

Pacifica Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum

Question #4:

How would you get more businesses to come to Pacifica?
And, What would you do to keep businesses here?

Sue Beckmeyer:

I would propose reducing the fees and removing disincentives like long lead times in the Planning Dept. so that business owners will feel confident about investing in our city. I support the idea of creating a specific plan for each of the retail sections of town so that investors know what the vision and goals are for retail sectors.

Mary Bier:

Supporting the work of the Economic Development Committee moving forward will be key to bringing in more businesses. We must also support existing businesses to ensure they are compliant and successful. With the addition of cannabis retail establishments in Pacifica it will be very important to ensure that each of the six licensees are successful in order to begin to bring revenue to the city. Currently there is no way of predicting exactly how much revenue this will produce. My work with the Pacifica Prevention Partnership includes research and implementation of strategies to work with cannabis merchants to assure that they are participating in prevention work, compliant with regulations and local laws and can maintain a thriving, healthy business. Washington and Colorado have had success in this aspect of economic development.

Bridget Duffy:

Before looking at attracting more business, we need to make sure the businesses we do have are thriving. Amazon and the rent prices are causing businesses in Pacifica to close, many which have been here for decades

Vickie Flores:

1. There are several businesses in SF who are paying a very high price for rent. I would advertise in SF and Silicon Valley to bring some of those businesses to Pacifica. Our rent and location are perfect.
2. I would make sure that doing business in Pacifica is relatively inexpensive. Reviewing and adjusting fees is one way to accomplish that. The businesses in Pacifica need foot traffic. If we have tour buses come to Pacifica from 12-4 pm and drop off 40-50 on Palmetto, Rockaway, Linda Mar and Pedro Point. This could really help the business and they would want to stay with this guaranteed foot traffic in their location. I would move the farmers market to different locations in Pacifica each week to spread out this foot traffic opportunity as well.

John Keener:

No one can force businesses to locate where they don't want to, or to stay when they don't want to. The types of businesses in Pacifica are mostly ones that sell to locals when they return home from working at jobs elsewhere. Only a few hotels cater to tourists. We could use more hotels; it appears the market is far from saturated.

Mike O'Neill:

There is very little that the City can do from a financial point of view to attract businesses to Pacifica. We can offer some incentives such as a specific plan so that the planning and permitting process is easier. I think that the Economic Development Committee of the City deserves a shout out and support in their efforts for marketing, education on how to run a business and referrals to existing businesses to move forward and be sustainable.

Adonica Shaw-Porter:

I believe we need to revamp our chamber of commerce so business owners have a viable resource to help them start a business here. We need to reduce the red tape and restrictions for business owners (big and small) and have real timelines in place when we issue permits. We need to do more to promote the businesses that are here - things like getting signage are a hassle for businesses and it has caused many business owners to leave or reconsider their location because the process is long and expensive.