

Letters to the Editor

CITY SAFETY/CAR SHOW CHRIS DOLKAS, San Clemente

I just read with disbelief of the priority given to passing the non-binding resolution regarding the Second Amendment. With weekly mass shootings in America, it seems we should take a more appropriate stance on keeping the citizens of San Clemente safe.

Apparently, safety of all our citizens is not the No. 1 priority of most of the city council. I have been trying to get the attention of the council for over a year since witnessing a three-car injury accident on Avenida Vista Hermosa after three cars raced away from the weekly car show.

I was just missed by one of the out-of-control cars. Since that time, I have sent numerous letters, videos and sound bites of several near-misses of pedestrians and e-bike riders. The speed is beyond reckless, as is the noise and exhaust for nearby residents—all violations of city ordinances.

The cities of Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Corona del Mar and Newport Beach, along with Caltrans and the CHP, have launched task forces to deal with the collateral damage (from our car show) in their respective municipalities.

I guess the “silver lining” for them is all the revenue being generated by the hundreds of noise, speed and equipment violations from all the vehicles leaving the car show driving north on PCH, heading back home to inland OC and Riverside.

On the other hand, we might get \$50 from our portion of sales tax from coffee and breakfast sales at Ruby’s, Starbucks and Chick-fil-A. Our enforcement for the protection of the citizens of San Clemente is signs at the Outlets telling people not to “rev” their engines.

E-bike activity is at an all-time high.

Bike accidents are way up. The bike lane and sidewalk (where most bikes are ridden on Vista Hermosa) goes against traffic. That, coupled with all the youth activities at the Jim Johnson Sports Park on Saturdays, make this insane.

This is a ticking bomb. Not if, but when we have another tragedy on Vista Hermosa. We have had too many. There is a reason the city of Laguna Beach and others have sent the car shows away.

Thank you, Councilman Duncan and Lt. Manhart, for taking my calls and listening. This is a tough issue but should be a real priority.

SECOND AMENDMENT FREEDOM CITY KIM & ANDY MYERS, San Clemente

This asinine labeling of San Clemente as a Second Amendment Freedom City is going to be a malignant cancer on this beautiful mellow beach town. We surf. We’re not gun-obsessed. This is an over-the-top, aggressive showboating attempt to grab national headlines.

These councilmembers knew the controversy it would bring, and they welcomed it. Why did we need this? What happened in our town to justify this? Gun laws still need to be followed. Nothing changes.

The claims of Second Amendment infringement are baseless. No one is going to take away your guns. The majority of Americans, many of whom own guns, are in favor of increased, common-sense gun safety.

Stop hiding behind this veil of fear-mongering. Did anyone from the city even bother to invest in a marketing research project to see how this will negatively impact our local businesses and real estate values?

Our council has decided to stain our city with one of the most divisive and blood-boiling topics for both sides. Not only did this serve no purpose to improve our city, it has now put us on the national map in a negative light.

Those of us who have lived here for decades have always prided ourselves on

keeping our beloved San Clemente one of California’s more peaceful hidden gems. Not anymore, thanks to this ludicrous publicity stunt.

Also, the term “sun’s out, guns out” has taken on an entirely different connotation for us now. A huge thank you and shout-out goes to Jerry Davis and Paul Wehrle, both of San Clemente, for their wise and very true words in the June 3 edition of the *SC Times*.

Our little “Spanish Village by the Sea,” once envisioned by Ole Hanson, has taken a very dangerous turn for the worse. Our city values, at least over the decades that we’ve been here, do not include what Gene James and Steve Knoblock have pushed through. As gun owners, it’s appalling. No one is taking away our Second Amendment rights.

As Jerry Davis writes, “The hypocrisy is stunning.”

Election day cannot come soon enough. Get rid of those two paranoid clowns.

AMAZON MAY NOT BE COMING TO SAN CLEMENTE

DICK PARSONS, San Clemente

Having now lived in beautiful San Clemente for over 20 years, I, too, would be concerned about the traffic and noise problems caused in our community by a huge Amazon distribution facility, even though there might be some benefits such as an increase in job opportunities and more tax revenue.

