

## Blair Beekman. Wednesday. November 10, 2021....Public Comment, on sj city council, public meeting agenda.

b. beekman <[REDACTED]>

Wed 11/10/2021 1:31 PM

To: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; Jimenez, Sergio <[REDACTED]> District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; Esparza, Maya <Maya.Esparza@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Pereira, Paul <Paul.Pereira@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>; Parra-Garcia, Sabrina <Sabrina.Parra-Garcia@sanjoseca.gov>; Morales-Ferrand, Jacky <Jacky.Morales-Ferrand@sanjoseca.gov>; C.Attny.sj. Nora Frimann <n.frimann@sanjoseca.gov>; Greene, Shasta <shasta.greene@sanjoseca.gov>; Vanni, Mark <Mark.Vanni@sanjoseca.gov>; Rios, Angel <Angel.Rios@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear San Jose city govt.

Hi, a friendly reminder, from my public comment at city council, last week, that I hope we can begin, to better consider, a bit more consistency, to learn how to ask, if there will be any public comment, on orders of the day, the closed session agenda, and the city manager's report

And to also make clear, that everyday community, should be allowed, to continue to ask the council, for Consent Calendar items, to be pulled, to be discussed, as individual items.

After the first, initial, emergency wave, of the Covid-19 pandemic, at about, the end of April 2020, in the efforts, of how city council, can better overall address, agenda issues- Mayor Liccardo, and then City attorney Richard Doyle, created some, new, good understandings, about the Orders of the Day process. And how to better include, public comment, at this time.

From this, it should be noted - the mayor, at this point, for the most part - is only using the concepts, of his own personal discretion, to allow for public comment, for orders of the day. And, he is not even asking, for public comment, on other agenda items, mentioned above. I am feeling, this current system, is just a bit too arbitrary & discretionary, to the ideas, of what can be, consistent, continual good practices, of a Ca state, Brown Act public meeting process.

It is a system, that may be relying, a bit too much, on efficiency. Instead of considering, the better practices, of what is, the open, public process, of a community public meeting.

It seems appropriate, the public should have the right to speak, on Orders of the Day, the Closed Session Report, the City Managers Report, and for the public to understand, they have the right to ask, items can be pulled, for more discussion, at Consent Calendar time. I hope, it can up to ourselves, at this time, to want to consider, how to develop, an honest, fair, good system, to do that, now, and for our community future.

Based on strong beliefs, by the current sj city govt., of public meeting efficiency, and in just coming out of, an emergency era of Covid-19, along with, overall community unrest, - the current public meeting agenda, of san jose city govt, simply does not try to make the attempts, to offer time & space, for public comment, on beginning agenda items. I hope this can be a time, of good thought & dialogue, to learn how to offer, the words & legal structure, that there can be public comment, on these items, if needed.

The same holds true, with no accessible way, to ask or allow public comment, for closed session reports, and city manager reports. Or if, the public wants to ask, if an item, can be pulled from Consent Calendar. All of this, is at the beginning of a council meeting.

I am understanding, that public meeting efficiency, can be very important, at the city govt. level. Yet I hope, this can be a time, we can begin to better consider, safe ways, for a return, to the importance, of public participation, in the public meeting process. I feel we should develop a system, that simply can ask, if there will be any public comment, on these items.

To work towards, good compromise - Can you consider the idea, of limiting public comment, to 1 minute, with beginning Council agenda items - of Orders of the Day, the Closed Session Reports, and even, the city manager report, when her report out, will not be long. Public comment time, may be shorter - but the acknowledgement of public accessibility, can be much increased.

In this new era of Covid-19 and Zoom. for the chair, to have discretion, to limit public comment, to 1 min, is an important new concept, here in the south bay, From this, overall public accessibility, should want be better looked at, also. To make clear, the public has the option, to speak at this time, should be important goal of public accesiblity. And what I am asking of yourselves, as city govt. to better consider, at this time.

