

Hello Bernie,

I am writing you in regards to the homeless problem at Safeway, it is really sad that one does not feel safe shopping there anymore. I have experienced aggressive panhandling while inside my vehicle after shopping, twice I have had men at my truck window knocking on it and asking for money. The first time I did not see the guy coming and it scared me when he knocked the second I saw another before he could knock and told him to go away and he stood there yelling at me and calling me names as I drove away. I have also been followed through the parking lot after leaving the store and harassed for money. Another time I had a man come up behind me while I was loading my groceries into the back of my truck and tap me on the shoulder scared the daylights out of me again ! One must be on guard at all times with eyes in the back of your head at Safeway.

I have witnessed them going after shoppers in the parking lot trying to get into the store all women who looked scared. I have witnessed them trolling cars while the owners were in the store.

I have witnessed a young Latino family pulling into a parking space next to a homeless motor home and the homeless motor home owner opened the side door of the motor home onto the hood of the families car as they were pulling in. The homeless man then stepped out of the motor home and started yelling at the young couple when he was clearly in the wrong.

I have witnessed Safeway allowing the homeless in vehicles and motor homes to camp in the parking lot. I have complained to Safeway about it.

I will not shop at Safeway now unless someone is with me. Why do we not have a zero tolerance panhandling ordinance? We had one with Chief Mayberry and it worked.

Thank you Bernie,

Julie A. McHenry

Fort Bragg

Subject: Homeless issue

I have been scared to the point of leaving businesses because of the threatening nature of some of our aggressive homeless population.

I strongly believe we can find a solution, and in fact have personally bought a homeless lady a trailer set up in a park, she pays all her bills, and has for over 3 years. She just needed that step up. Like she said "housing is impossible here, ESPECIALLY when you have no history and only get \$800ish a month" I know personally how hard housing is to obtain, with excellent references and income. I'm currently trying to get a homeless lady and her 3 year old daughter a place, they've been homeless for over a year! As far as the aggressiveness, I believe this stems from their mental disabilities. Which thanks in part to the HIPPA law, and lack of services, no one can get these ppl help, except themselves. They can't manage themselves, let alone medications and appointments, I work with a lot of these individuals. As far as a solution, I'm not sure it gonna be 1 avenue. It starts with a support system, counselors, family, clergy, etc. Along with medication watch, and positive community involvement. Another part is over priced housing, which is all over, but on the coast there are too many used as vacation rentals, either licensed or unlicensed.
thanks for addressing this issue ...

Candy
Concerned citizen

Bernie,

My experiences with Safeway have varied over the last few years, however, seem more prominent last 6 months to year.

One time during daytime, a transient offer to take my shopping cart back to the cart area for money which I did not give. As I was walking away, same person approached an elderly lady for same reason. She said she didn't have much to give and he said anything would help. That happened about 3 months ago.

Approximately one month ago, approached from behind while getting in my car during the day, for spare change. I refused to give any. I posted this experience on fb and received several responses from people having similar incidences.

One evening after work about 9:15p during Winter hours, so dark, there was a yellow bus along with a car involving 7-10 people "partying" in the parking lot. I parked a few spaces over on opposite side of them. I went into store and TRIED to tell someone, no one available. When I came out, car gone, bus still there and trash everywhere. I asked the guy in the bus if they could pick up the mess and he shrugged his shoulders and closed the door. Gr-r-r-r!

So...I do see today that there is a "No loitering" sign which would otherwise be helpful, but, might suggest it be lowered and a few more posted in the paper rack area. Also, signs on the lamps post indicating "No loitering...No pan handling" would/could/should be helpful. I did make another comment on fb suggesting if there could be a type of citizen watch like there are abalone watch or neighborhood watch. Thought maybe volunteers wearing some sort of designated, approved vest might help detour the above by walking the parking lot as a sort of security. I even went so far as to say give me a little pick-up, slap a SECURITY sign on the side, attach a little yellow light on top and I'll take care of the problem, ha!!!

