

Taber, Toni

From: City Clerk
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:59 PM
To: Agendadesk
Subject: Fw: Charter Review Commission appointments (Dec. 8 agenda item 2.8)

From: Terry Christensen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:06 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10
Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Charter Review Commission appointments (Dec. 8 agenda item 2.8)

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Members of the City Council,

I write to share my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Elly Matsumura, District 3 resident, to the Charter Review Commission. I've known Elly for around 15 years, beginning with her work at Working Partnerships USA. We teamed up to present the Labor/Community Leadership program for roughly a decade. We worked together to develop the curriculum. While I was primarily responsible for content, Elly did all the organizing, recruiting participants (including several future council members) and trainers and dealing with the logistics of weekly sessions, including juggling the schedules of two dozen busy people. More than that, Elly was really a co-instructor/trainer for every session. The goal of the program was to engage grassroots residents in local politics by educating them on the structure and history of local government and on current policies, procedures and politics. Elly was, in effect, training herself for the role she has now applied for.

Beyond the deep experience that prepares her for this role, Elly has lived in downtown San Jose since 2005 and is now raising a family here. She's a queer, Jewish mother of color with she has a deep personal understanding of and stake in issues of representation, diversity, and inclusion at City Hall.

Elly will be a tremendous asset to the Commission and its effectiveness. I urge you to appoint her.

Sincerely,
Terry Christensen
Terry Christensen
Professor Emeritus, SJSU

and
Host and Executive Producer of CreaTV's Valley Politics

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Taber, Toni

From: City Clerk
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Agendadesk
Subject: Fw: 12/8/20 - Agenda Item 2.8 re Charter Review Commission appointments

From: Michele Lew <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:35 AM
To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <[REDACTED]> District1
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> District4
<[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> District7
<[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> District 10
Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 12/8/20 - Agenda Item 2.8 re Charter Review Commission appointments

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Members of the City Council:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Elly Matsumura, District 3 resident, to the Charter Review Commission.

Having known Elly for more than 15 years, I recommend Elly for appointment because of her intellect, integrity, and commitment to serving the community. Elly has focused her career on building the power and engagement of workers and residents to shape public policy. She has demonstrated that she understands how to make San Jose's systems more accountable and accessible, and she seeks to empower others to advocate for good government.

Elly has lived in downtown San Jose since 2005. Her experiences as a queer, Jewish mother of color inform her deep understanding of the importance of representation, diversity, and inclusion in the City of San Jose.

Elly would be an excellent member of the Charter Review Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Lew

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Taber, Toni

From: Taber, Toni
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Agendadesk
Subject: FW: Charter Review Commission

From: City Clerk
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Taber, Toni <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: Charter Review Commission

From: Richard Konda <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 8:09 AM
To: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]>
Cc: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Charter Review Commission

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo: I understand that Elly Matsumura has been nominated by Council member Peralez to the San Jose Charter Review Commission. As a resident of District Three, I strong support Elly and hope that you will support her appointment to the commission.

Elly is uniquely qualified to serve on the Charter Review Commission. For over 15 years, she has worked to engage members of the community in the democratic process. In that work she has been sensitized to the barriers to participation in the democratic that different segments encounter. In her 15 years of working in the community Elly has developed relationships with a variety of organizations and individuals in San Jose.

Most recently, Elly developed programs to achieve community engagement in public and democratic processes; among other work, she served as the consultant to the County of Santa Clara spearheading the launch of its 2020 Census program, including the design and implementation of its Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program and the crafting of its 2020 Census strategic plan.

Please support her appointment to the commission.

Sincerely,
Richard Konda
Executive Director
Asian Law Alliance
[REDACTED]

San Jose, CA 95126
[REDACTED]

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Blair Beekman. ___sj council. Dec 15.2020. Item 2.24.

b. beekman [REDACTED]

Tue 12/15/2020 11:35 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear community of San Jose, and city govt.,

Thank you, very much, for item 2.24, and the charter selection process.

Councilperson Esparza, seems to have, a really good understanding, of how this process, can work towards, both, a strong mayor, and a strong city council/community representation process.

