



"Unity First" and Other Discussion Guidelines

Most people understand Chico First's policy enforcing politeness and civility. However, what has made some members curious, and others furious, is Chico First's policy discouraging: 1) debates/proposals outside our scope (e.g., see #2 in "Final Notes"), 2) broad ideological debates, 3) partisan polemics, and 4) wholesale blaming/defense of particular state/federal political figures.

Chico First's first principle is "Unity." We can't solve local problems together if we snipe at each other. Our core administrative team itself is diverse. We respect each other enough to consistently seek common ground regarding all things Chico First, even when it takes extra patience and effort. We would like for this to be the norm for Chico First. We ask members to focus on **specific* policy and its local effects.*

Our second principle is "Action." We seek workable ways to increase public safety and reduce quality-of-life crimes. We promote meaningful local responses that can be enacted instantly, and policy change that can be effected within weeks or months. If our focus becomes too broad, or if we fixate on parties/politicians, we lose sight of practical action. We bog down if we debate the virtue or vileness of this or that "ism." We need all hands on deck for the problems right in front of us.

Our third principle is "Vigilance" (meaning watchfulness and persistence). This requires talking with our neighbors, collaborating with different groups and offering our strengths and resources on behalf of the safety, cleanliness and beauty of all Chico. It also means being vocal with regard to policy that affects us locally. We will neither give up on our local, state and federal representatives if they do not share our politics, nor will we let them off the hook if they do. They will hear our shared safety concerns.

Expect Chico First's administrators to enforce our online policy regarding insults, name calling, partisan posturing, broad ideological debates, etc. It is a big internet, and there are plenty of places online to venture down those rabbit holes. Chico First aims to provide a different experience and dynamic to foster effective Unity, Action and Vigilance--together.

Two Final Notes:

1. Chico First **will** ask local politicians and candidates about their positions and plans to help keep Chico Clean, Safe and Beautiful. We will post their responses on our page, with our input. We will stay focused on policy, and urge Chico First members to vote their conscience.
2. We refer discussion about **solving** poverty/homelessness/medical/mental health/addiction crises to sites run by groups/organizations whose primary mission is addressing these complex problems. We defer to their expertise. Yes, poverty/homelessness/mental illness/addiction can be correlated with some quality-of-life crimes, but many poor/homeless/mentally ill/addicted never offend, and take pains to leave a light footprint. Chico First's primary mission is focused on illegal conduct, not condition or status.