Thank you Bernie for your help in this matter. I'm sure any change will be helpful!!

Sincerely,

Barbara

Councilman Bernie Norvell,

As a member of the community I have some concerns about the transients that are panhandling and hanging out around town. Especially around the Safeway area. I believe some of the issues should be addressed. It seems the panhandlers are hitting on the older folks in the parking lot. I have been asked for money more than once and instead of giving money had the person wait while I went in and purchased fruit or a cold drink (not alcohol) for them. Some are ok with this but there are those who become aggressive and really don't want to take no for an answer to their request for money. I witnessed an older lady being approached and when she said no and said she didn't have money to give him the young man even asked to look in her wallet. I stepped in and told her not to show him her wallet and to go into the store. I then told the young man that I was going to stay and watch him and if he bothered anyone else I would call the Police on him. I watched for a while and he went and sat at the bus stop on Franklin St. This is not ok and is frightening to some of those being approached.

Shopping carts are being used to store and transport items that shouldn't be allowed in grocery carts. It's a health issue. I went in to Safeway and asked for a manager to come out and look at a dog in a shopping cart that obviously had mange and was sitting in a pile of what appeared to be dirty blankets. The manager went out with me but the guy was just going around the corner so he didn't catch him. I wonder who put their groceries into that cart after those things were in it, if it got returned.

Shopping carts can be seen most anytime piled high with items that I'm sure no one would want to put groceries in after being used for this purpose.

I support taking action in the form of making guidelines for shopping carts being removed from stores and not returned. I also support taking measures to stop the panhandling.

Attached are photos of a shopping cart left on the corner of Corry at Redwood and another at the Park on Harrison. A common sight in these areas.

Judy Valadao





Subject: Homeless panhandlers

I am tired of being approached and asked for money. I have had some rude people and some that are polite. I do feel bad for many of these people, but I am not going to give them money, it doesn't help the situation...it makes them more dependent on handouts. I have seen food being handed to some of these panhandlers but they put the food in a backpack and continue to hold their sign asking for money...I have friends that have tried to give food and had it thrown back at them....I have been to Portland and homeless encampments go for miles. I don't want that to happen here. The trash that is left behind costs all of us...so what is the answer?

Hello

My husband and I live in Glass Beach Subdivision. We moved here in 2010. At that time if people were camping in the field or on the coast between Glass Beach and Pudding Creek, we would call FBPD and they would rouse them out.

Now there are permanent camps in the trees below Pudding Creek Bridge down by the water. The City says it is State Parks. We have called FBPD, State Parks and even the Highway Patrol numerous times. If it gets cleaned up it is immediately back to a camp again. My husband walks down there and it is very dirty with lots of trash. This is right up stream from families playing in the creek and on the beach. It seems to be a health issue to me. Apparently it can't be stopped, as it has been a continual camp for a couple years now. I can see it from my back yard.

There are also camps that form on the beach and headlands between Glass Beach and Pudding Creek. The north end of Glass Beach has a fire pit and old sleeping bag right now. What looked to be a homeless man was there Friday surrounded by families enjoying the beach. We have reported permanent camps many times. Often State Parks does not really look so they don't find them and leave them be. This is a tourist area with families and single women walking about. A woman friend of ours in her 20s had a man yell and start to run after her last year.

It is getting worse, not better. And it appears there is no enforcement against illegal camping.

My husband works for parents and friends and is saying that the homelessness in the park where he plays basket ball with clients is becoming uncomfortable. He has had to leave numerous times due to transients bothering them.

This is very troublesome to me. I do not know where to turn or get action. It is very frustrating. I appreciate your inquiry.

Feel free to contact me to discuss.

Sincerely,
Sheila Esson
972-0010
980 Stewart St

The attached photos are from Cypress St. and across from MacDonald's and behind MacDonald's







