

REC'D APR 27 2015

4/26/15

CITY OF FORT BRAGG
416 N. Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

City Council Members:

I am not in favor of the proposed new use of the Old Coast Hotel for many reasons. I don't believe a transitional housing/social services entity is appropriately suited for a luxury hotel, bar & restaurant.

I had an opportunity to tour this historic building shortly after I moved to Fort Bragg in 2013. A couple of us were interested in leasing the corner restaurant. It's a beautiful, turnkey operation with a gorgeous, newly renovated interior. THAT, I believe, is the main reason the Executive Director of Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center wants this building so badly. By observing Ms. Shaw's attire, hair, make-up, jewelry, plastic surgery, associates and the very well kept Hospitality House, it's easy to understand what her priorities are – AESTHETICS. And while I share Ms. Shaw's appreciation for beautiful design, there is a time and place for everything.

I don't know one neighboring business owner in favor of this proposal.

I don't know anyone outside of City Council and those employed or contracted by MCHC in favor of this proposal.

The many reasons for public resistance are valid. It is your job to facilitate city business by representing the wishes of the majority of tax paying residents – not to facilitate the dubious acquisition of an historic building by 1 tax-exempt corporation.

Is Ms. Shaw an example of mental health? Do her actions match her words?

duplicity /d(y)oō'plisitē/

noun

he got caught up in the duplicity of his crooked partners: deceitfulness, deceit, deception, double-dealing, underhandedness, dishonesty, fraud, fraudulence, sharp practice, chicanery, trickery, subterfuge, skullduggery, treachery; informal crookedness, shadiness, dirty tricks, shenanigans, monkey business; literary perfidy. ANTONYMS honesty.

From my understanding, honesty represents mental health – not acting in a fraudulent manner. I would like to see public funds routed towards more responsible, sane and sensible solutions to homelessness.

There are other, substantially more suitable structures in Fort Bragg readily available for similar use. They've been pointed out to Ms. Shaw and the City Council. They may not be as pretty, but...

Are you familiar with the Delancey Street Foundation? If not, here is a link to their website:

<http://www.delanceystreetfoundation.org/>.

And here is there introductory statement:

"Welcome to the Delancey Street Web Site

At our site we hope to show you a little about our model, our successes and our struggles. We're considered the country's leading residential self-help organization for substance abusers, ex-convicts, homeless and others who have hit bottom. Our average resident has been a hard-core drug addict for sixteen years, abusing alcohol and multiple drugs and has dropped out of school at the 7th grade and has been institutionalized several times. Many have been gang members; most have been trapped in poverty for several generations. Rather than hire experts to help the people with problems, we decided to run Delancey Street with no staff and no funding. Like a large family, our residents must learn to develop their strengths and help each other. It's an approach to changing lives that is "against all odds".

We said we were going to take ex-convicts and ex-addicts and teach them to be teachers, general contractors, and truck drivers. They said it couldn't be done. We said we were going to take 250 people who had never worked and had no skills and teach them to build a 400,000 square foot complex as our new home on the waterfront. They said it couldn't be done. We said we were going to partner with colleges and get people who started out functionally illiterate to achieve bachelor of arts degrees. They said it couldn't be done. We said we were going to run successful restaurants, moving companies, furniture making, and cafés and bookstores without any professional help. They said it couldn't be done. We said we were going to do all this with no staff, no government funding, and no professionals. They laughed and said it couldn't be done.

We struggle a lot but we've been doing it. For over 40 years we've been developing a model of social entrepreneurship, of education, of rehabilitation and change that is exciting and full of hope. If you need help, or want to help, please contact us. Most of all, we hope you can feel as inspired by ordinary people's abilities to achieve extraordinary accomplishments as we've been."

What if the City of Fort Bragg invested \$ in something like Delancey Street? What conclusions might be drawn if City Council members were afforded the opportunity to attend Delancey Street's

Institute for Social Renewal? How might the FB community want to address increasing homelessness after attending a public workshop directed by Delancey Street's Institute for Social Renewal at Town Hall?

Also, would it be possible for the City of Fort Bragg – either directly or via grant funding – to resurrect the Old Coast Hotel by placing it in Trust (publicly owned) and operate it as a cooperative? There is also the exquisite Art Deco bar on the S/E corner of Oak and Franklin streets awaiting resurrection. What would Fort Bragg look like if both were lively and prosperous again?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Lori-Rachel Stone
330 N. Main Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

From: Tyrell Lawson [<mailto:tyrelllawson@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 2:07 AM

To: Jourdain, Brenda

Subject:

Opposed to the Old Coast Hotel for the Hospitality House Use. Vote NO NO NO City Council Members. Remember who voted for you. Improper use of Public Funds. Frivolous. Stop this now with your vote. I ask you to stop this NOW.

Tyrell Lawson