

TO: Yuba City City Council  
FROM: Karen Hess, Yuba City  
DATE: July 5, 2020

SUBJ: Adoption of an Ordinance of the City of Yuba City Imposing a Ban on the Establishments of Needle Exchange Programs within Yuba City

Agenda Item # 12

Recommend adoption with conditions

I understand why you want to vote to adopt this ordinance after viewing the June 16, 2020 meeting.

In the packet for your June 16 meeting I could not find any analysis that supports an increase in hazardous medical waste, for your consideration. If I were on the council, I would expect staff to do the research and report the facts as they know them.

Then I heard more than one of you who did your own research that led you to your conclusions. This is what staff is for.

From what I heard, it sounds like this new program is not a “Needle Exchange” but a “Needle Giveaway”.

I read the state law. Did Dr. Luu or her designee approve this?

You do know that the state law was changed a few years ago and these items can be obtained from a pharmacy without a prescription. So, needle exchanges or “giveaways” are only needed for those who can afford to buy their drugs but choose not to budget for needles and syringes.

I don't want to waste your time by repeating the comments made by the public at the June 16 meeting, or present other facts/opinions, at this time.

Therefore, I ask the City Council of Yuba City to do the following:

- Approve the ordinance for a 1-year duration
- Draft and approve a resolution declaring that the City of Yuba City:
  - Desires a workable plan to reduce IV drug use and spread of communicable diseases
  - Desires CDPH and the local agency and its partners to develop and publish enforceable protocols to ensure that this is an “exchange” and not a “giveaway” and give them a time limit to respond
- Require approval of the program by local Public Health, in accordance with state law
- Schedule a review for 2021 and possible extension of the ordinance, based on the evidence

I believe this compromise would satisfy all parties involved and put the onus on the program to meet the needs of the community and develop a program that will be accepted.