

Public Safety Committee,

My name is Monica Mankinen and I own a store, Interior, located at 224 E Redwood Ave in Fort Bragg. My store is located in the Central Business District and near the Hospitality House. Due to the store's location, my business, my customers, visitors, and myself are all affected by the behavior of the Hospitality House guests and clients. This behavior includes loitering, public drug and alcohol use, public urination, and violent behavior.

Loitering is a big problem with people waiting for services. This past Saturday, I was waiting on a customer in my store when I noticed a woman looking in my customer's car window, on my private property. She then walked around my customer's car to my car, pulled her pants down, and started going the bathroom on my car, yes- on my car. I asked her to leave and I asked why she did not use the public restroom and or Hospitality House bathroom, just one building away. She said, "I was told I can go here." She also sat on the bench by Well House West for over 3 hours on Sunday during business hours.

Also on Saturday, a Hospitality House guest decided to take the plants out of the city planter on the side of my building and replace them with street plants.

This weekend, I had three separate couples complain about the loitering/panhandling and how uncomfortable it made them feel. They were visiting from San Francisco, Chico, and Ukiah. In addition to all this, I was informed that there was a fight this weekend at the EWS between two male guests. I am concerned about staffing at the House, Center and EWS.

Loitering by guests and clients of the Hospitality House is out of control, especially at the old Credit Union building on Franklin Street. They are using drugs and alcohol in and around the neighborhood before receiving services at the Center and services such as food, at the House. Clients/Guests have decided that they do not have to follow any rules or county and state laws. This is too much for a little Central Business District. They learn the time of businesses and who works alone. This needs to be reviewed for safety reasons.

I respectfully request that the issues of loitering and public safety be addressed at the meeting tonight. Please protect our residents and visitors.

Thank you,
Monica Mankinen