

City Council Meeting
Public Comments
June 21, 2023

Email palbergo@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item #9

Subject Public Contact

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Pam Albergo

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Mayor and Councilmembers, I support the current public comment rules allowing your constituents to submit their comments electronically instead of having to be present in council chambers. I have attended many council meetings in person, but there are times when I cannot be present. I have family commitments on Wednesdays and most Wednesdays I am not available to attend meetings. I appreciate council allowing the comments to be submitted and read into the record, and I support the council continuing this practice.

Email pborchmann9@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date june 21, 2023

Item #9

Subject Public Comment policy/procedure

Position In Favor

First and Last Name patricia borchmann

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

9. PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Request the City Council consider and provide direction to staff regarding the City of Escondido's ("City") current public comment policy.

I am writing to inform the Mayor and City Council why it is so important to stakeholders in Escondido to CONTINUE the current policy and practice to read public comments (e-comments) aloud, during public meetings.

When members of public submit online comments, obviously the Agenda item is important enough to mobilize us to take action, to formalize a position on items, and communicate an online message before City Council takes action. Especially these days when daily routines demand attention, it is not appropriate for City Council to limit, restrict, or reduce any opportunity for the public to post public comments online before the meeting, and to have e-comments read aloud. Personally, I consider it offensive that Mike Morasco considers it necessary to modify, or discontinue the current policy and practice.

The City needs to live up to the message that City of Escondido genuinely seeks active public participation, so it's a reality (instead of just a PR stunt).

Email christinenava858@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item #9

Subject request for staff direction to modify city policy on public comment

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Chris Nava

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

Councilman Morasco's request to have the council provide direction to staff regarding the City of Escondido's current public comment policy clearly underscores his dislike of public comments and his long-time objection to having the e-comments read aloud. One has to wonder why the councilman is so adamant about limiting the public's ability to engage in a broad audience of information sharing and discussion. The value of public comments, oral and electronic, is inescapable. It provides the council to receive views from the public and can provide valuable information for council members from their constituents. It also promotes better governance by enabling better decisions because council members have more complete information in the form of facts, values, and perspectives from the public. Good governance calls for public participation, a VOICE, in the affairs of their city. Please do not deprive the community of their right to be heard.

Sincerely,

Chris Nava

Good Morning Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I write this note to you on behalf of the Education COMPACT Board of Directors and Leadership Staff, supporting your consideration and action on the above noted agenda items for today's City Council meeting...

COMPACT leadership has worked closely with City Staff in the preparation of these documents and the services partnership they represent between the City and COMPACT...

The Memorandum of Understanding represents a reaffirmation of the COMPACT's 30 plus-year relationship with the City and other partners providing critical support to the youth and families of Escondido... We appreciate the efforts of the City Manager's staff in understanding our partnership roles and setting forward our joint efforts to continue serving the Escondido community...

Similarly, the Public Services Agreement continues the important partnership between The Escondido Police Department and COMPACT to carry forward important juvenile diversion programs that support our youth and families in positive efforts towards community engagement and success...

We are thanking you in advance for your affirmative action on both of these important partnership agreements.

Respectuflly,

Jack Anderson

Past Chair, Education COMPACT Board

Email BETSY.WEMYSS@GMAIL.COM

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Betsy Wemyss

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I do not support distribution of drug paraphernalia to addicts in Escondido. This is the wrong policy approach, and leads to addicts hanging out in Escon waiting for the mobile distribution vehicle to arrive.

I support spending the money on treatment centers and counseling.

Email 1931geezr@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # 11

Subject distribution of condoms and crack pipes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Barbara A Rollins

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments I can't believe this is even a question. SF here we come.

Email bbrooks918@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # 11

Subject COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HARM REDUCTION SERVICES PROGRAM

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Brandon Brooks

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Many social media posts have suggested these types of programs are not effective and only have negative impacts to communities. I have struggled to find studies that support this viewpoint. A quick Google search surfaces papers that largely suggest these efforts lower syringe litter, decrease the risk of accidental needlestick injuries, do not increase crime, and significantly decrease needle associated disease transmission.

