

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Ron Aragon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2021 7:11 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: HOW TO FIX DOWNTOWN MERCED

After two decades since moving to Merced from the Bay Area, I am only going to tell you this one last time. To fix downtown, you will need to install turn arrows at the turn lanes on Main Street at M Street (fender bender central). And, you need to duplicate the tiny road to rear parking at Bob Hart Square similar to 4th Street in Berkeley, and put a Peet's Coffee & Tea where the brick wall is there similar to the famous 4th Street area in Berkeley, California that is pretty much identical to that portion of Downtown Merced. It would pay the city of Merced large dividends to pay the fake fireplace and hottub store to move anyplace other than that location and replace it with a Peet's Coffee & Tea store. Bob Hart Square will continue to be a homeless encampment as long as there is no real active indoor/outdoor retail activity there or access to parking behind the buildings on 16th Street that needs to be treated the way they do in the extremely similar area of 4th Street in Berkeley. Compare the two logistically speaking, and you will see it very clearly as far as retail traffic goes. So, three very crucial things are desperately needed to improve Downtown Merced; turn arrows on Main at M (fender bender central), access from Main St. thru Bob Hart Square to parking, and the major anchor store Peet's Coffee where the brick wall is at Bob Hart Square. Three VERY needed structures in the most crucial areas of Main Street in Downtown Merced. Make it a destination, not a place to avoid at all costs like the City of Merced has been for the past two decades that I have lived here.

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