

From: martha O'Connell [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:10 PM
To: martha O'Connell < [REDACTED] > Taber, Toni < [REDACTED] >
The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo < [REDACTED] > Jones, Chappie
< [REDACTED] > Jimenez, Sergio < [REDACTED] > Peralez, Raul
< [REDACTED] > Diep, Lan < [REDACTED] > Carrasco, Magdalena
< [REDACTED] > Davis, Dev < [REDACTED] > Esparza, Maya
< [REDACTED] > Arenas, Sylvia < [REDACTED] > Foley, Pam
< [REDACTED] > Khamis, Johnny < [REDACTED] >
Subject: Huy Tran for Planning Commission



[External Email]

It is with great pleasure that I strongly recommend Huy Tran to a position on the Planning Commission. I served with Huy on the Housing and Community Development (HCDC) and in nutshell –

Huy is fair and open minded. He will not come to the Planning Commission with an agenda.

Huy has an excellent mind. He asks penetrating questions and does his research before coming to any conclusion on how he is going to vote.

Huy is a consensus builder. He demonstrated a collegial attitude while on the HCDC and treated his fellow Commissioners with respect and dignity regardless of their individual positions on Housing issues.

The City needs a fair, intelligent and committed citizen on the Planning Commission. Huy more than fulfills those requirements.

From: [Esparza, Maya](#)
To: [Taber, Toni](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Planning Commissioner Peter Allen
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 8:42:50 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

We all got this email

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Christian Hemingway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:15:02 AM
To: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
<[REDACTED]> Carrasco, Magdalena
<[REDACTED]> Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]> Peralez,
Raul <[REDACTED]> Foley, Pam <[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie
<[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya
<[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]> Khamis, Johnny
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Devalcourt, Joel <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> Chapman, Helen <[REDACTED]> Mohsen,
Raania <[REDACTED]> Tran, David <[REDACTED]> Gantner, Zoe
<[REDACTED]> Herbert, Frances <[REDACTED]> Groen, Mary
Anne <[REDACTED]> Quintero, Andres <[REDACTED]> Lam,
Victoria <[REDACTED]> Hughes, Scott <[REDACTED]> Kathleen
Flynn <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Kathy Merlino <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Bay City News Service
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Planning Commissioner Peter Allen

[External Email]

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing you to respectfully request that you do not reappoint Planning Commissioner Peter Allen. Commissioner Allen has shown that he was not neutral when it came time for this project at the Planning Commission on 6/24/2020, the Andoil Car Wash (CPA16- 035-01) or the first time it came before the Planning Commission for a vote.

The exchange on the left took place after the City Council denied the Car Wash a Permit in 2019. You can read the conversation between Kathleen Flynn and Peter Allen. Kathleen is trying to talk to Commissioner Allen about how many of the City's policies are old and outdated, like the one regarding Drive-Thru policies for Car Washes. We have known Mr. Allen from our work in the community. Commissioner Allen was upset that the City Council denied the Car Wash a permit. You can see his comment about halfway down in bold where he badmouths a sitting Council Member by insinuating that he only changed his mind and voted against the Car Wash because he was running for higher office and wanted Kathleen's endorsement. It should be noted that Commissioner Allen had previously ran for City Council in 2016, and School Board in 2018, and had asked Kathleen Flynn and I to endorse him in both races, but we told him we had already committed to endorse someone else. He was very angry and hurt when we denied his request. We did ask him to recuse himself from this vote, but he refused.

On the right is his post (dated 6/23/2020) he made before the Planning Commission vote on this project. It is pretty clear that he was letting us all know that he, once again, was going to vote against us. When we came before the Planning Commission 6/24/2020, he was angry because Kathleen filed a complaint against him with the City Attorney's office to get him recused from this vote. The City Attorney said that he could say or do what he wanted as long as he did not break any state or local laws. Mr. Allen seemed to take that as a free pass to go back on Facebook and make this comment, on the right rather than having the integrity to recuse himself from a vote where he clearly had a personal bias and conflict of interest.

The public has a right to expect that a Commissioner will be fair, neutral, and listen objectively to community input before deciding how they will vote. The public should not have to go into a meeting knowing that a Commissioner is going to vote against them simply because they do not like them. Children's lives are at stake here, and we take that very seriously, unlike Commissioner Allen.