And what has been, a good tradition, about every 30 years, in San Jose - that can look for, and see, the good ideas, of a strong city council process.

Sincerely,
Blair Beekman

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12/14/2020

The Honorable Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers
City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Item 2.24-Charter Review Commission appointments

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

As groups of leaders representing communities of color and working families across San Jose, we write urging the City Council to defer the proposed appointments to the Charter Review Commission until serious discrepancies can be addressed and the final appointments better reflect a fair, ethical and equitable process. Furthermore, we urge Councilmember Lan Diep to recuse himself from this vote, for the obvious conflicts of interest and potential violations of City and State policy around his appointment.

Additionally, we remain concerned that the Mayor, in making his final choices to the Commission did not take into account Council direction on the diversity of underrepresented groups of residents and relevant stakeholders to the Commission. This, despite of the fact that the Mayor was informed last that the disparity of African/African Ancestry citizens on this commission was an issue. Judging by his selection, he ignored or simply did not take this fact into consideration.

It is imperative that as a Council you ensure the governance of the City of San Jose reflects the values and voices of our community and that processes to reform our governance reflect the highest values of ethics and good government. With this in mind, we write to raise significant objections around the following issues with appointments by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Diep:

- Mayor Liccardo's last minute decision to appoint Councilmember Lan Diep, and Councilmember Diep's decision to present an application for the position on that same day, Friday December 11th, raises significant questions about whether in doing so the Mayor and Councilmember may have violated the Brown Act's serial meeting prohibition and the City of San Jose's Sunshine policies. The question of whether the Brown Act or the City of San Jose's policy was violated in the run up to this appointment should be investigated by the City Attorney.
- According to Resolution No. 79722, "The composition of the Commission is to represent a cross-section of backgrounds and professions, including, but not limited to: labor/union, business and development, academia, legal, and government." But the current makeup of the Commission does not include any representatives of a labor union. Additionally, civil rights organizations have expressed concerns that the current makeup of the Commission includes only one representative of African/African Ancestry citizens, under representing an important community

in our City. The Council should move to rectify both of these shortcomings before approving the final appointments to the Commission.

- All of Mayor Liccardo's appointments and Councilmember Diep's appointments to the Charter Review Commission appear to be selections who presented their applications after the City's announced November 22nd deadline for citywide selections, per the December 11th memo from the Clerk, and November 8th deadline for District 4, per the [City Clerk's website](#). Allowing the Mayor and Councilmember Diep to make such appointments despite failing to meet the publicly announced deadline for any of their appointments raises questions on the fairness of the process.
- Additionally, the appointment of an out-going Councilmember, and allowing that same out-going Councilmember to make such appointments to a Commission with such important implications, raises questions about the potential for conflicts of interests and improprieties when the newly elected Councilmember for District 4 will be taking office in just two weeks' time. In September a group of community, civil rights and labor organizations asked the Council to delay the appointments to the Commission for these reasons. To see these appointments after the deadline by an out-going Councilmember who himself may get to vote on his own appointment despite the obvious conflicts raises several flags about whether such decisions are reflecting good governance and the best interest of the people of San Jose. For this reason, Councilmember Lan Diep should be asked to recuse himself from this vote.

Given these serious issues with the appointments by Councilmember Diep and Mayor Liccardo we encourage the Council to defer the vote on this item until these discrepancies and potential legal violations can be addressed, and for Councilmember Diep to do the right thing and recuse himself from this vote.

Sincerely,

Jean Cohen, Interim Executive Officer, South Bay Labor Council
Walter Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Minority Business Consortium
Richard Konda, Executive Director, Asian Law Alliance
Maria Noel Fernandez, Campaign Director, Silicon Valley Rising
Derecka Mehrens, Executive Director, Working Partnerships USA
Poncho Gueverra, Executive Director, Sacred Heart Community Services
Salvador Bustamante, Executive Director, Latinos United for a New America
Sandy Perry, Executive Director, Affordable Housing Network of Santa Clara County