

## Cricket Strock

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**Subject:** FW: Letter to go on record for tonight's Council Meeting-PLEASE DELETE PREVIOUS ONE

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**From:** raeanne vowell [<mailto:raeanne32@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:14 PM

**To:** [townhall@loomis.ca.gov](mailto:townhall@loomis.ca.gov)

**Subject:** Letter to go on record for tonight's Council Meeting-PLEASE DELETE PREVIOUS ONE

Dear Mayor and Town Council Members,

Due to the fact that I am not able to attend tonight's meeting, I am submitting this letter to you and requesting that it go on record. I am very concerned and quite disturbed, frankly, about the Town Council's proposed Resolution, "Resolution to Approving Healthy Eating Active Living." This is Item 8. on tonight's Agenda. On the surface, it seems like a good idea and in Walt Scherer's own words,

*"This is a resolution saying that we agree with The League of California Cities that obesity is unhealthy, contributes to diabetes, heart disease, cancer arthritis, stroke and other diseases, and we all should do what we can to encourage people to eat well and exercise."*

**However, this Resolution is NOT is not simply just a document saying you all agree with the League of Cities. If you look further, many proposed actions seek to infringe upon personal Liberty and freedom of choice. For instance:**

Under Part I -BUILT ENVIRONMENT, is a proposal to revise comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to increase opportunities for physical activity and access to health foods wherever and whenever possible, including **COMPACT, MIXED-USE and TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT**. Loomis is a RURAL community and its citizens have expressed time and time again their desire for it to remain so. This goes beyond just "agreeing with the *The League of California Cities that obesity is unhealthy, contributes to diabetes, heart disease, cancer arthritis, stroke and other diseases.*" Instead this proposal seeks to change the dynamics and the rural, small town environment of Loomis that many of us were drawn to in the first place.

Under Part III, Employee Wellness, you desire to "encourage" "Walking Meetings" and the use of stairways. This is all fine and dandy for people in good health with the ability to do so, but for people like myself with a chronic disease, this would be impossible on certain days. To note, my particular disease was not due to obesity, being overweight or eating unhealthy. I have always been health conscience and I exercise regularly. I developed this disease through no fault of my own. I am all for healthy eating and living and I teach my children the same. **However, this is my choice and not the Council of Loomis decision to force upon me. I am disappointed that our Council Members are spending time on something like this when there is record unemployment wherever we look and businesses as well as families are struggling just to keep their heads above water in the current economy.**

*Additionally*, Under Part III-HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS, is really an attempt to regulate (you call it encourage) businesses in the areas of disclosing the calorie amount and grams of fat, removing foods that contain trans fat from the menu and so on. You also want to map existing fast food outlets and draft an ordinance which will place limits on fast food around schools and in neighborhoods (under Part I). What happens to those fast food **BUSINESSES** that may already be too close, in the Council's opinion, to schools and neighborhoods? Many "good ideas" end up becoming regulations that hinder businesses and stymie growth. Instead of seeking to encourage (regulate) businesses and place even more burdens upon them, perhaps the Council would do better to seek a "Resolution" to **support** our local businesses instead.

You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink! You cannot force or encourage people (through the use of your elected positions) to eat healthy, exercise, and take care of themselves. This is America . Land of the FREE. This is about personal choice. This about LIFE, LIBERTY , and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, determined by the person seeking it, not the Loomis Town Council. Your ideas, despite being well intentioned are YOUR ideas. This "Resolution" was not brought to the Council by the citizens who elected you all. You were not elected to regulate our personal choices. The Mayor and Council Members of Loomis are entitled to live their lives as they see fit, and the citizens and business owners in Loomis deserve no less.

Sincerely,  
Raeanne Vowell  
Loomis, CA

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