In any other job, if actions like those above were taken, that employee would be disciplined and fired. We are asking that Commissioner Allen not be reappointed, so that the Community can have confidence that the Planning Commission votes are truly fair and neutral.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you,

Christian Hemingway

This exchange took place after the City Council denied the permit for the Car Wash:

[Kathleen Flynn](#) The Planning Commission needs to look at how certain projects near schools, and residential areas are impacted by traffic, instead of looking at the community as NIMBY's when

they oppose projects. We don't have the resources to allow for traffic enforcement. These new requirements aren't taking that into account. This photo depicts what the traffic looks like on Woodard Road by a gas station and a school. The owner wanted to put a 5 car stackable automated car wash right near that exit, where 400 kids and their parents walk/bike/drive by. The Planning Commission okayed this project. The Council voted the car wash down. You have to remember that developers and the City Google Map these sites. They don't do visual onsite inspections, and developers pay for these traffic reports, so don't keep following Planning's recommendations. Do some research on your own, and please start listening to the community. They live there and know what they are talking about. [Manage](#)

[Peter Allen Kathleen](#): You won, and Planning Commission doesn't set policy. Talk to council or staff. Also, please remember that I do my own research and actually read my meeting packets. Thanks!



[Peter Allen](#) And with all due respect, [Kathleen](#), you of all people should understand the planning process as someone who's worked with City Hall for years — not to mention someone who lives with a former council staffer and candidate! **Just because you can convince a councilmember running for higher office to overturn a PC decision doesn't give you the right to attack volunteer commissioners for doing their appointed duty.**

[Kathleen Flynn Peter Allen](#) You are making a lot of false

accusations here, and are taking my honest criticisms of the process personally, rather than listening to my concerns. You posted this and asked for input, and I gave you my honest opinion on it. I expressed my concerns about the topic, and my experience with the recent situation. I was not attacking you or the Commission, I was sincerely asking ALL of you, not just you, to look past what you are being told by city staff. I don't think that was an attack. Secondly, you are very wrong when you say that I have ever worked with Planning on anything, Until this project, I NEVER had any idea of how this process works, or what it involved, so don't make claims that aren't true. This was my first and only experience dealing with a project of any kind. Thirdly, I don't live with Christian. Next, Council Member Rocha AND the Council read and reviewed NUMEROUS reports from expert engineers in sound and traffic who helped write the General Plan, saw video, photos, and took testimony from the public who opposed this car wash. Almost 400 people in our neighborhood opposed this car wash because it was a matter of public safety. The Planning Department reversed its own position on it once they received the additional evidence we were allowed to submit to the Mayor and Council. The truth is this [Peter Allen](#), a citizen with no financial vested interest should NOT have to pay a \$500.00 Appeals Fee, and spend tens of thousands of dollars to fight a project that puts the lives of 400 children and their neighborhood in jeopardy. Further, NONE of the 30 people who attended the community meeting held for the Conditional Use Permit received the Re-Zone Notice that the City said it sent out in 2013. NO community meting





This was posted on Facebook a day before the Planning Commission meeting on the Car Wash:

[Peter Allen June 23 at 3:45 PM](#) ·

What could be my final meeting as a member of the San José Planning Commission is going down TOMORROW starting at 6:30pm. It's been a thrilling experience and an honor to represent our entire city alongside passionate colleagues and dedicated staff!

Please join us and make your voice heard...

AGENDA: sanjoseca.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=59826
...[See More](#)