Heavy drug users need help. Services like these offer a bridge to a more holistic solution to their issues.

Please continue to promote policies like this one, that are proactive, instead of reactive, in terms of public health and safety. Thanks!

Email sdbruce18@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6-21-23

Item # 11

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Bruce Pfefferkorn

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Hello

Enabling peope with substance abuse issues has repeatedly failed. Please vote against any such measures. Don't let our city follow the likes of San Francisco, Portland or Seattle.

Thank you

Email cath0758@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Catherine Day

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

In response to the question, should condoms, needles, and meth pipes be handed out for free in Escondido?

NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT! Those who are homeless or likely to collect these free items need to get in a program to get clean, get help, get off the streets OR get out of Escondido. No ifs, ands or buts. DO NOT GIVE THEM ADDITIONAL MEANS TO DESTROY THEMSELVES!

Thank you.

Email cgcurley@cox.net

Council Meeting Date June 21 2023

Item # 11

Subject Needle distribution

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Charles Curley

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

This is an absurd approach and will not work anymore than it has in other areas. Supporting drug habits is not the answer. How about addressing the core issues and mandating rehab and mental health treatment! This is the equivalent to Canada's assisted suicide program, but much slower and more cruel. We can do better. I want my City back!!

Email simonichristiana@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm reduction services

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

This was tried in San Francisco and the damage is irreversible, Escondido will be just like SF and will become the epicenter of drug use in San Diego. As a resident of this town I will be living in complete fear more than I am already due to the high amount of violent homeless drug addicts we already have living in this town. With the amount of schools in this town this will be extremely risky and unsafe to a children. Please do not promote drugs and sex more than it already is to our children. We need to clean up our streets, not fill it with used needles, crack pipes and condoms.

Email coreybaca12@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Corey Baca

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

As a parent of an adult homeless addict, I am against this program. I do understand why it has been put together, but until you live with an addict you will never understand what it takes to get them the help they ACTUALLY need. I believe by bringing this program to our city it will 1) make it that much easier for people to find the supplies they need to get high and 2) bring people from outside our city to use this program and thus making this their home. The part of the program that gives supplies for safe sex is good. Its the part that is enabling our addicted residence that doesn't settle well with me. I have personally called 211 for resources only to have my son turned away by every one of them, because they either don't take his insurance (medi-cal) or they are full and do not expect to have openings for weeks. They offer no wait list and your only chance to get in one is to call EVERY SINGLE DAY in hopes that something has opened up for you! If there is money in the budget to assist in the safe use of drugs, why can't we make an allowance to provide more beds in rehabs/sober living programs for people so they can get clean and better their position in life? The rehabs are also in need of better care for those who are suffering with mental illness. There are too many people and not enough counselors to help someone when they are in the middle of a crisis. The residents of rehabs and sober living have to put their name on a wait list until someone is available, which can take days or even weeks. This may sound reasonable to you and me, but for someone who is doing all they can to stay clean, the help needs to be now! It cant be days or weeks later. Hopelessness is sure to find these people. I know I got a little off track here, but I urge you to find a better way.

Email dms53@pacbell.net

Council Meeting Date 06/21/23

Item # 11

Subject SHOULD CONDOMS, NEEDLES, AND METH PIPES BE HANDED OUT FOR FREE IN ESCONDIDO

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Dave Schmitt

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments I oppose handing out drug paraphernalia to drug addicts

Email lizz-77@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 06/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Center

