

Dear Mayor Turner and the members of the Fort Bragg City Council,

Attached is an argument by the Go Fort Bragg steering committee against the Measure to Ban Social Services in the Central Business District.

We wrote this because we feel that we must take every action possible and necessary to head off this disastrous measure. However, we would prefer that you do not endorse our argument; we hope that you will take this opportunity to elevate the conversation and show appropriate leadership by working together to draft your own argument against this measure. We are submitting ours as a backup for you to endorse in case you cannot agree to write one.

While the issues behind this measure are controversial, the measure itself is controversial only because of the misinformation surrounding it. We need leadership from our elected officials on this topic. Yes, you made your position known through your decision on the referendum, but only to people who watch or attend City Council meetings. This is a far cry from having made your opinion known to the entire voting population of Fort Bragg.

The Council has been advised of and has expressed an understanding of the fatal flaws within this measure. With that knowledge, any impartiality from the Council with regards to the measure actually appears to be indicative of personal bias towards the proponents. You are lawmakers and it is your responsibility not just to create good laws, but to do everything you can to prevent bad laws from being codified.

We believe it is also your job as elected representatives to provide informed guidance by discouraging people from doing the wrong thing and encouraging them to do the right thing. We believe an argument written collectively and supported unanimously by our City Council will have the highest impact with the voters for the ballot statements. And if you believe all the things that you said during the Sept. 14th meeting, this shouldn't be too difficult.

Go Fort Bragg will be on the ground organizing and canvassing against this measure. We should be able to show each and every one of the thousands of people in this town, in both English and Spanish, that our City Council unanimously denounces this measure, by simply referring them to their sample ballots.

So, while we are doing our best to cover all the bases and possibilities by submitting an argument against this measure (a measure that wouldn't even work as intended if it actually passed,) you have a second chance to do the right thing by telling the reasonable, yet perhaps uninformed, majority in Fort Bragg that they must vote no on this initiative.

Please take this opportunity to show us that you are able to work together for the good of our town.

Sincerely,

Go Fort Bragg Steering Committee

Scott Menzies, Katie Turner-Carr, Hilary White, and Chriss Zaida