BASCOM ANDOIL REPLACEMENT CUP AND CAR WASH ADDITION AMENDMENT			
LARGE SCALE MAP	TRACT MAP	PROJECT PROPOSED USE	
		<p>THE PROJECT PROPOSED USE IS A CAR WASH AND A REPLACEMENT CUP. THE PROJECT PROPOSED USE IS A CAR WASH AND A REPLACEMENT CUP. THE PROJECT PROPOSED USE IS A CAR WASH AND A REPLACEMENT CUP.</p>	
VICINITY MAP	LOCATION MAP	PROJECT DATA	
		<p>PROJECT DATA</p> <p>PROJECT NAME: BASCOM ANDOIL REPLACEMENT CUP AND CAR WASH ADDITION AMENDMENT</p> <p>PROJECT LOCATION: 1000 N. 1ST ST, SAN JOSE, CA 95131</p> <p>PROJECT AREA: 0.15 ACRES</p> <p>PROJECT TYPE: CAR WASH AND REPLACEMENT CUP</p> <p>PROJECT OWNER: BASCOM ANDOIL REPLACEMENT CUP AND CAR WASH ADDITION AMENDMENT</p> <p>PROJECT CONTACT: [REDACTED]</p>	
PERMITS REQUIRED		PERMITS REQUIRED	
<p>PERMITS REQUIRED</p> <p>PERMIT TYPE: CAR WASH AND REPLACEMENT CUP</p> <p>PERMIT FEE: \$500.00</p> <p>PERMIT DURATION: 12 MONTHS</p> <p>PERMIT STATUS: PENDING</p>		<p>PERMITS REQUIRED</p> <p>PERMIT TYPE: CAR WASH AND REPLACEMENT CUP</p> <p>PERMIT FEE: \$500.00</p> <p>PERMIT DURATION: 12 MONTHS</p> <p>PERMIT STATUS: PENDING</p>	
REMARKS			
<p>REMARKS</p> <p>REMARKS</p> <p>REMARKS</p> <p>REMARKS</p> <p>REMARKS</p>			
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was ever held for the Re-Zone either. Why wasn't it? When we went to the Planning Commission, none of us were prepared properly by the City to present our case. A lot of things happened to all of us that you know nothing about, so that is why I asked to speak with you months ago. A request you refused by the way. The bottom line is that the policies and codes that are being used for these projects are old and outdated. They need to be changed. As a Commissioner, I would hope that that would concern you enough to ask that they be updated, that is of course if you are allowed to. As to being a volunteer, I have spent at least 40 years of my life fighting for the well being of others, as a VOLUNTEER, so I know all the hard work that goes into serving on Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces. And what I know is this, change for the better can only happen IF we are willing to put principles before personalities, and strive towards a better way to improve processes, laws, and codes that aren't working.

[Kathleen Flynn Peter Allen](#) I understand that the Planning Commission doesn't set policy, and YES, that is why I talked extensively with staff, my Council Member, and other Council Member's staff who are very well versed in codes and policy. I do have an expertise in Code Enforcement, but NO, I am not an expert in traffic, or noise, or Planning. The Planning packet that you received was incomplete and documents were missing from it. THAT is something that deeply disturbed all of us, so we did file a complaint about that. As to whether or not you read your packets, I do believe that you do, but if your packet is incomplete,

then you can only go on what you have. After almost a year of working on this project Peter, I can tell you that the process is severely flawed and needs to be reviewed.

After this thread, Peter stopped responding. This is why I'm going to ask that he recuse himself from any vote, should Andary's plans make it to the Planning Commission.

Christian Hemingway



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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:35:32 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
<[REDACTED]> Carrasco, Magdalena <[REDACTED]>
Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]> Perez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Foley, Pam
<[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie <[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya
<[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]> Khamis, Johnny
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Devalcourt, Joel
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Chapman, Helen
<[REDACTED]> Mohsen, Raania <[REDACTED]> Tran, David
<[REDACTED]> Gantner, Zoe <[REDACTED]> Herbert, Frances
<[REDACTED]> Groen, Mary Anne <[REDACTED]> Quintero, Andres
<[REDACTED]> Lam, Victoria <[REDACTED]> Hughes, Scott
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
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[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Bay City News Service
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Planning Commissioner Peter Allen

[External Email]

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council,

I would like to ask that you do not reappoint Mr. Allen to the Planning Commission. I agree with everything Christian Hemingway said, but I would also like to add a few comments of my own.

The first time I attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding the Car Wash, I took time off of work and lost pay, only to see Mr. Allen ignoring us during public comments and playing and laughing while working on his computer. There is nothing more insulting than to be ignored by a Commissioner whose duty is to listen to and care about what is being said by the public.

Secondly, it was insulting to see Mr. Allen laugh when we lost the vote. Here we are, talking about the safety and well being of children, and a Car Wash that is going to be sitting 44 feet from my bedroom window, when I work the graveyard shift and have severe Asthma, be treated with such disregard by Mr. Allen.