2 or 3 people, seems about the average, of people who offer, continual public comment, week after week, in San Jose. I am also learning, to not offer, as much overall public comment. This is a total, of about 10-15 additional mins, at a public comment time, at the beginning of meeting.

As city govt. you may have your own examples, you will want explain. I hope this letter, can be an introduction, to good conversations, about the public process, for the remainder of 2021. And that, we can begin, to better understand & practice these ideas, by January 2022.

These may be, some good, simple practices, of the public meeting process, that can work towards, better public accessibility & trust, for a community. It is also my hope, we can start to begin, to better consider, a more long-term conversation, of how, open public comment, at the end, of a city council meeting, can be placed, at the beginning, of a public meeting. So people can know, when exactly they can speak, openly & publicly, to city government, and to community.

sincerely,  
blair beekman

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## NEW CHARTER ARTICLE XX: AN ACT TO ELIMINATE GREENHOUSE GASES, BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND MAKE THE EARTH A GARDEN AGAIN.

tessa woodmansee <[REDACTED]>

Mon 11/15/2021 6:08 PM

To: Alrie Middlebrook <[REDACTED]> Andrew Boone <[REDACTED]> Blaire Beekman <[REDACTED]>  
<[REDACTED]> Charter Review Commission 10a <CRC10a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 10b <CRC10b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 1a <CRC1a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 1b <CRC1b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 2a <CRC2a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 2b <CRC2b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 3a <CRC3a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 3b <CRC3b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 4a <CRC4a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 4b <CRC4b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 5a <CRC5a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 5b <CRC5b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 6a <CRC6a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 6b <CRC6b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 7a <CRC7a@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 7b <CRC7b@sanjoseca.gov>; Charter Review Commission 8a <CRC8a@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Good Evening San Joseans,

These are the headlines today that show that we are in a climate crisis NOW 2021, from our Global heating from the human activity of burning fossil fuels and emitting heat trapping Greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels , and illustrates our need to go to zero fossil fuels by 2025 or 2030 the latest.

Putting Climate Crisis into our San Jose City Charter NOW is critical and will be addressed below.

## Record rainfall prompts evacuations along the Pacific north-west

**Communities in western Canada and Washington state forced to flee homes after record downpour leads to severe floods**



A view of the Coquihalla Highway following mudslides and flooding in British Columbia, Canada, on Sunday. Photograph: British Columbia Transportation/Reuters

### **Leyland Cecco in Toronto**

Mon 15 Nov 2021 17.55 EST



Communities in western [Canada](#) who were forced to flee their homes this summer by wildfires and extreme heat are once again under evacuation orders after overwhelming floods across the region.

The heavy rainfall and pounding storms are also taking a toll on the US Pacific north-west, where flooding and mudslides in Washington state have also forced evacuations and school closures.

Helicopters were dispatched on Monday to Highway 7, more than 100 kilometres (62 miles) east of Vancouver, to rescue about 275 people, including 50 children, who had been stranded on the road since it was blocked by a mudslide late on Sunday.

[Footage from the area](#) shows stranded travelers heading toward a yellow emergency helicopter during the rescue operation. The surrounding landscape is littered with debris from a landslide blocking access to the highway.



# Canada rains cause city evacuation, shut down major oil pipeline

*Officials in Merrit, British Columbia, order residents to leave as floodwaters 'inundated two bridges' and forced waste water treatment plant to close.*



A view of the Coquihalla Highway following mudslides and flooding in British Columbia, Canada, November 14, 2021 [Courtesy of British Columbia Transportation/via Reuters]

15 Nov 2021

Massive rainstorms have lashed the western Canadian province of British Columbia on Monday, triggering landslides, shutting roads, prompting the evacuation of an entire town and forcing an oil pipeline to close.

Authorities in Merritt, some 200km (124 miles) northeast of Vancouver, ordered all 7,100 citizens to leave after rising waters cut off bridges and forced the wastewater treatment plant to close.

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#### KEEP READING

Floods, landslides kill more than 150 in India and Nepal  
'Worst thing in lifetime': South Sudan floods affecting 700,000  
Deadly floods hit Indonesia's Java, mud hampers relief work  
Flash floods in Bosnia prompt evacuations, power outages

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"Continued habitation of the community without sanitary services presents risk of mass sewage back-up and personal health risk," the city said in an official notice.

Some areas received 200mm (8 inches) of rain on Sunday – the amount they usually see in a month – and the deluge continued on Monday, with roads covered by mud or up to 250mm (10 inches) of water.

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So this is what could be in our future as we face the catastrophic climate change science has projected... like my biologist husband Cat Woodmansee, MS Biology and Ecosystems Ecology and credentialed Biological Science Teacher says, the Earth is on an Excursion. The stability we have experienced in the last 10,000 years is gone DUE TO THE RELEASE OF HEAT TRAPPING GREENHOUSE GASES CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY. And now we can't project what is possible... it's all unknown and as Cat also says, "Beyond Here there are monsters."

So this letter is to answer some of the questions that I very much appreciate from commissioner and former city council candidate for district 4, Huy Tran that includes San Jose's highly threatened coastal community of Alviso.

"Let me ask the biggest question I have for you, which is why you believe that this Commission must be included in the Charter." Well like the climate crisis news I opened this letter with is not enough to add our climate crisis to the charter and the words of renowned Linguist teacher, Naom Chompsky's quote that our climate crisis is " **the existential threat of global warming, a 'threat to the perpetuation of organized human life,' on par with nuclear war,**" is not enough to scare us to intense climate action I don't know what is.

**In addition, the reasons I have stated before is that intense climate action must be put into the charter so it is NOT at the whims of our politicians. The politicians have their livelihood to protect and they therefore serve the business elite wealthy class that sponsor their campaigns and their future governmental positions... not the people. The charter is a special document that has to be approved by the people and the proposed Charter Amendment which is : AN ACT TO ELIMINATE GREENHOUSE GASES, BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND MAKE THE EARTH A GARDEN AGAIN** is all about saving as many people as we can and to address the Sixth Mass Extinction. This is the work we must do and having it in our charter will unify us to try to Save the World and Save Ourselves.

