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From: tim wan <timwingwan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 8:57 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Comments on Capitola City Strategic Plan

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Honorable City Council Members:

Before a Council Member makes a motion to receive the draft Capitola City Strategic Plan at the February 4th Special Meeting, I'd like to suggest that a description on "How to Access Healthcare As a Capitola City Resident" be added by BerryDunn Consultants to the draft strategic plan. This additional information can perhaps be included in the section under the 5th priority on "Healthy Family, Community, and Environment"?

I understand after reading the Agenda Packet information that there will be additional opportunities for Capitola residents to provide specific input further down the road. However, I would like to voice my concerns at this juncture as a Capitola senior, who has experienced persistent difficulties in accessing timely healthcare as a Capitola resident.

While I understand that it is not the City's responsibility to provide healthcare to its residents, I hope that the City can consistently provide up-to-date information to our residents, especially to the large number of seniors who live in Capitola, on how to strategically access healthcare, both routine and emergency healthcare. Can the City's Strategic Plan address this issue, which seems to me could be the elephant in the room that no one wants to address?

For example, I can speak first-hand on how I access healthcare as a Kaiser healthcare insurance member living in Capitola, which ultimately involves driving over treacherous Highway 17 to Kaiser San Jose and Kaiser Santa Clara for healthcare. The local medical offices for Kaiser in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville are mostly for the very basic, 20-minute, PCP appointments. For anything that are more involved and need PCP referrals, such as CT Scans and MRI's, and surgery, a Capitola resident who has Kaiser healthcare insurance must drive over Highway 17 to Kaiser San Jose and Kaiser Santa Clara. For emergency care, Kaiser members can go to Dominican Hospital and Watsonville Hospital and be transferred by ambulance over Highway 17 to Kaiser San Jose after they are stabilized by the ER at Dominican Hospital or Watsonville Hospital.

What happens when a Capitola resident has PAMF or UCSF for healthcare insurance? What happens when a Capitola resident has healthcare access through Medicaid? What happens when a Capitola resident has no healthcare insurance?

Can Capitola City Council Members share their experiences and insights and help their constituents and residents in how to strategically access healthcare as a Capitola resident? Is the Mayor of Capitola in the loop with Kaiser, PAMF, and UCSF healthcare insurance providers to advocate for better healthcare access for Capitola residents, especially for Capitola seniors? Can this issue be included as part of the Capitola strategic plan?

I hope the Capitola City Council, especially CM Orbach, who is an experienced healthcare professional, can help all residents of Capitola on this issue through the strategic plan process to enhance the City's 5th plan priority on healthy individuals, family, community and environment.

Many thanks to all of you for your time and efforts, for your dedication to make Capitola residents' lives better, and for your public service to our community.

Sincerely,
T. W. Wan
Capitola