I don't know how electeds like you want public input into our neighborhoods or our City, when we are treated like Commissioner Allen treated us. What is even worse is to see him on public social media abusing his power, and getting away with it.

I hope all of you take this situation as serious as we are, because anytime we have pointed out problems with how the system at the City works, we have been shut down. We are given ridiculous excuses, and see the City protecting people who are acting unprofessionally and unethically.

Finally, let me just say that I talked to my boss about this whole situation, and he told me that if anyone in my company acted like this, we would be out on our can in a hot minute!

Best Regards,
Carl Schroeder

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 4:39 PM

To: [REDACTED] Todorov, Vera <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

<[REDACTED]> Carrasco, Magdalena <[REDACTED]>

Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]> Perez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Foley, Pam

<[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie <[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan

<[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> Arenas, Sylvia

<[REDACTED]> Khamis, Johnny <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]

Devalcourt, Joel <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] Chapman, Helen

<[REDACTED]> Mohsen, Raania <[REDACTED]> Tran, David

<[REDACTED]> Gantner, Zoe <[REDACTED]> Herbert, Frances

<[REDACTED]> Groen, Mary Anne <[REDACTED]> Quintero, Andres

<[REDACTED]> Lam, Victoria <[REDACTED]> Hughes, Scott

<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bay City News Service <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Planning Commissioner Peter Allen

[External Email]

Dear Ms. Todorov,

Please see the attached email, regarding the newest post that Peter Allen put on his Facebook, the day before the 6-24-2020's Commission Meeting.

It appears that he is soliciting his friends to give their commentary to the Commission on the applicant's car wash, while leading everyone to believe that his vote will get him kicked off of the Commission.

We all find this to be unprofessional, and bias.

Kathleen Flynn

From: Alex Shoor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:43 AM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]> The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
<[REDACTED]> Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]> Kline, Kelly
<[REDACTED]> Devalcourt, Joel <[REDACTED]> Ferguson, Jerad
<[REDACTED]> District1 <[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie
<[REDACTED]> District2 <[REDACTED]> Jimenez, Sergio
<[REDACTED]> District3 <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]>
District4 <[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan <[REDACTED]> District5 <[REDACTED]>
Carrasco, Magdalena <[REDACTED]> District 6 <[REDACTED]> Davis, Dev
<[REDACTED]> Groen, Mary Anne <[REDACTED]> District7
<[REDACTED]> Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> District8 <[REDACTED]>
Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> Foley, Pam
<[REDACTED]> District 10 <[REDACTED]> Khamis, Johnny <[REDACTED]>
Hughey, Rosalynn <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Matthew Gustafson <[REDACTED]> Catalyze SV Board <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Catalyze SV Statement for SJ City Council on Planning Commission Appointments Today

[External Email]

CATALYZE SV

June 29, 2020

Catalyze SV Statement on San José Planning Commission Appointments

Joining Other Orgs Supporting Focus on Diverse Representation, Equity

Statement from Catalyze SV's Board & Executive Director to the San José City Council:

This week, the City of San José has the rare opportunity to profoundly impact the makeup of the City's Planning Commission by appointing 5 of the 7 commissioners at one time.

Catalyze SV joins with other nonprofit organizations calling for a more diverse San José Planning Commission. We want a Commission more accurately representative of the people of San José and more focused on equitable governance.

Equity & inclusivity are laced through many of Catalyze SV's 6 core values:

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- One of our core values is "inclusive,
- diverse communities." We believe

- "deeply in neighborhoods that include folks of different races, cultures, languages, ages, physical abilities, income levels, and family types. Allowing a diverse array of people to live in the same neighborhood can encourage social harmony and combat discrimination and prejudice. We strive for communities in which anyone who currently lives or works there can continue to do so and where all newcomers are welcome."

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- Another of our core values is "housing solutions for all." This ensures "everyone has a chance to live and work here and no one is displaced." Catalyze SV advocates for increasing the number of housing units built both at market-rate and as affordable housing below the area median income.

