Dear Councilmembers,

Monday and Tuesday are street sweeper days in North Hermosa. Every Monday I have to search for a spot to park my VW van.

It’s too tall to fit into the garage that was built in 1932.

The last 4 sweeper Monday’s I’ve had to drive all the way down to 22nd street to find a spot to park. That’s about 4 blocks away.

On Tuesday’s I don’t dare move my van because everyone on the opposite side of the street is looking for a spot to park.

Then this morning I see this:
20+ scarce parking spots in North Hermosa are being given up to Triage Entertainment on Wednesday & Thursday; probably to do some filming.

Did anyone ask the residents of North Hermosa if they wanted to give up their already scarce parking to some film crew.

Look, if the business district wants to give up parking to a film crew that’s one thing.

But when you start expanding it into a residential neighborhood that’s quite something else.

Once again, did you ask the residents of North Hermosa what they thought about giving up these scarce parking spots to a film crew or are you so desperate for funds to meet the needs of our burgeoning city budget that you are once again selling off our quality of life to satisfy your strategy of never ending growth, growth our infrastructure simply cannot support?

I know... it’s all being done in the name of progress.... and what does that progress look like?

The beautiful beaches and eclectic character of our downtown area is being turned into a hotel district complete with fancy expensive restaurants and one special event after another that mainly draw-in tourist dollars.

There are more and more large trucks and traffic on our already neglected and failing residential collector roads.

More and more residents are resorting to building large sound vibration proof houses in our increasingly noisy neighborhoods as the only means of maintaining a decent quality of life; especially if you are home on weekdays.

And what of the seniors who can’t afford or don’t have the time to build these large soundproof homes and really don’t have the strength to move away anyway?

Just sweep them under the carpet as a causality of progress?

Exchange resident quality of life to promote the business district.

Extract money from the business district in terms of bed taxes, tobacco taxes, sewer taxes, increased fees, etc., to fund city government.

I understand all this is not entirely the current council’s fault.

The city administration and past council’s have been pushing in this direction the past 20 years.

The problem Councilmembers is that under your leadership this direction is accelerating.
It’s good to make our beaches accessible and family attraction that out of town folks can come and enjoy.

But sooner or later the residents of Hermosa are going to realize that their quality of life is being sold off to draw in tourists that mainly benefit the business district and city coffers and theow you all out on your collective ears.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins