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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crump's dangerous idea

Editor: Mayor Crump has made an issue of whether Sebastopol Tomorrow is a real organization deserving of participation in appointed city boards and commissions. This was an agenda item at the City Council meeting of April 1.

I'm disappointed that Mayor Crump, supported by Councilman Foley, used terms like "not legitimate," "not credible," "not accountable," "nothing" and "amorphous" to define Sebastopol Tomorrow as the reasons for limiting participation. This has a chilling effect on the desire to volunteer in the community. Will the mayor demand background checks to make sure one is legitimate? Although one definition of legitimate is "to give legal status or authorization," the next definition is "to show or affirm to be justified." (Webster). Justify is defined as "to show to be just, right or reasonable" (Webster).

I'm proud to say that I am one of the founders of Sebastopol Tomorrow and that what we do and say is both legitimate and justified. We have a history of reasonable participation in the affairs of the city and as such have voluntarily and effectively represented the interests of a large part of the community.

Mayor Crump may not like what we stand for but his position is not defensible. Instead of division, we really do need to work together in spite of our difference of opinion and ideological bent. We do have common self interests. We all want a good place to live, a healthy environment, and a reasonable income.

This is a controversy neither wanted or needed. Thanks to Councilmembers Austin, Roventini and Magnie for turning this bad and dangerous idea down.

Richard Nichols, Sebastopol