

Hello, this is Tom Cookman with a Community Comment

The last time I checked, the District Attorney's office was the leading law enforcement agency in the county. They are the government organization that we put our final trust in when it comes to the safety of our community. They receive the evidence from the various police agencies and determine whether to file charges against an individual or not. The District Attorney's office and the police departments need to have good working relationships to see that justice is served. With that said, why would the DA's office communicate with the nuisance law breakers who have stationed themselves in front of the Courthouse? These Occupy Protestors have every right to assemble and rant and rave about their cause but, they don't have the right to vandalize government property. In last Friday's Times Standard newspaper, the front page showed a picture of the graffiti written on the sidewalk in front of the Courthouse by these individuals. The letters "c" and "k" can clearly be seen in the picture, followed by the words "THE SHERIFF". It doesn't take much imagination to figure out what the two letters are in front of the "c" and "k". We have criminals vandalizing the most vulgar language directed at our police officers on the front steps of our Courthouse and a District Attorney who refuses to prosecute. The newspaper article stated that "Humboldt County Sheriff Mike Downey said he encountered a situation Wednesday where he told an occupier to take down a sign and they refused, stating they didn't have to. They told the Sheriff the DA told them this". Why would the District Attorney's office communicate with these petty criminals and tell them that they wouldn't be charged with any crime? Has the District

Attorney's office communicated with other criminals that they shouldn't fear prosecution? Is this why almost every major crime statistic in Humboldt County is on the rise, while they are declining in the rest of the state? The recent major marijuana busts have made front page news. I hope the Times Standard and other local news agencies follow these major busts through the court system and report on the actual punishment the criminals receive. Getting arrested is one thing, being prosecuted, found guilty and sentenced to prison is another. The criminals who are camped in front of our Courthouse are a public nuisance. I have talked with people who have to go in and out of the Courthouse on a regular basis and some of the women have expressed to me that they are very nervous walking by these protestors. The last time I walked by them, a very ragged looking individual was yelling profanity at a guy who disagreed with him. There was a young mother with her daughter who were subjected to this profanity. The District Attorney's office is not only creating an atmosphere that is unsafe for mothers and their children, but they are also agreeing with the profanity written on the sidewalk, because they are basically saying "blank the sheriff" too. Humboldt County has steadily declined in the last decade. We have told the rest of the world that it is easy to get free food, housing and money from our County. We have also stated that it is easy to get away with crime as well. We need to reverse this trend. Too many young families are moving away. The proof of this is in our declining school enrollment. If you want Humboldt County to wither up and blow away, keep supporting our pro criminal politicians.

This has been Tom Cookman with a Community Comment