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- And another of our core values is "equitable community engagement." We believe that "From the moment a project is conceived to once it's built, our diverse community should be at the table to shape it. We deserve access to easy-to-understand info about how our neighborhoods develop and productive ways of advocating to city staff and developers. Community meetings about development should be welcoming from the moment one arrives and inclusive of everyone, including working families and those speaking different languages."

•
Better planning decisions are made when everyone is at the table and when the focus is on building communities for everyone. We agree with the letter from SOMOS Mayfair & our other sister nonprofit organizations signing onto it: decisions in San Jose should focus more on equity in order to close opportunity gaps. One of the best ways to achieve equitable outcomes is through diverse representation.

For too long, city planning decisions have been made or influenced by disproportionately white males. That historic imbalance - and the injustices resulting from it - must change.

As such, here are Catalyze SV's views on the types of representation needed on our Planning Commission right now:

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- Individuals who support our values mentioned above of inclusive, diverse communities; housing solutions for all; and equitable community engagement. Our other core values - healthy, sustainable development; vibrant places for people; and convenient transportation choices - also intersect with equity issues and are equally important for commissioners to support.
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- We join other community leaders in calling for Commissioners who understand equity in its various forms. Seeking people who have worked or lived in marginalized, underrepresented communities is an excellent way of finding qualified commissioners.
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- Moreover, we agree with other leaders that demonstrating a track record of advocating for marginalized, underrepresented communities is an important and valuable criterion.
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- As true representation means all parts of our City are represented, we need a Commission with experience in different areas of our City.

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- We
- need more leaders who understand the negative impacts of some of our planning decisions of the last 40 years, including their role in the ongoing displacement, congestion, economic inequality, and insanely high housing prices we face in San José.
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- Finally, if we're going to overcome the impacts mentioned above, we need
- Commissioners willing to shape, recommend & approve better projects that truly execute the City's bold, crucial vision in the 2040 General Plan.
-

As you make your decision on which Planning Commissioners to appoint, we ask you to consider the viewpoints of SOMOS Mayfair and equity-focused organizations, as well as ours. Let's continue to get better at building a city in which development benefits the greatest number of people possible, especially those most in need.

As always, if Catalyze SV can collaborate with you on this goal & effort, we welcome it. Good luck as you make your decisions this week.

Gratefully,
Catalyze SV's Board & Executive Director

Alex Shoor
Executive Director
Catalyze SV


www.CatalyzeSV.org



June 29, 2020

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council
City of San José
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113

Re: 3.1 Planning Commission Appointment

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Davis, Diep, Carrasco, Esparza, Foley, Jimenez, Khamis, and Perez,

We are writing today, joined by a broad coalition of respected community organizations and leaders, to call for greater equity and authentic representation on the Planning Commission.

The City of San José recently announced it would [invest \\$1.5M](#) to establish a new **Office of Racial Equity**, following mounting pressure from residents for the city to address systemic racism. While this is an important first step in addressing deep-seated injustices, the City can do more to address inequities that still plague communities of color in our city. Starting with the Planning Commission.

The City's Planning Commission, whose role is to provide recommendations on planning and development throughout the city, has historically lacked not only District representation but has been majority-white and majority-male dominant. In light of the COVID-19 health crisis that has further highlighted systemic inequities, and with nationwide demonstrations in support of Black lives, the upcoming Planning Commission appointments are a prime opportunity to see whether the city of San José understands the importance of promoting equitable, just governance.

Equitable planning decisions should seek to close the opportunity gaps in our city. According to the [Bay Area Equity Atlas](#), 48% of San José's residents of color live in low-resource neighborhoods, compared with just 17% of white residents. At SOMOS Mayfair we are guided by our [anti-displacement platform](#), developed by community members, that promotes development without displacement — we seek to encourage neighborhood growth that provides long-denied opportunities to historically disinvested communities in our city, investments which in turn benefit everyone.

It is from this platform that we, along with several other supporting community leaders, propose the following criteria for the upcoming planning commission selection. We deserve candidates who:

1. Demonstrate a value for racial equity in planning decisions and understand the negative impacts that land use, zoning, and gentrification have had on vulnerable communities
2. Have lived and/or work experience with communities that are marginalized by oppressive systems
3. Have a demonstrated track record of advocating for communities that are marginalized by oppressive systems

In our view, unless a majority of planning commission members meet the above criteria, the planning commission as a body is not qualified to make decisions that will directly impact the lives and well being of our communities.

