

From: [B Palm](#)
To: una.glass.seb@sonic.net; [Diana Rich](#); ps.sebcc@gmail.com; [Sarah Glade Gurney](#); [Neysa Hinton](#); [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Reconsidering RV Encampment at 845 Gravenstein
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To the Sebastopol City Council,

I had a long, surprisingly friendly phone chat with Diana Rich last night. We didn't come to an agreement but it did make a few things clear to me. The Sebastopol City Council is obsessed with cleaning up Morris Street and making sure it stays clean. This is your number one priority. I get it. The place has been a major problem for over a decade and you are determined to fix it. Homelessness is an issue that rings your progressive bells and this street must be driving you crazy. So when an actual opportunity crops up, rather suddenly, and the money falls from the sky, you get more than a little excited. Here is your holy grail, the light at the end of the tunnel, the answer to your dreams, but that light is blinding you. And you crossed a line.

At least, there ought to be a line, or rule, that says, "Don't help one place by harming another". I think you are rationalizing away the fact that this plan really does harm my neighborhood. Start with property values. They will take a hit. We've been over the effect the plan will have on businesses. And there really is a danger/safety factor to consider. Diana told me the main reason for cancelling the proposed location at the Morris Street parking lot was because it bordered the Greenacre Boy's School. This acknowledges the fact that this camp is potentially dangerous. We have kids in our neighborhood too—why is it preferable in your minds to expose THEM to danger?

I don't accept the argument that the camp will be safe and well run by SAVS. I don't think Adrienne Lauby is up to the task of managing this project. Turning it over to her is inviting disaster.

At one point in our conversation I asked Diana what I could say to convince her to vote no on this plan December 7th. She said, "What are the options? Are you suggesting we do nothing?" But, I didn't say do nothing. I said, "Don't do THIS".

I volunteer at the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa and every Sunday I hear their mission statement, "To create a world that works for everyone". Diana infers that a bad plan is better than no plan. But, I would say that a good plan is always better than a bad plan. Take some time, think about it some more, then come up with a good plan that works for everyone.

Brett Palm

