Soria,  
The Honorable Councilmember Miguel Arias,  
The Honorable Councilmember Tyler Maxwell,  
The Honorable Councilmember Mike Karbassi,  
The Honorable Councilmember Gary Bredefeld,

The business members of the Tower District Marketing Committee and members of the community have been watching the developments around the Tower Theatre for some time now. Recent revelations about its pending sale and subsequent required rezone have so increased our sense of urgency that we collectively reach out to you to ask you to take steps to ensure the City will directly intervene. We are requesting that the City immediately seek injunctive relief to prevent irreparable harm to the financial interests of Tower District businesses, organizations, residents, and property owners. Without urgent intervention to enforce the District's zoning codes, currently held and pending sensitive use permits will become compromised, affecting potential future sales of businesses. Commercial spaces would see new limitations on the types of businesses that can enter into leases; such limitations would result in those spaces staying vacant for prolonged periods. Those boarded-up facades along Olive will in turn adversely affect home property values, rental rates, and the value of multifamily properties so essential to the Tower's vitality. Small businesses' economic recovery from the COVID-19 public health crisis could be stifled in the District; a lengthy public dispute and legal battles would only exacerbate their struggles.

The Tower Theatre is the economic backbone of the business district. Its operation under its historic land use has a direct impact on the revenues of the entire area. It is not just the capacity, but also the unique offerings the theatre provides, that create a steady stream of diverse patrons and non-profit organizations—which in turn support the diverse surrounding businesses, and arts and entertainment venues. The Theatre is featured in art and photography; it has come to serve as an icon of Fresno, and a tourist attraction, that has stood the test of time and delivered consistent economic stimulus to the entire district.

This virtuous circle is not an accident—it is the intended result of a strong neighborhood plan, years of community oversight and input, and community support for the theatre itself that have kept this classic theatre in operation. A change in its zoning and permitted uses would set it and the entire district on a new path, a downward spiral inconsistent with years of community input and buy-in, and force both drastic change and devaluation on every stakeholder in the district.

**Tower District Homeowners:**

Richard Adamson  
Linnea Alexander  
Bryan Beckstrand  
Bryan Bird  
Michael Birdsong  
Rodolfo Blanco  
Michael Anthony Braun  
Reymundo Bustillos  
Cynthia Ann Cameron  
Della Green Campbell  
Wendy & Patrick Carroll  
Joseph Michael Catania  
Cynthia Cerda  
Jackelyn Madrigal & Monica Cerda  
Dawn Clement  
Dawn Coates  
Myra & Tom Coble  
Calliope Correia  
Erin Crandall  
Kristin Crase  
Steven & Norma Davis  
Danielle Dela Torre  
Andrea Delcore  
Diana Diehl  
Savannah Dragomanovich  
Kelsey Duncanson  
Jon & Susan Edwards  
Anoush Ekparian-Hadden  
Jonathan Ekparian-Hadden  
Noah Fast & Aurora Hubbard  
Monte Forkas  
John Freeman  
Soledad Freeman  
Amy Gallagher  
Denise Graziani  
Richard Lloyd Giddens Jr.  
Lori Harkins  
Kaitlyn Olivia "Cato" Heskett  
Alana Hill  
Hayley Marie Hope  
Karl Jensen  
Monika Kea  
Jim Kitch  
Nicole Alexandra Knod  
Margrethe Lauber