Signed,

SOMOS Mayfair
Destination: Home
Sacred Heart Community Service
YWCA Silicon Valley
Community Health Partnership
School of Arts & Culture @ MHP
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
CommUniverCity
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Bill Wilson Center
Next Door Solutions
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
African American Community Service Agency
Grail Family Services
Working Partnerships USA
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
South Bay Labor Council
SV@Home
Alum Rock Santa Clara Street Business Association
Latino Business Foundation of Silicon Valley
Behavioral Health Contractors' Association of Santa Clara County
Momentum for Health
Veggielution
Alum Rock Urban Village Advocates
Amigos de Guadalupe: Center for Justice and Empowerment
Tamara Alvarado, Community Advocate
Mary Helen Doherty, Community Advocate

From: Patrick Grimes [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:30 AM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Huy Tran Planning Commission

[External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

Huy Tran has an interview this afternoon for a position with the Planning Commission of San Jose. I strongly recommend this candidate.

On January 3, 2020, all 723 households in Westwinds Mobilehome Park received a notice from MHC, our park management. They claimed that, at the end of their management lease in 2022, the landowners wanted all residents evicted from the park. Huy Tran got involved from the beginning. He spoke at public meetings the following week to encourage our residents. He made himself available, both in person and via email, to advise us how to organize against this threat. Huy's assistance was instrumental in the March 11 City Council unanimous vote to protect all San Jose mobilehome parks with a new land use designation.

When the shelter-in-place was announced, Huy threw himself into protecting San Jose residents from this threat. He has encouraged the production of cloth masks and distributed them, along with other PPE. He has reached out in particular to the homeless community, a group often overlooked by others. He has regularly sent updates of important information. He has become a trusted resource.

Huy Tran would be a stellar addition to the Planning Commission.

--

Sincerely,
Patrick Grimes

From: Peter Allen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:09:03 AM
To: Arenas, Sylvia <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Esparza, Maya <[REDACTED]> Peralez, Raul <[REDACTED]> Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]> Carrasco, Magdalena <[REDACTED]> Diep, Lan <[REDACTED]> Davis, Dev <[REDACTED]> Jones, Chappie <[REDACTED]> District9 <[REDACTED]> Liccardo, Sam <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Planning Commission interview follow up

[External Email]

Good Morning Councilmember,

Thank you very much for your questions during my interview for reappointment to the Planning Commission on Friday. Reflecting on my responses, and in light of the ongoing conversation around equity in San José, I was reminded of a [project](#) the PC considered on December 4, 2019.

In this case, a car wash was proposed adjacent to a residential neighborhood that has pretty much been made into an island by rezoning and redevelopment on all sides. *And no, I am not referring to the car wash at Bascom and Woodard that you probably know all too well.* This project is on North Oakland Road, a short walk from where I used to live near Backesto Park.

One year prior, the PC had approved staff's recommendation to grant a Conditional Use Permit for a drive through car wash literally around the corner from the site in question. This was over the objection of renters in the neighborhood who felt that they had been left out of the process and justifiably told us so at the public hearing.

I knew the neighborhood from my experience as a community organizer and occasional candidate. I'd knocked those doors and talked to the residents, and it frustrated me that there was no policy I could cite to deny that project from further gentrifying their community. In my comments that night, I told the neighbors to keep fighting — that the process can work if we work it.

I remembered the frustration of that night a year later, when we were being asked to consider [another car wash](#) less than 500 feet away. This time, the nearby residents weren't there to stand up for their neighborhood. More than likely, they had no idea this project was coming down the pipe.

During our discussion, I asked our professional staff why their recommendation did not include justification for violating a city policy prohibiting two drive through uses within 500 feet of each other, which had been cited in the staff report. Oftentimes, as you know, land use decisions come down to a balance of pros and cons, and I wanted to hear about the pros that outweighed the cons of burdening this neighborhood with another car wash that they didn't need.

