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Ellen -- For 32 years I was the US Navy's civilian representative to the State of California. Often speaking for all the military services, I spoke simple truths and spoke them plainly. I spoke to powerful interests such as International Shipping's trade association, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Pay Day Lending industry. Plain and simple truths to protect the military mission so dependent on California's land, sea and air space.

It was the voice of the Admiral, I was often reminded, when I spoke this plain truth. That's where my expression "plain truth" comes from. Plain truth can challenge the "*status quo*" making all the more reason it needs to be spoken.

Camas is at a point where plain truths are needed.

The Council voted 6-0 to recognize the Camas Mill as central to Camas' future, and state those reasons in writing to Governor Inslee's Department of Ecology Director.

With full support from the Port, Camas is on its way embracing a future with great opportunity for every interest group, including our young families. From riverfront restoration to hotels, from hi-tech offices to thousands of housing units, it all comes together consistent with protection of our historic downtown. The mill property is the future Camas where affordable housing, and other sustainable development with the lowest carbon footprint, belongs.

This future depends on proper cleanup hence the City's bold action to Director Watson. As noted in your letter it is a future offering "opportunities for a wide variety of future uses." Apparently, though, not housing.

I offer a new Housing Strategy implementing this future.

It isn't new to staff and the consultant team. I suggested in both focus groups it was the most important action this plan should take. Discussed on the next page, it was brought up more than a year ago in the North Shore visioning process.

Speaking plain truth, this strategy must be included in any Housing Action Plan reflecting evolving Camas policy.

New Housing Action Plan Strategy

- Recognize decommissioned portions of the Camas Mill are desirable locations for housing consistent with affordability, high-density, and low-carbon goals. These shuttered facilities should be rezoned to mixed use and have remediation sufficient to support Camas' housing needs. The mill property and downtown should be the primary focus for maintaining affordable housing in Camas.

All that's needed now is a page of supporting text for explanation and context. If resources are an issue, there are any number of expert volunteers that could agree on a conceptual approach. I'll be the first Volunteer. It needn't cost money. We don't need a consultant to write it.

Just as I asked for decisive action to send a support letter to Director Watson, I ask you take decisive action directing staff to add this strategy, or something similar, before a public hearing is held.

Directing thousands of required housing units out of neighborhoods to downtown should be basic to the public discussion, and not something from an invisible voice on a Zoom call.

This was a message from the North Shore Sub-Area Plan “visioning” meeting February 4th, 2020. I heard it referred to at this past meeting.

The notes on the “winning” map, the map that refused to recognize the North Shore for intense development, said:

- #2 - Focus on Mill Property to address jobs & housing

What was #1?

- #1 - Reconsider the Councils decision to focus on N Shore

Despite not being included on the North Shore’s City’s web page, this map remains an expression of the people of Camas. They spoke some plain truth. It needs to be listened to. Staff needs to be told to do this.

Staff represents the community and not the other way around. Who’s driving this agenda? The community or consultants?

It should be a central question in considering an Interim Mayor and/or Interim City Administrator.

It starts with this Housing Action Plan.

I hope you agree it is finally time for recognizing what Camas residents identified when last we could meet in public.

They said it clearly. Let’s get started.

We can also start at next week’s virtual Town Hall.

Randal Friedman

