Dear Debbie and Dani,

Can you kindly include the following “request to agendize” on the next meeting agenda? Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

I request that the Chico City Council place on a future agenda, a discussion of creating a committee for the following purpose “to develop a comprehensive strategy for reducing homelessness and its impacts in Chico”.

This committee could be created from scratch or could include the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force. I am seeking council input on the form and composition of the committee. The goal of the committee will be to bring back to the council a set of recommendations for action.

The city and the council have been rightly accused of piecemeal solutions to local homelessness. While some of these “band-aid” solutions generally help keep the community safer, the lack of connectedness and synergy of disparate programs can result in an overall ineffective approach to solutions. While the city’s assistance with the development of a “Renewal Center” in south Chico is laudable, it too is only a partial solution with an unknown completion date.

A comprehensive strategy would be intended to consider the viability of the following issues, and how they would work in concert with one another:

A Housing First program
  The creation of more shelter beds
  A campground for unhoused people
  A vehicle campground for those living in their cars
  Adequate access to 24 hour toilet facilities
  A jobs program and training
  Detox and drug treatment
  Mental illness treatment
  Storage for possessions
  Homelessness service providers, case-management and wrap-around services.
  Laws and the role of law enforcement
  Key partners
  Resources and funding including any and all Federal, State and regional sources and grants

Our community demands and deserves a plan. Our humanity obligates us to protect the less-fortunate from harm. Developing a comprehensive strategy is the responsible way to create a plan.