

**From:** [Lane, Victoria](#)  
**To:** [Lane, Victoria](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Planning Commission Submission for 12/09/2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 3:41:01 PM

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**From:** >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** planningweb <[planningweb@cityofmerced.org](mailto:planningweb@cityofmerced.org)>  
**Subject:** Planning Commission Submission for 12/09/2020

Hello, I would like to submit the following comment to be added to the record tonight. May I read this aloud in the Zoom meeting?

Thank you,

Carolyn Neumann

The point of community is to share values to improve the quality of life for all members. To truly call Merced a community, we must include and involve EVERYONE without bias to race, gender, sex, orientation, religion, nationality, ethnicity, or class.

Class. The word "class" holds two meanings: indicating social values like wealth and importance, and also as a descriptor of respect and courtesy to others.

To correct the ills of our community insofar as the houseless and housing unstable folks are concerned, they MUST be included in our communities, and that means making them your neighbors and friends. Isolating the houseless in warehouse districts and commercial areas full of concrete windowless walls is not only a blockade to quality of life for those people, it does not satisfy the goal of including those individuals in the community.

How can you ask people in your community to do what you yourself would not tolerate? We teach giving and sharing to children at the earliest age; I wonder if those who oppose this application to extend this program have forgotten these rudimentary lessons.

This is further made troubling because so many of those who are housing insecure are CHILDREN and VETERANS. If you oppose housing people in need in your neighborhood, then you must also restrain yourself from thanking a veteran; they

don't need your appearance of caring, they need you to HONESTLY care.

A lot of people are concerned about the impacts on their quality of life. What is being proposed allows some people to try to have quality lives again.

Are problems possible? Sure, just as much as anyone can have a bad neighbor. But assuming that because your neighbor is poor or sick or in an abusive situation, do you then have the right to kick them out of your neighborhood? College students throw parties, dogs bark, and somehow we don't ban college students or dogs from city limits for the sake of preventing \*possible\* issues.

California has made houselessness and housing insecure people among their top priorities, even moreso in this time where having stable housing increases hygiene and cleanliness that benefits everyone. Many other states will say "Not In My Back Yard" but to those heartless and cowards I would respond, "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"

We must come together as a community to welcome and support people in our community. We must make them part of our neighborhoods to make them fully our community. With this one modest step, we have the opportunity to elevate their class, and our own, in the process.

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"I hold a beast, an angel, and a madman in me, and my enquiry is as to their working, and my problem is their subjugation and victory, down throw and upheaval, and my effort is their self-expression."

— Dylan Thomas

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