

RECEIVED Regular Council Meeting
January 27, 2022

2022 JAN 31 P 1:39



Email / eComment Report

The Following item(s) were commented on:

Unscheduled Communication

The attached items did not indicate that they were for a specific item on the January 27, 2022 Regular City Council meeting. This does not prohibit submitted comments from being included into the official record.

Total number of emails: 3

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.

Amanda Martin

From: Lydia Fortner [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:16 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: Lydia
Subject: Public Comment for City Council meeting 1/27/22

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

My name is Lydia Fortner, and I have been performing and directing in various venues in the Tower District since the late 1980s.

I am very concerned about the City of Fresno not enforcing its own zoning laws in the district and allowing Adventure Church and Tower Theatre Productions to continue to violate them with no consequences, when other businesses and venues in the area have to follow them. This unequal enforcement of the law calls into question your commitment to law and order. Additionally the threat of the zoning change required if the church is allowed to purchase the theatre will have far reaching economic effects on the area, as well as irrevocably changing the character of the district. Please enforce your own laws and issue citations to those violating zoning and treat all your citizens equally. Please find a resolution to this conflict that is equitable for this vibrant and historic neighborhood and performing arts district.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lydia...*

Amanda Martin

From: Heather Parish
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Council Meeting 1/27/22 - Unscheduled Comment

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To the members of the Fresno City Council and Mayor,
I sincerely encourage you to do whatever may be in your power to resolve the conflict surrounding the Tower Theatre and its illegal use for religious assembly. While the sale of the theatre may be on hold, religious assembly continues to occur in violation of zoning laws. Not only does this create business insecurity for the surrounding nightlife businesses, but it is unequal enforcement toward all other businesses who are abiding by zoning, paying for licenses, and in compliance with the law. This is incredibly demoralizing for hard-working citizens and residents who want to feel of equal value to a church.

Please consider all options that will contribute to the health and positive outlook of the Tower District, which is full of residents looking for a bright spot in a difficult time.

Thank you,
Heather Parish
District 1 Resident
Co-producer of Rogue Festival

Heather Parish (*she/her*)

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) & [LinkedIn](#)

Intellection | Input | Strategic | Relator | Deliberative

Grateful to be in the [traditional homelands of the Yokut and Mono peoples](#).

Q: *Why is this email five sentences or less?*

A: <http://five.sentenc.es>

(I do my best!)

Amanda Martin

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 8:38 AM
To: HCDD; Clerk
Subject: Community Needs pubic comment and input to HCDD

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

this is to go to HCDD but I'm also sending as public comment

Hi Thank you for your time:

I have been communicating with some of the unhoused community regarding detailed suggestions and priorities and have some of my own.

I want to suggest that the housing department consider the recommendations from the Hear To Stay Report, which is the community's priorities for all of these topics. They did extensive information gathering and had themed workshops to go over different areas of anti-displacement improvements, which addresses topics that participants didn't really get to in the workshops.

Programmatic Compliance

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- 2.
3. Oversight: To avoid issues within programs, there needs to be third party monitoring of programs that does not depend on reports
4. from the funded entities providing services. There needs to be efforts to obtain input from those being served and forms of direct observation.
- 5.

- 2.
- 3.
4. How to get the community more engaged:
- 5.

I've been watching information regarding opportunities for community input and honestly, there isn't very much engaging outreach to get people involved. I think it is excellent that the HCCD has kept the information of previous attendees, as this has allowed me to share the events to those I know are invested and communicate on social media.

Better communication and engagement should be a top priority. My suggestions:

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- All information should be accessible, as far as understandable and to the point, for those who aren't already versed in civic engagement, in all languages.
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- A social media expert should be involved, who would have the understanding to create image based postings and have knowledge of how to increase engagement.
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- Regarding social media the city only puts out one post (like for these workshops) and often doesn't post at all. If community input is requested and especially required, there should be a campaign to ensure maximum reach.
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- At the Here To Stay workshops, people suggested that the city utilize forms of communication such as a voluntary text message notification and putting information in utility letters (though renters may not get these). I would suggest have an opportunity to subscribe to notification emails. There should also be non-internet based communication, like paper surveys available that organizations can use.
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Regarding the homeless, most opportunities to engage are inaccessible. Those who are unhoused do not know about meetings, most do not have data to access meetings and do not know how to engage. Those who are unhoused are major stakeholders and investment should be made into overcoming accessibility issues. They understand their needs best and can provide the information that will help the city better address homeless response. The lack of involvement leads to oversight in executing a successful project. For instance, the cooling centers previously did not allow pets. The unhoused with pets refused to go and eventually an advocate brought it up to city council and this was changed. This detail is the kind of feedback the unhoused can give to projects to ensure the project is truly accessible to the unhoused. This was also an issue when the only shelters didn't allow pets or couples and people not wanting to be separated from either would be declined and, not understanding this caveat, people assumed that they don't want to follow rules. The unhoused can also best address incorrect information, such as I referenced. As such, I want to suggest:

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- Development of ongoing meetings, like homeless advisory that includes members that are unhoused and have lived experience that would allow the unhoused to have a say in decision making for projects, but reach out to the unhoused on how this could best be realized. For instance, they may not want to have police or other types of authority at a meeting if that may affect their sense of safety in sharing ideas. One of the council members as hosting a town hall at the shelters, so this is one way. Or at different locations in the city, like Eaton Plaza, the libraries, city hall.
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- Have discussion on all areas such as: how to improve outreach. Where the next shelters/ housing should be. What are their current needs and challenges to accessing services and what they need to move forward. Essentially like what is being asked of during this. They should have an opportunity to give feedback before and during projects, and note what it will take to be effective.
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Other suggestions to improve access and communications:

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- Invest in Wi-Fi at all the shelters.
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- One advocate suggested tablets so they can participate in community meetings, fill out surveys, etc., and engage in other ways.
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- Training on how to use platforms like Zoom. I once had to sit with a woman who had a lot of ideas and wanted to attend meetings and workshops for various things, but couldn't figure out how to use Zoom on her own or download it on her computer.
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- Invest in Bulletin boards that are installed at all the bus stations to post communications.
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- During outreach, have paper surveys for general topics like needs priorities, like the questions asked at the workshops and specific surveys on ways to improve specific programs/ projects. One county took these out during the PIT count. Partner with other organizations assisting the unhoused to provide and assist in these surveys.
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Homeless Services

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- The unhoused are asking that shelters and other such services and development be in all districts. There are reasons for this:
 - they feel safer in the neighborhoods in which they dwell, they have jobs in those areas, and there are other resources they access that make up their community area.
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- Again, wi-fi in all shelters as well as computer rooms, access to tablets and such. This is needed for accessing jobs, doing online meetings with counselors and such. As mentioned above, help with computer/online literacy is needed.
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- At the shelters and libraries, etc., bring in resources: Host trainings on needed life skills, bring in agencies and companies that hire those who are homeless and can train them. Etc.
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- Day centers and MAPS in all districts in the community. Those who are unhoused have difficulty having to get to various services
- and there are many who are disabled and have limited mobility. Perhaps work with existing facilities. These services should be located by buses.
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- City homeless services like warming centers and cooling centers in every district, multiples if possible.
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- Mobile medical and dental.
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- I am very grateful for Councilmember Arias' effort to get a medical center by the shelters on Parkway. This needs to be a
- priority. Also, include mental health services within this facility.
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- Investment in 24 hour mental health professional services in each shelter.
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