

September 8, 2008

**Hesperia City Council**

Mayor Mike Leonard  
Thurston Smith  
Tad Honeycutt  
Ed Pack  
Rita Vogler

9700 Seventh Street  
Hesperia, California 92345

Dear City Council Members:

Some of our national officials are intervening in the housing crisis in order to circumvent further damage to our economy. Unfortunately, legislative gestures and corporate bailouts do not directly benefit and protect consumers --- namely, our most valued consumers, City of Hesperia residents.

It's time for local officials to start taking care of local residents who have been adversely impacted by the "panzi-scheme" we now refer to as the mortgage meltdown. In addition, the City Council should also become proactive with local businesses who employ our residents by heading off a massive socio-economic crisis caused by low wages, unacceptable labor conditions, and failure to provide adequate and affordable healthcare benefits.

Here is my urgent proposal for the City Council to consider at your very next meeting:

**IMMEDIATELY PASS AN EMERGENCY LOCAL ORDINANCE TO STOP EVICTIONS OF HOME-OWNERS UNTIL BANKS HAVE A NEW HOMEOWNER TO OCCUPY THE PROPERTY.** We need to immediately "stop the bleeding" by preventing lenders from evicting homeowners --- essentially making our residents homeless --- and then abandoning their responsibilities for maintaining vacant properties destroying our cities. Additionally, prevent lenders from evicting senior citizens until the lender can provide verification that the senior has adequate housing immediately after eviction. Essentially, a moratorium on creating vacant, abandoned home that serve no purpose than to destroy our communities. Additionally, no city should allow any corporation to willfully cause their senior citizens to be homeless for any reason. Period.

**IMMEDIATELY PASS A LOCAL ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE TO \$12.00 PER HOUR, AND MANDATE AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.** The cost of living is high, local businesses operate as a profitable entity within our City, but unfortunately they skim profits for their shareholders from our local community without regard for the welfare of their employees (our residents). If the businesses cannot afford to raise the minimum wage or provide affordable healthcare, then we should suggest they raise their prices to support their employees --- local consumers will be more than willing to pay a little extra in order for local residents to receive a higher, livable wage, as well as protect themselves with affordable healthcare.

As a city, we have a vested interest in protecting our citizens, especially since no federal, state or county organization has or will. For the benefit and welfare of our residents, we must IMMEDIATELY intervene in solving the housing and labor crisis at the local level. It's obvious that state and federal officials are not going to help in a timely fashion, and I ask that you each come together immediately to consider these urgent matters, as you have an obligation to our citizens.

If the law won't allow us to make the necessary changes, then we need to change the laws. When we're successful with implementing these proposals, Hesperia will ultimately become one of the best places to live because we will become a city that ultimately takes care of it's citizens. If there are no "funds" to implement these proposals, or if the city may initially lose revenue, then I suggest the City Council get together to demand a share of the \$10 billion dollars that is going towards funding the war in Iraq.

Please let me know what you can do to help move these important proposals to the top of your agendas. I would also like to meet with the City Council in person to discuss how we can make this a city project that can be the example for

FROM THE DESK OF  
**PETER SANTILLI**

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the entire Victor Valley, but most importantly, we need to act immediately and selflessly on behalf of our citizens. With regards to these matters, there should be no "business hours" or any other priority on any of our schedules (other than natural disasters) that prevents us from taking immediate action. Please call me any time of the day at 760-684-8038.

In the presidential campaigns we hear the phrase "change" quite a bit, but it seems the only change we witness daily is adverse to our economy, and ultimately our wallets. Please don't wait to effect change until after and election---- for political reasons. Both Obama and McCain appear to want to wait 57 more days until we see "change"; ask yourself as a City Council Member "at whose expense? At the expense of one of my local citizen's?!"

Please act urgently, but most importantly.... selfishly. Let's do this together---- NOW! Our city can't afford not to.

With tremendous respect and urgency,

Peter T. Santilli  
Hesperia Resident Since 1988  
Consumer Advocate

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Sincerely yours,

Peter Santilli