Are they really coming to San Clemente?

I did a Google search and found a May 18, 2021 article indicating that the city of Oceanside just approved an Amazon Distribution Center in their Ocean Ranch industrial park. If one assumes that it will successfully address all building, environmental and community concerns, there would be no need for them to open up another center 22 miles up the coast in San Clemente.

Let’s hope that our concerns are premature.

IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

GINETTE WATSON, San Clemente

Now that Councilmembers James, Knoblock, and Ferguson have achieved their aim of having San Clemente declared a Second Amendment Freedom City, can they finally turn their attention to the problems of the city?

How long have they been on the city council, and what have they done to address the homeless problem, the filthy sidewalks on Del Mar and El Camino Real (the city was beautified years ago with tiled sidewalks and commemorative benches, which have unfortunately not been maintained)?

And now there is the looming Amazon Distribution Center, the growth in graffiti in the city and on the rocks by the train tracks, which are just a few concerns that have people worried.

I hope that being declared a Second Amendment Freedom City will help solve these problems, but solutions to big problems are usually not that easy.

I hope that that was not the only goal of Mr. James, Knoblock, and Ms. Ferguson. They campaigned on solving local issues. I haven’t seen any improvement on those issues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

San Clemente Times reserves the right to edit reader-submitted letters for length and is not responsible for the claims made or information written by the writers. Have something you’d like to say? Email your letter to sraymundo@picketfencemedia.com no later than 8 a.m. on Monday morning. Limit your letters to 350 words or less. Please send with your valid email, phone number and address for verification by staff. Your address and phone number will not be published.

Join SC Times for a Beachside Chat on Friday, June 11, at 8 a.m. Participants can join via Zoom or in person at the Dorothy Visser Senior Center. Email Shawn for Zoom link at sraymundo@picketfencemedia.com. Dorothy Visser Senior Center, 117 Avenida Victoria. All are welcome.

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All that being said, we must focus on not only how we “feel,” but how we “look” under the hood. It’s too easy to keep our heads “stuck in the sand,” either ignoring poor test results or never going to our doctor in the first place.

While I have always felt that the human body is resilient, countering the effects of our poor lifestyle choices in the early years of adulthood, I am now seeing more and more young people who are not well. This, my friends, is due to the ease of getting food, making poor food choices, and the lack of movement in our lives.

So why should we care? Consider that our love of “convenience” foods and tech-

nology is actually shortening our lives. I would like you to ponder that statement for a moment and let me give you some food for thought.

Let’s consider this. What is your “why”? Why do you choose to get out of bed each day? I force-feed this concept to my clients from Day 1, to help them find the reason to consider a lifestyle shift.

Do those “crappy” food choices bring more joy to you than the people you love? Do you get more pleasure from technology that keeps you seated, rather than enjoying the beautiful community we live in? Do you realize that the food choices you make and your lack of exercise are harming your ability to really

“live” your best life?

So here is your action item this month: make an appointment with your medical provider and take a good look under the hood.

Between yearly labs, preventive care screenings, incorporating more wholesome food, and a walking program, you can begin to shift the trajectory of this one life we have been gifted.

A quick Google search of “preventative care screenings for adults” will provide a list of action items you should consider in your quest to live a long, healthy, independent, joyful life.

And, meanwhile, this month I have a free webinar series titled “Kick-start Your

Weight Loss” that I welcome you to join.

*Gina Cousineau sees clients virtually and in person out of her San Clemente office. Her extensive education—a BS in dietetics and MS in integrative and functional nutrition—chef training, and 30-plus years as a fitness professional allow her to help clients lose weight and improve their health. You can reach her at mamag@mamagslifestyle.com, 949.842.9975, and on Instagram and Facebook @mamagslifestyle. Register for her complimentary weekly newsletter at mamagslifestyle.com. **SC***

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