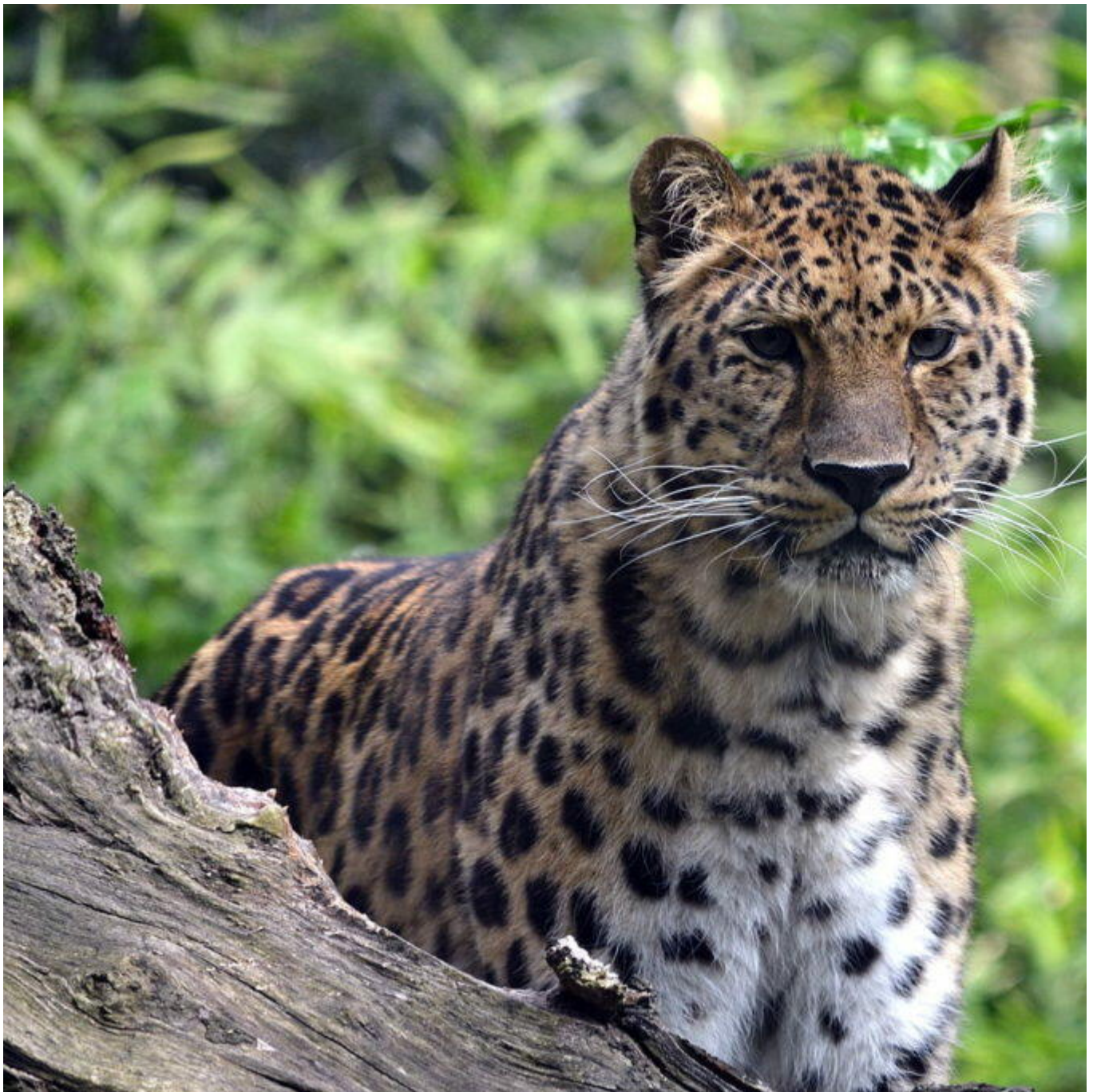
**Human beings have existed for just 200,000 years, yet our impact on the planet is so great that scien the Earth's history to be named the 'Anthropocene' – the age of humans. The changes we are now n world around us. It's vital that people understand the impact we have. Help us spread the word.**



*"Looking across the world at the present time it is obvious to anybody at all who has even the slightest numbers are already out of balance."*

*Prof Aubrey Manning, zoologist*

Two hundred years ago, there were less than a billion people on Earth. Today, there are 7.8bn and our populations, unless we take action there is likely to be 30% more of us by 2050 and 11 billion people by 2100. Every one of us places demands upon our planet—the very demands that have caused the changes that threaten



# THE ‘SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION’

- Species are becoming extinct 100 times faster than they would without human impacts.
- Populations of wild animals have more than halved since 1970, while the human population has doubled.
- Only five times before in our planet’s history have so many species and so much biodiversity been wiped out. That is why scientists and conservationists call what is happening now the ‘**sixth mass extinction**’.
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- ANTHROPOCENE AIR, WATER, AND WEATHER
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- Because of industry, agriculture and fossil fuel use, carbon dioxide in the air is at its highest level for 800,000 years. Other chemical cycles are turning seas and rivers into dead zones.
- Climate change is already affecting the world around us. Global warming is causing glaciers to melt, sea levels to rise, and weather events such as floods, droughts, and hurricanes to increase.

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## MORE QUESTIONS FROM HUY TRAN:

First, are you open to creating this commission outside of the charter process? That saves all of us time, for your proposed commission to be created sooner and get to work faster and still get to your goals. It a Commission structure if we discover ways to improve its work (any commission that exists in the charter process).