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Elizabeth Fallon

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

My immediate and emotional response to a harm reduction center would be no at this time. It could be quite detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood. I believe that homeless individuals would migrate from Oceanside and Vista to utilize the service. That would simply increase the population in Escondido. Also, I think there should be an intensive evaluation of the justification for the need and a cost benefit analysis. these centers can result in fewer hospitalizations and utilization of community resources that offset the cost of implementing the program. however the problems of trash, increased population, and perhaps lower property values in the area are something that certainly need to be considered. I find it quite ironic that the proposed location is at the Live Well site. I think that would be highly inappropriate as many families utilize the services in this building and the traffic that would be utilizing the harm reduction site may not be appropriate for that location. In evaluating the utility for this site, I recommend reviewing the many resources and data on the overdose deaths that occur by zip code. That data is available online through various county websites. Apparently family health centers has been operating a harm reduction program with a syringe exchange for 20 years now according to their site. Perhaps they could be consulted for feedback. I believe a program like this needs to be well implemented and warranted in the location. We can learn a great deal from areas like Oakland and San Francisco in determining what the pitfalls are. Communities that operate effective centers should be consulted as well. I think more research needs to be done if it is even to be considered.

Email ejsheeder@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Proposal

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Emily Sheeder

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Handing out free drug paraphernalia and "safe sex" items to at risk individuals is the opposite of helping them. Alleviating or eliminating the natural consequences of substance abuse/risky behaviors that motivate people to change is only going to increase such behaviors. It is enabling and will only worsen the problem.

Email clarkejackie4321@gmail.com

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Item # 11

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Jackie Clarke

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Email jabramm@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Free crack pipes / needles etc

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name James Brammer

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments NO!

Email jjjflr2@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject distribution of needles/meth pipes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Jeanette Fuller

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am absolutely in strong opposition to the distribution of items such as needles/meth pipes/any other drug paraphernalia or other products that would support or encourage any increase in illicit activity in our city. Instead, we should be offering help to persons who engage in these activities to receive care and correction.

Email Jennifer@tyrannosaurusmarketing.com

Council Meeting Date 06/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Jennifer Greene

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

We should absolutely be supporting people in reducing transmission rates of harmful diseases. Naturally, it's preferred that HIV, hepatitis, and similar problematic addictions not occur in our city, but those that suffer from these issues should be enabled to protect themselves and others as well as seek help should it be needed. These are programs I am happy for my tax dollars to support.

Email motorgirl@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 6/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Kathleen Meehan

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am strongly opposed to mobile units handing out drug supplies. This practice will not help the people who need it but

may further encourage and support their addiction issues and keep people on the streets. Do not vote in favor of this item.

Email kellybirkel@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21st, 2023

Item # 11

Subject Condoms, Needles and Meth pipes being handed out

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Kelly Birkel

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

There needs to be more to this program than simply handing out needles, condoms and meth pipes. More social services need to be in place to accommodate and help them further, not just make sure we are preventing sickness and deaths among the homeless population at the communities expense. We are are the ones finding the needles they discard on our streets in our neighborhoods, having sex in front our houses in the open for our children to see. Drug use, mental illness and homelessness are intertwined. Giving the homeless meth pipes, needles and temporary housing in our neighborhoods is also attracting all kinds of unwanted visitors from surrounding areas. We the law abiding, tax paying citizens are being penalized while these individuals are rewarded who do nothing to help themselves or contribute to society.

It has been proven that the housing first model does work, however it ONLY works if the housing given is permanent housing and not temporary housing which costs and society less to do it this way. There also needs to be onsite support staff for these individuals which is where you would implement programs for condoms, clean needles and other drug related services. Finland has proven this to work, but we are going about it all wrong. Why is it selected locations like Escondido, Vista and Oceanside that bear the brunt of these programs? Our society cannot continue to implement these wild ideas without a well laid out plan in place. It's seems there isn't one, so perhaps let's focus on getting a plan in place that has been proven to work and and then working towards the goal.

Email mbteas2017@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # 11

Subject Drugs and other items for the homeless

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Marsha B Teas

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments Does not solve homeless, drug, mental health problem - it only keeps it going

Email marrie59@aol.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Homeless in Escondido

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Mary Walsh

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

You need to stand up and do the right thing. It's tough love! Do what Coronado does, get help or get out! As long as you enable these people you are hurting them. Richard Bailey is the only mayor that cares about his citizens! What is wrong with the rest of you?

