

**From:** steve shiflett <steve@shiflett.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 6:01 PM  
**To:** \_CityCouncilListPublic  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Downtown SR is Broke

I live in Healdsburg. I go to downtown SR to the paella place that is going out of business, Timothy Patrick Jewelers, the spice shop, The Parish and Russian River Brewery. (I use to go to B&N bookstore but that's where the homeless like to hang out.) I do not plan on returning because downtown is broke: dangerous homeless people doing bad things, metered parking and lack of police protection. According to the Press Democrat, there were 6 police officers, now there are two.

I recommend:

1. Money allocated to the "homeless" would best be diverted to the police who can watch over the dangerous ones to keep downtown safe.
2. Take another look at the brilliant plan to increase revenue by metered parking for downtown after you read Thomas Sowell's book "Basic Economics". You will learn from Dr. Sowell's book that with every policy there are unintended consequences. It is easy to read and is quite interesting - even if you are not interested in economics. Dr. Sowell elaborates on how government can have a decrease in revenue when they increase taxes. (Metered parking is a tax on those of us who drive to downtown SR.)

People going to a restaurant have no idea how long it will take to enjoy a meal and resent having to pay for something that is free elsewhere. Some meters require change. Really? Who carries a pocket full of quarters around? Not me. (I seldom

carry cash and certainly not pocket change.) Today I tried to get into the parking garage off 5th street and it was broke. Red light on and couldn't get in. There were spaces, but it was closed. What's up with that? Your pay parking scheme is outrageous. Think about the losses you will be stacking up for those of us who refuse to run the parking meter gauntlet. Losses in sales tax from now unto eternity. I'm not coming back.

By the way, the "homeless problem" problem has less to do with lack of housing as it does with mental health, drugs, watered down municipal law enforcement and chronic dysfunctional behavior at the family level. You may enjoy reading Heather Mac Donald's investigations on this: <https://www.city-journal.org/san-francisco-homeless-crisis>

Regards,

Steve Shiflett  
Healdsburg