

Keith Shillington, living on Leucadia Scenic Court, owning and operating a little cyber Café downtown.

I'm here tonight to stand and speak to the topic of fair business practice. Just as it is wrong for an elected official to take money or goods in exchange for consideration; it is wrong to treat similar businesses in the same zone with different rules.

Please do not construe anything I am saying here to mean that I at all believe that we should be restricting any business in town from operating as they are today; as long as they are abiding by the rules.

I am saying that the rules should be the same for all businesses. If one business on a city block is allowed to have a fenced-in outdoor seating area on the public sidewalk, all businesses on that city block should be allowed to have such a space.

To do otherwise is unfairly discriminatory.

I'm afraid, from examining this, that my vision for the future of Encinitas is not shared by you. My vision is of a vibrant, eclectic, tourist-friendly, popular destination. Much like the center villages of most towns in Europe, much like many of our sister cities along the historic US101 route.

We are blessed to have such a huge selection of restaurants in our town. DEMA's "Taste of Mainstreet" and "Art of Dessert" events are hugely popular. I believe that it is in our best interest as a city to encourage the attractive and vibrant atmosphere available in a community with a wide selection of sidewalk dining. And all sidewalks should be created equal.

By the way: It's my firm belief that as long as there is any sort of discrimination; it's a clear sign that our education system has failed.

Thank you.