

Good evening mayor, councilmembers. Ms. Gaspar, welcome to the fray!

I'm Keith Shillington, and nominally reside on Leucadia Scenic Court.

Here we are, the first city council meeting of the first year in the second decade of the 21st century. Time flies when you're busy burying family and friends.

Our great nation is still in crisis: families are losing the homes they raised their children in to a broken banking system taxed by our history of overextending credit. Either we're having the most exceptional weather ever; or global climate change is real enough for us to have a very wet tangible personal relationship with it. All the added security measures in public spaces fail to prevent death of innocents at the hands of individuals wielding the weapons guaranteed us by the second amendment.

We have technology so advanced as to allow any and all of us to be in instant and continuous communication at all times; and yet, we are fighting wars with conventional weapons over disputes that are not at all clear to the public.

But what can our municipality do about these global crises? A lot. Promote recycling. Encourage reuse. Promote wise-use practices in building codes: solar heating, solar electric, drought tolerant native landscaping designed to prevent runoff, insulation, grey water recycling, and so much more. Encourage and promote education in all forms, for all ages, in all topics.

Municipalities wield the power of the almighty dollar. Our city has choice over with whom we do business. It is the responsibility of this austere panel of judges to ensure that the businesses with which we engage share or exceed our environmental and humanitarian values. Businesses that contribute to our community must be given preference over corporations that will not.

Your oath of office mandates that you uphold the constitutions of the United States, and the state of California. Your promise to Encinitas mandates that you make decisions that best serve all people of all five communities. Spend our money prudently. Commit our city resources to projects that improve and ensure a high quality of life for future generations.

Many issues will come before you this year that will require you to think outside the box and beyond the here and now. I am here, now, to admonish you to exercise prudent civic judgement combined with future focused creativity.

I am myself a futurist. In this role I advise you of changes that are imminent and inevitable here in Encinitas.

- The use of fossil fuel for transportation will become an anachronism.
- Encinitas will become a hub for public mass transit.
- Mass transit corridors will by necessity be segregated from public access other than at stations.
- Cliffs will erode, and the coastline will travel eastward.
- We will see severe weather; wet and cold, and dry and hot.
- Fires will rage across parched lands promoting erosion and landslides in subsequent rains.

If you and I are lucky, this won't be in our lifetimes. If you and I are lucky, we'll win the lottery.

The job before you, my esteemed councilpersons, does not necessarily apply to our lifetimes. History shows decisions made 100 or more years ago are impacting us today; just as decisions made today will impact the community 100 or more years from now. If we are to be written into history, let's make it something our children's children will be proud of.

Thank you for listening.