

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Meeting Date: April 10, 2018

Open Forum Commentary

By Terry Kayes, District 3

Towards Effective Government: A Matter of Mindfulness

What follows is a commentary which I have committed to print. Its printing is to keep me on focus and to give you some words to reflect on later – if you will. Also included is a chart or a flow diagram for you to think about when you find yourself puzzling over what it is that effective government is ultimately supposed to do – especially in relation to decision making.

This past January 2018, the Board, at the request of Supervisor Veerkamp, issued a proclamation that welcomed a touring group of Tibetan Buddhist monks to El Dorado County. I propose that by taking that action, the Board opened the door to my making what I hope to be a series of commentaries on why the idea of "Mindfulness," which came to the West from Buddhism, applied to government, ought to make it more effective.

For those who grew up with the idea that effective government has something to do with clear thinking and sound judgement, followed by effective decision making and action, I suspect that the ongoing chaotic direction of the world, our society, and our ways of governance must be deeply troubling, if not downright terrifying. I use the word "terrifying," here, quite deliberately, because it seems to me that an alarmingly large proportion of our population appears to be wishing for some kind of general crack up and terror, as if it were an "End of Days" movie.

What these seeming advocates of the breakup of society and government apparently don't realize is that if what they claim

Towards Effective Decision Making

