

From: [City Council](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Cc: [Oriana Hart](#); [Erik Billing](#); [Torran Korman](#); [Elissa Overton](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda item #6 - Newstand ordinance - yes
Date: Tuesday, August 04, 2026 5:45:34 PM

Please see public comment as it relates to an agenda item that will be on a city council meeting.

BCC: Email BCC to City Council, City Attorney

City staff that received this email are listed in the CC distribution line as noted above.

City Staff: Please Post to City Website

Thank you

Mary Gourley

City Manager

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 2:38 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Agenda item #6 - Newstand ordinance - yes

As the former publisher of the *Sonoma County Gazette* (sold in Dec. 2019 to Sonoma Media Inc.) I wholeheartedly support Sebastopol establishing a newspaper rack ordinance. My policy was to keep our racks clean and maintained at all times. That changed when Sonoma Media took over the racks, which have continued to deteriorate since then. Now that the Gazette print edition is no more, the racks have been abandoned on the streets.

Because Sonoma Media never purchased my racks as part of the Gazette purchase, I have removed many and donated them to a non-profit that distributes Narcan. They have as many racks as they need. I am willing to remove more and donate them to Little Free Libraries, or any other good purpose.

Many cities have enacted ordinances requiring maintenance and consistent aesthetics. That not only supports a city and its public works department, but also encourages readers to pick up free publications that are well displayed.

Let me know if and where racks need to be removed and if you can recommend any organizations or neighborhoods that want some. My contact information is in my signature.

Thank you,

Vesta Copestakes