

Build in, build healthy

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<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/04/12/3872793/build-in-build-healthy.html>

I would like to say I'm surprised and shocked by the results of a study that were shared in an April 9 commentary in The Bee, but I'm not.

Fresno County is No. 54 in health factors (things that influence a county's health). Fifty seven counties were measured. Ouch.

So, why am I not surprised? Because Fresno's elected leaders apparently have no idea how to create a healthy community. While we should provide health care for all, a healthy community is so much more than a health care plan. It's about neighborhoods that are "complete" with grocery stores, safe parks and clean air -- not liquor stores, blighted areas and rendering plants.

It's about focusing on improving the neighborhoods we have, rather than creating brand new "cities" that simply contribute to out-of-control sprawl. Before we build out, let's build in. We already have neighborhoods, but they need help and support.

No, I'm not surprised, but I am outraged. All Fresnoans should be. Out-of-control growth doesn't just hurt downtown, it erodes property values across the city. Yes, let's work on public health, and let's all remember what public health really means.

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