My response:

I think the urgency of this issue demands Charter inclusion and the vote of the people to save themselves: we have seen from the Corona Virus Covid 19 issue and their response. The science says we need to transition to GETTING OUR FOSSIL FUEL USE TO ZERO IS critical to avoid more catastrophic weather like Canada is experiencing.

Second, do you have specific proposals outside of creating a commission (related to emission standards, etc.) that you want considered by our elected officials?

My response: This is what needs to be **added** to the proposed Climate Crisis to be added to the City Charter as proposed by the Subcommittee of Accountability, Inclusion and representation :

“Consider an approach like a stool with **THREE** legs. In our case, one leg is data collection concerning carbon emissions and fossil fuel consumption for the sake of transparency and decision-making. Another leg is identifying communities in harm’s way and ensuring they become resilient to climate disasters where resilience is lacking, focusing in particular on historically under-served communities. And the third leg is the creation of a commission of the people to ensure that the political and business elites understand the importance of saving the planet.

People.”

So we need the data at a granular level about our fossil fuel use by each departments and each activity s the private businesses, industry and the people of the city of san jose.

And we need to share this data on fossil fuel use and planned mitigations to reduce our use to zero with the people on a regular basis.

In addition, we need the issue of building resilient communities as the third leg of the "Another leg is iden harm's way and ensuring they become resilient to climate disasters where resilience is lacking, focusing i historically under-served communities.

"And the third leg is the creation of a commission of the people to ensure that the political and business elites understand the importance of saving the People.” This Climate Crisis Commission needs to lead our city to bring our emissions to zero by 2030.

Here is the plan of Extinction REbellion thoughts on a CITIZENS ASSEMBLY THAT we should emulate.

Extinction Rebellion is a politically non-partisan int that uses non-violent direct action to persuade gove on the Climate and Ecological Emer

We have

**Tell the truth**

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Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ec with other institutions to communicate the urgency for chang

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## Act Now

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Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce net zero by 2025.

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## Go Beyond Politics

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Government must create and be led by the decisions of climate and ecological justice.

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Warm Regards,

Tessa Woodmansee  
President Garden Alameda Village Association  
MA, Mass Communication and Education CSUN

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Clean Air and Quiet Neighborhoods--A Natural Right.

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Blair Beekman.....Monday. November 15, 2021. City Charter commission, public comment.

b. beekman <[REDACTED]>

Wed 11/17/2021 11:51 AM

To: Roche, Megan <megan.roche@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear community and city charter commission,

Hi, it is Blair Beekman here. I sadly fell asleep, during the last portion, of the city Charter Commission on Monday. I missed public comment, on COPA issues, a Smart City Advisory Committee, and Open Forum

Hopefully, I can try to make up, and try to offer, 2 minute public comment speeches, below, for each item, I missed last night.

### **Copa Issues.**

With the very good ideas, of the COPA program, I think we need to be aware, that this an issue, of the empowerment, of the everyday person, within a community.

This can be, an uncomfortable concept to some. Yet, it can be incredibly helpful, to people of local neighborhoods, before the need, of free market capitalism.

Councilperson Raul Peralez, has very decently offered, that ideas of COPA, need a bit more time, of community public meetings, so all people of local neighborhoods, can better hear its ideas, and simply ask questions.

### **Smart City Advisory Group.**

Thank you, for this item.

To begin, I was unimpressed, by the current language being used, in trying to address, the future of a Smart City Advisory Group. As I tried to state, in my previous public comment, about the future



of green sustainability commission. Although we are in difficult times, we should still be allowed, to better consider, how everyday community, can be better participate, in the practices of their local govt. And the ideas, of better public oversight.

From a constant barrage, of war & emergency, we can still try to build, our better human ideals. And how practices, of more open democracy, can actually work, towards ideas of peace, and not. more war or harm.