Email nanmcdan@att.net

Council Meeting Date 06/21/23

Item # 11

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Nancy A McDaniel

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I've been a usage (drug/alcohol) therapist for many years.

The criteria you explained Dane would only invite more erosion to the Escondido community safety and not address the issues.

This is irresponsible and is not supported by the open source data.

I would hate to see Escondido /county of San Diego go toward the direction that San Francisco and LA have gone.

The "No Expectation" clause doesn't work. More needed integrative resourced programs are needed.

Email nicholelee14@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date Jun 21st 2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm reduction distribution

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Nichole Pless

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I'm in favor of the distribution of harm reduction items to include needles, Narcan, condoms etc. While some may see this item as controversial because they feel like we are aiding the community in their use and access to drug paraphernalia. What harm reduction actually is is reducing the amount of harm that someone can cause themselves or others in acts such as sharing needles which spread diseases. All this is basically trying to is reduce the risk of any additional adverse health risks associated with doing drugs. I do feel that Escondido could also partner with programs and agencies in the county such as the Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego in order to provide additional services such as referrals to treatment if/when someone is ready and free access to Fentanyl test strips. Something else that could benefit the county is to get on board with the use of the overdose detection mapping application program to track spikes in fentanyl overdoses in our city in order to send additional resources to combat the spike or notify the public of the contaminated drug.

Email pathaag2000@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # Not available

Subject Harm reduction services program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Patricia Haag

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am very opposed to enabling self destructive behaviors and assuming it is for the betterment of the individuals and the community. If we do not treat the problem, we will be providing items that encourage an individual to continue to fail. Make our community proud and treat individuals to give them an opportunity to rise above their problems.

Email rtieken777@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject City's harm reduction program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Randi Tieken

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I do not see this program, and the use of city's funds to be a benefit to the person receiving them or to the citizens of Escondido. It gives a message of condoning drug use. I believe in giving things to people to help them onto a better life, not to continue in self harming behavior. I agree with the mayor of El Cajon , Bill Wells who deals with homelessness mental , illness , and drug addiction by getting them to help they need not giving them items to continue on with self-destructive behaviors. Let's offer them things that push them in the right direction not the wrong direction. Why would a government offer them crack pipes and condoms? Is this the best use of taxpayer money? I think not. Sometimes I think our government forgets who pays the taxes.

Email a64chnwendt@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm reduction services program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Robert

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The program the county is proposing has failed in every other city that has attempted to provide the same products to the homeless and drug users.

Escondido does not need to go down the same rat hole, that San Francisco, Portland, and many other cities have gone.

Enabling the homeless, the drug users, and those that have psychological issues is only extending the problems and fixes nothing.

It's time for a Escondido to set the example and not follow what historically has failed in the past. We can do better than that. Enabling by providing these programs is not helping anybody and ultimately will destroy the city of Escondido.

My family and friends emphatically disagree with implementing this program. Let's make Escondido the example to follow and not lead from behind.

Email Sean@cmgsandiego.net

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Sean Patrick Hall

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

This is the stupidest idea ever.

Are we trying to turn Escondido in Amsterdam or worst case scenario SF AND OR retain our conservative community?

Keep these idiotic ideas down south for the the City Council of SD.

There are so many walks of life here in Escondido but a MAJORITY are conservative leaning no matter how they actually vote.

We cannot even fix our pot holes but we want to start a new program add to the budget, gov bureaucracy of mgmt., etc. which will require more staffing, oversight, and money! Fix the grass, parks, lighting to make it safer for the kids.

Lets get our house in order before taking on more responsibilities. If EVERYTHING was being maintained to a higher living standard (not going backwards) then most would support this, but not when our house is not in order!!!