Staff was unable to answer my question, other than to say that other considerations outweighed that policy. I imagine these considerations involved the [new hotel](#) that was also being proposed as part of the project, and the jobs and tax revenue it would provide to help the city meet its economic goals. *And this is what's really ailing us when we talk about equity...*

We consistently use economic development as a justification for displacing and disadvantaging the very people who keep our economy moving — people who the government is supposed to be here to protect. As I noted during my interview, planning commissioners are limited by existing policy in our ability to apply a different lens.

Fortunately, in this case, I had a policy to back up my values. So I voted [NO](#) on a motion to approve staff's recommendation — which was made and seconded by two of my fellow District 6 commissioners. (Commissioner Yesney was the only other NO vote.)

As I look back on my service as a Planning Commissioner, moments like these leave me feeling equal amounts of pride and shame — pride that I stood up for what was right; shame that I couldn't do more to convince my fellow commissioners to join me.

I can only hope for future opportunities to keep trying. Thank you again for your service to our city.

Warmest regards,
Peter Allen

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Taber, Toni <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Huy Tran from Planning Commission

[External Email]

As a resident of District 4, I support the bid of Huy Tran for the Planning Commission!

Peggy Elwell

From: Carolyn Lê [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:16 PM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Supporting Huy Tran for San Jose City Planning Commission

[External Email]

Hi Toni,

I'm emailing to express my support for Huy Tran for the City's Planning Commission. The city is changing rapidly and I believe Huy will serve our city and our residents well! Plus, we need additional representation, and Huy would be a great commissioner who would amplify our voices.

Carolyn

From: Felwina Opiso-Mondina [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for HUY TRAN in the Planning Commission



[External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

On behalf of the PILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS AND IMMIGRANTS (PAWIS), I would like to express my support for Huy Tran in the Planning Commission. We know of Huy's advocacy for affordable housing in our community. We hope for his favorable appointment to the Commission.

Best regards,

Felwina Opiso-Mondina
PAWIS

From: Karina Velazquez [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Cc: Huy Tran < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Planning Commission for City of San Jose

[?]

[External Email]

Hello,

My name is Karina Velazquez and am writing to you in support of Huy Tran for San Jose City's Planning Commission. I have known Huy Tran for many years, he is a dear friend but I have also had the opportunity to work alongside him in his fight for his community. I have seen first hand his determination to ensure equal rights and his work ethic to do what is best for his community. He has my full support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Thank you,

Karina Velazquez
FHB Board Member

From: Anna Nguyen [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Subject: In Support of Huy Tran for San Jose Planning Commissioner

[External Email]

Dear SJ City Council,

I have gotten to know Huy Tran during the past couple months while we volunteered together to distribute food and essentials to the needy in San Jose.

Huy is an outstanding leader who has many ideas on how things should be done, and he is articulate and takes the time to explain his reasons. He is highly ethical and would rather do the right thing than take short cuts. For example, we wanted to go out and handout food to the homeless many times a week. He explained that it's better to do so during specific days and times of the week because that's when the folks know when to expect us. Also, going out less per week is following the spirit of Shelter-in-Place. Although Huy has a very busy schedule, he joined our conference planning calls on time. Huy can be counted on. With volunteering, it's too easy to make excuses and back-out on volunteering efforts. Huy is a man of his words and really cares for the community and making our community a better place to live and work.

To sum it up, Huy's Strengths are Strong Leadership, Clear Implementation Plans, Highly Ethical, Follow-Through, and Empathetic. Huy Tran is the Planning Commissioner that San Jose needs!

Thank you for your time!
Anna Nguyen - Santa Clara County resident
Friends of Hue Board Member and Co Executive Director
www.friendsofhue.org

From: Linda Reyes [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Taber, Toni < [REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Mr. Huy Tran for Planning Commissioner



[External Email]

Hello Ms. Tony,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am emailing you to express my support for Mr. Huy Tran for San Jose Planning Commissioner.

I have known Mr. Tran for his community service in the past few years, and I personally have Volunteered in his previous political campaign. I have known him to be a person of integrity and dedication and a real hard working man. I strongly recommend Mr. Tran for the position.

Your kind consideration and attention to this email is highly appreciated and I am sure Mr. Tran will be an invaluable asset to the commission.

Thank you; have a wonderful day and stay safe!

Linda Reyes
Former Commissioner
SC County Senior Care Commission (2017 – 2019)