From 2014, to better address, how to leave, an era of secrecy and confusion, from the era of 9.11 and a questionable, intl. war on terrorism, the ACLU, along with the UN, the u.s. navy,, other, good minded think tanks, and progressive legal precedence, from the state of California & Massachusettess - have come up with, some well studied, good guidelines, in how to return, to more open democratic practices, for a local community.

This can be considered, as ideas of peace, not war or harm, to try to better understand, the ideas of open public policies, and public oversight, of community technology, surveillance, and data collection. These are ideas, that can allow for, all parts of a community, to have more of a voice, in deciding, what technology can be suitable, for the future of a community. And what can be, more open, responsible practices of technology & data collection, for a community future.

I think, we have to better learn & understand, that the inventiveness of technology itself, does not have to work, in mutually exclusive terms, and be overly-distant, from the ideas of good civil rights, civil protections, and community oversight. These can be practices, that can simply learn to work, hand in hand, in the future

The important future of digital equity, based on open public policies, good civil protections, and public oversight, can be more holistic,ways, of how to create, a more trusted, sustainable, community future And how to better teach our children, about the future of technology, can be based, on good democratic practices, as how to better define, bridging the digital divide, and community sustainability .

With the events of 9/11, the US economic meltdown of 2008, the PG&E wildfires of 2015-18, and with Covid-19, we have been trying, to better comprehend, and live with, odd new forms, of state sponsored violence and extremism. I think, we may be at a time, to begin to better address, & make some adjustments, to our current political systems. In the trade-off, of possible practices of genocide, as how to create, long term social planning goals, for human kind, may not be worth it.

Although expert opinion, is always needed, an SJ Technology Advisory Board, made up of tech insiders, seems it may serve, a status quo, of large corporate structuring, and old forms of representational democracy - before interesting new ideas, of participatory democracy. And that, does not feel true to the spirit, of what most current City Charter draft recommendations, are trying to address.

I am feeling, open public policies, good community oversight, and open democratic practices, can help better define, more responsible technology practices, for our future. And what can be



better ideas, of positive sustainability, at the local community level. And seems to describe well, what can be innovative about technology, at this time.

Open public policies, accountability, and public oversight, are well-intentioned, good ideas, that simply need, more open dialogue, consideration, understanding, and a seat at the table, in the future, of Smart City Technology Advisory ideas, for the city Charter Commission, and for any future San Jose municipal codes.

Surprisingly, these sorts of ideas & concepts, were barely mentioned, by Commission persons, at the Monday meeting.

### **Open Forum.**

To conclude, I thank you for the patience, and my letter writing this past weekend. To again offer, I hope I can be of help to clarify things. And to be able to better consider, more openly, as a commission - that the city Charter process, may have to be extended, into the early spring 2022. And to work specifically, on the legal language issues, with any of the draft recommendations, that you feel, may have to be ready, for a city Charter ballot process, in 2022.

I also wanted to comment, in how to consider overall planning ideas, for the City Charter process, and its Draft recommendations, for the next decade, here in San Jose.

I feel there may be, a large earthquake, in the SF Bay Area, in 2023. This would mean, planning ideas for 2022, may be much different, than in 2023, and from 2024-25 onward.

In no way, do I mean these words, as alarmist, or these ideas, to be used, for political reasons. I am not fully sure, what may happen, in 2023. I am asking for some help, and some clarity,, about this. It is my hope, in offering these concerns, can make something clear for yourselves, in what to better expect, in 2023. . And from this, I feel, this can help, with better planning decisions, for yourselves, in the next few years

I am hopeful, there can be ways, to honestly answer, City Charter questions, issues & tasks, within 2022. And to even place, some new concepts, into the charter, by 2022.

In the very least, we can work in 2022, to have an open, clear, good guideline process in place, for all of the community to understand. And that, can then return, and go immediately to work, in 2024-25, if this sort of community emergency planning, offered above, is actually needed.

sincerely,  
blair beekman

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