

# Hanford Tea Party balks at CUTTING regulation

Small Gov

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In case you missed the headlines, Hanford is in the middle of an economic expansion.

More recently, the city began eliminating onerous planning regulations that restrained Hanford's full economic potential. Despite the fact that the city is rolling back these regulations, an unlikely groups is throwing a tantrum: The Tea Party.

Yes, that lovable group of colonial hat-wearing, Gadsen-flag waving baby boomers is complaining wildly about the Hanford City Council's decision to roll back city planning regulations. The local Tea Party is focused on protecting decade-old planning regulations restrictrioting which businesses can only operate in downtown Hanford.

Freshman Council Member Justin Mendes has caught a tremendous amount of flak from the Tea Party for deciding to rip up the regulation and allow hotels, medical facilities and movie theaters to operate outside of downtown. We repeat: the local Tea Party is opposing reducing this regulation.

Just to give you an idea of how insane some of these regulations are, here's a list of what was banned prior to this recent push:

1. Banks and ATMs are not allowed to operate outside of downtown Hanford
2. Optometrists are only allowed to operate in downtown Hanford
3. Movie theaters may only operate in downtown (one theater existed outside downtown prior to the regulation's approval, but cannot be upgraded because of the regulation)
4. Full Service Hotels can only operate in downtown Hanford. Any other lodging facility outside downtown must be a motel and cannot provide conference rooms, restaurants or coffee pots.

Let's stop here and consider the absurdity. The City of Hanford banned motels from keeping coffee pots because they posed some form of unfair competition to full-service hotels in downtown.

In the words of *Seinfeld*: SERENITY NOW!

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