

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>
Cc: Karen Strolia [REDACTED]
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - City Council - December 21, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT on Agenda item 7a by Betsy Guthrie, member of the Downtown Streets Team Marin Community Advisory Council and a 30 year resident of Marin.

Broken up into <200 character sections.

- As a long time member of Marin's Community Advisory Council, I would like to emphasize the work experience program that is unique to the Downtown Streets Team.
- Their mission is to beautify the community as a means to help people gain a sense of purpose and belonging. It's a daily meaningful activity that many of us take for granted.
- The beautification work provides a structured 20 hour work-experience, which helps them rebuild their resumes to reenter the workforce.
- Many have experienced confidence shattering life experiences like job loss, illness and accidents, and family crises that create barriers to what might seem like a simple job search.
- It is hard to write a resume or even take a call from a recruiter, let alone have a zoom interview, when you are living in a tent or a car.
- The DST staff are experienced in helping them re-imagine themselves with a path out of homelessness, so they're experience does not become their identity.
- Instead, they are people actively in the job market with recent work history and good references.
- Concerns throughout our community include mental and physical health. DST provides a platform for people to connect with health resources, legal support and mental health counseling while staying active in their volunteering.
- I urge you to take into account this unique contribution from the DST that ensures that these individuals rejoin our workforce while they volunteer daily sharing their strengths with our communities throughout Marin.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Betsy Guthrie
[REDACTED]