

Episode 17: The Great Windchime Debate

Welcome to Gilded Garbage Can, a podcast dedicated to defogging the image that is San Francisco.

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Happy Memorial Day everyone! This holiday, which commemorates fallen servicemembers, has an added dimension in 2020, as we witnessed throngs of people who flaunted their complete disregard for decency by overtaking parks and other public areas without masks, without social distancing and without any consideration for their community. While these shenanigans occurred throughout the country, the better-than-you crowd in San Francisco, clearly dying of boredom, turned out like the little social lemmings they are. Of course, we know what happens when lemmings gather. I suspect shelter in place has been particularly difficult for these folks...no overpriced baked goods to buy, no \$30 avocado toast to eat, no artisan cocktails that take 25 minutes to make. Boo-effing-who.... Can you say vapid narcissist?

In other shelter-in-place news, have you seen or used this app called Nextdoor? I find it fascinating. It's another of those "the-anonymity-of-cyberspace-gives-me-free-license-to-say-whatever-I-want" things. I highly recommend it for those of you who want to get a glimpse into who the people who live here really are. It's equal parts hilarious, sad, infuriating and ridiculous.

Case in point: A neighbor of mine, whose name I will not read, though it is visible in the app, recently posted the following, entitled "Please take down your wine chimes (or info wanted)." The neighbor writes:

"Balboa/9th/8th Aves:

"At least one set and possibly two of chimes went back up, and we're at a loss. In this time of mandatory working from home and self-quarantining, when we might want our windows open for health and comfort, we're suddenly unable to without hearing the constant sound of the chimes. It's just a selfish and inconsiderate thing, when we live so close to one another."

So, we have the royal "we" thing happening – that's always a giveaway. Here's where it gets good:

The person goes on to write, "If the chimes are yours, PLEASE take them down. Again, we (royal we) would be happy to buy you a decoration or plant to replace them."

So, you get who this person is, right? This is the type of person who typifies San Francisco. This NIMBY is the person who calls to get a car towed for intruding 1 centimeter into the driveway.

This person goes to great lengths to prove they are for everyone but has never done a compassionate thing for anyone outside their circle. And the condescension of offering to buy a decoration or plant is just so...so...I don't even know...typical!

The post closes with, "If you know who has them, I would be very grateful if you'd DM me (Wait, not us? No more royal we?) so I can speak directly (without implicating you in any way) to the appropriate person. Thank you."

The comments that follow the original post are a riot. People point out that perhaps they are a cultural thing, which usually works to shut people down in SF because face it, they don't want to be called insensitive...it chips away at their façade. But this neighbor...oh no, there is no concern there, as we are schooled on how unfair it is to hang wind chimes in a densely populated neighborhood. Densely populated? San Francisco?

I...I...can't keep talking about this. Royal we, better-than-you, buy you a plant...all wrapped up into one person. That's San Francisco...I bet they love Muni and roundabouts too...

What do you think about wind chimes? Stupid neighbors? Anything? Go to GildedGarbageCan.com and leave me a comment. Also be sure to check out [GildedGarbageCan](#), all one word, on Instagram.

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