

**From:** tony higgins <tony.higgins123@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2019 8:05 PM

**To:** David Pedersen <dpedersen@hermosabch.org>

**Cc:** Suja Lowenthal <suja@hermosabch.org>; Mayor Stacey Armato <sarmato@hermosabch.org>; Ken Robertson <krobertson@hermosabch.org>; David Pedersen <dpedersen@hermosabch.org>; gary@mammet.net; Ann Yang <anny@hermosabch.org>

**Subject:** Fwd: Trash litter & unsightly stadium

Dear City Council

I sure hope someone is asking our Director of Community Development questions like the one bolded and italicized below.

The answers are difficult but if there are not meaningful answers forthcoming from city officials it speaks volumes to our cities planning process and oversight mechanisms.

***Assumption :***

***There is probably room to double or triple the floorspace in the central business district if existing businesses are expanded fully, compliant with existing code.***

**Question 1:**

>

> ***Does anyone on the council or the planning commission understand what the total capacity of commercial floor space in the central business is compared to the existing floor space?***

>

> ***What is the percentage of existing to potential floor space?***

>

**Question 2**

***How many more customers and trucks, noise, cars and trash would growth to full capacity add?***

***What are the numbers?***

**Question 3**

>

> ***How many more special events and city promotional events like teen challenge or the fiesta will the city have to add to provide the customer base?***

***How many customers of what economic demographic would be needed to support this expansion?***

***How much more traffic, trash, noise and pollution.***

**Question 4:**

***What changes to our road infrastructure can mitigate and spread the impact of the additional traffic, noise and pollution and what are the current plans to address this?***

***Identify the impacts. The general plan does not speak to the impacts of heavy trucks at all.***

***Put a number on it and speak specifically and forthrightly with the residents about the sacrifices certain vulnerable neighborhoods will have to make and the changes to the city plan that would be required to mitigate impacts.***

***Don't tell me you don't have the skill set to make reasonable planning estimates.***

***Thank you  
Anthony Higgins***

**From:** tony higgins <[tony.higgins123@gmail.com](mailto:tony.higgins123@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 26, 2019 8:42 AM

**To:** City Council <[citycouncil@hermosabch.org](mailto:citycouncil@hermosabch.org)>

**Cc:** Suja Lowenthal <[suja@hermosabch.org](mailto:suja@hermosabch.org)>; Ken Robertson <[krobertson@hermosabch.org](mailto:krobertson@hermosabch.org)>; David Pedersen <[dpedersen@hermosabch.org](mailto:dpedersen@hermosabch.org)>; Robert Smith <[wrzdmith@aol.com](mailto:wrzdmith@aol.com)>; [gary@mammet.net](mailto:gary@mammet.net); [walterbooty@outlook.com](mailto:walterbooty@outlook.com); Ann Yang <[anny@hermosabch.org](mailto:anny@hermosabch.org)>

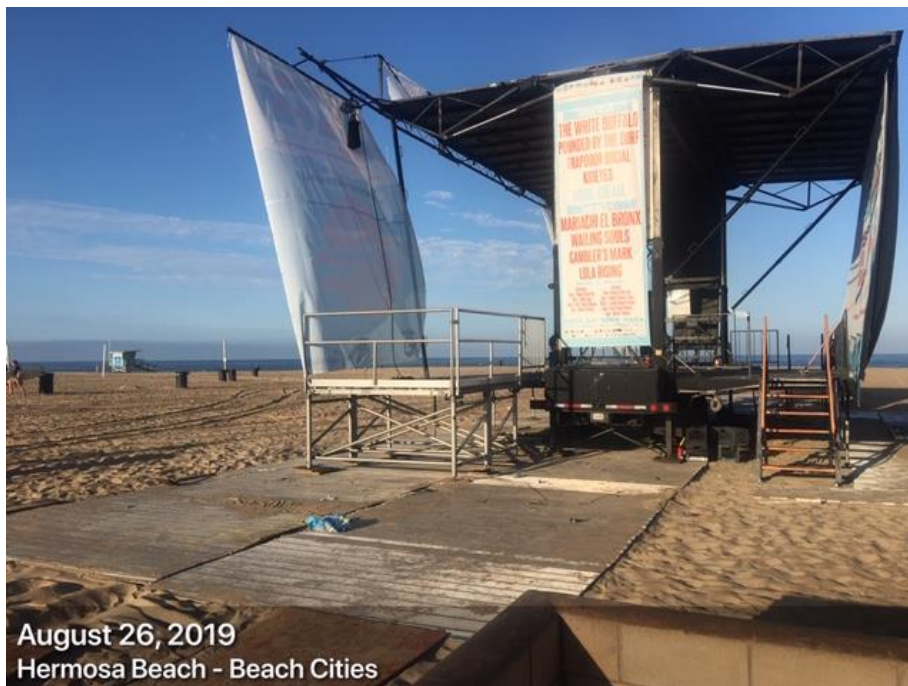
**Subject:** Re: Trash litter & unsightly stadium

> Dear Council and Mayor Armato

>

> The parking lot and street behind the plaza are totally trashed out this morning

>



> Residents who have retired in HB and try to enjoy a morning walk on the plaza increasingly face the consequences of the commercialization of our downtown beaches.

>

> This week it's trash, litter everywhere in the parking lots and a very unsightly stadiums and trash on our beaches.

>

> The simple fact is that today's businesses often have to take a grow, grow grow strategy to survive.

>

> At some point that continual growth extracts quality of life from our vulnerable neighborhoods.

>

> There is probably room to double or triple the floorspace in the central business district if existing businesses are expanded fully, compliant with existing code.

>

> Does anyone on the council or the planning commission understand what the total capacity of commercial floor space in the central business is compared to the existing floor space?

>

> What is the percentage?

>

> How many more customers and trucks, noise, cars and trash would growth to full capacity add?

>

> How many more special events and city promotional events like teen challenge or the fiesta will the city have to add to provide the customer base?

>

> That's the road you are leading us down.

>

> If city staff is not giving the council these numbers and they don't have models to project these impacts you really can't say you are doing any real planning.

If the council and planning commission aren't asking for these numbers how can it be said they are providing effective oversight?

>

> How about some hard facts on the IMPACTS of the downtown business districts need to continually grow?

>

> Where is this analysis?

>

> For instance, there wasn't a word in the general plan about the impact that continual growth will have on the number and size of heavy trucks on vulnerable roadways and on vulnerable collector-road neighborhoods

>

> How about some objective planning?

>

> How can you really represent resident interests without an informed public discussion of these impacts based on the best modeling tools available.

>

> Where are the models? Where are the numbers? Where is the public discussion?

>

> How about telling both sides of the growth imperative? Our downtown businesses and certain

members of the council and city staff are ramming this down our throats.

>

> We hear about all the benefits from our city officials and never substantive discussion of the costs and impacts backed up by the best available planning estimates.

>

> Your strategy is to wait for something to break and fix it if you can.

>

> That's not planning.

>

> Then there is the constant first-response of our city manager to criticism.

>

> Take the city managers initial response to the criticism of the teen challenge in the local papers.

>

> Denial.

>

> Denial that the city was responsible for any problems.

>

> You can't really be listening if your starting point is denial.

>

> This is no way to run a city.

>

> The city and city government has gotten fat and sloppy in part because there is so much easy money by commercialization of public resources.

>

> It's time for a change in leadership.

>

> Thank You,

> Anthony Higgins