Lets work on cleaning up the streets of transients so we are not harassed when going to the market or getting gas!!!!

We now have pyscho transients walking around with chains and machetes approaching singles ladies, families, etc.

Stop with the lofty goals and focus on maintaining what we already have in place so ESCO will remain a family town with conservative values before we fall into disrepair like our neighbor down south.....

Email shakiba t@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Shakiba Tahmoresi

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Email hrdlcch@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Sheila Kinder

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I believe this is enabling the addicts and others who have self-injurious behavior. They should not be ENABLED. There need to be more addiction recovery and mental health INPATIENT facilities built rather than using money for this ridiculous program. It will bring vastly more amounts of homeless to our city. I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THIS. I might make an exception to providing free Naxolone at the many drug stores. Unless that can also be used as a way to abuse the drug. I don't know that.

Email skheles@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date June 21, 2023

Item # Harm Reduction Services Program

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Shelly Byrne

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Absolutely opposed to this group handing out needles, condoms, crack pipes, etc. These items are left in the streets and parks. They become a hazard to our community. This is what is happening in San Francisco; you have to watch where you step on the sidewalks in fear of stepping on needles, used condoms. This is a terrible plan for Escondido. Absolutely no!

Email <u>iamtami@me.com</u>

Council Meeting Date June 21

Item # 11

Subject Should condoms, needles, and meth pipes, etc.

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Tamela Ridley

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I understand minimizing public health disease spread, but I don't think this is the answer. If somebody needs to show up for clean needles, and other paraphernalia, They need help And they need to get off the streets. If they can't afford their own needles, they'll be stealing to survive. What's the greater importance – public health, or public safety?

Email tobeejackson@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6-21-23

Item # 11

Subject Crack pipes and condems

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Tobee Jackson

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

It does no service to the drug addicted and those sex trafficked to hand out drug and sex items, especially considering there is no help for treatment offered. It draws in those suffering with addictions to our area and overwhelms our resources. It makes our street less safe and makes it unwelcoming. Please please let's not become downtown San Diego. We rely on a family friendly feel and don't have enough other attractions like downtown to overcome it.

Thank you for your consideration Tobee Jackson

Email tv6179@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Handing out crack pipes, condoms, needles

Position No Position

First and Last Name Trudy Vargas

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Absolutely not. All these peripherals will be used and on our streets. This is enabling them not helping them to get help or off the streets. Use our tax dollars to clean up the cities and find better solutions. You are planning to pass these out and not collect the used items on no level does this make sense.

Email vickijason@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 06/21/2023

Item # 11

Subject Supplying various items in Escondido

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Vicki Jason

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments We should not supply anyone with their vices.

Email bigbunn13@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/2023

Item # Needles and pipes

Subject Needles and pipes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Aaron B

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Absolutely against this! Do we solve alcoholism by giving out free alcohol? Has anyone else noticed that local taxpayers are forced to foot the bill for the problems that our impotent federal government has caused by leaving the borders open to the fentynyl dealing, human trafficking cartels? We need to stand against this as a community!

Email martybacker@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 6/21/23

Item # 11

Subject Harm Reduction Services Program

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Marty Backer

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

This is definitely not the way to resolve the homeless situation. We need mental health, addiction rehab for both alcohol and drug addiction. Giving them more drugs and needles is not the way to combat the problem. This has been tried in many places, and it just increases the homelessness. I'm opposed.

Email msrickit@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6 21 23

Item # 11

Subject Free needles & Crack pipes

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Ricki Garrett

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Do not provide free needles or cracks pipes. Escondido is already becoming a homeless haven and the tent city along Valley Parkway is disgusting. Don't encourage more homeless to move here.

Karen Grube

"My district representative and the mayor need to vote no. I will not tolerate this nonsense. It is unacceptable. It will mean my vote against them. That may not mean much to them, but wait until I get online for this and slam on Facebook and Twitter any of the Council members who vote in favor of this."