

5/22/18

Item 8
#18-714

Sophia Smith

From: Simrat Dhadli
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Sophia Smith; Tuyen Ngo
Subject: FW: Vacant Council Seat

Please make sure Mayor & Council has this for post meeting material tomorrow.

From: Mayor and Council
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Jennifer Yamaguma; Simrat Dhadli; Nadine Nader; Walter Rossmann
Cc: Elizabeth Elliott; Genevieve Yip; Jose Armas
Subject: FW: Vacant Council Seat

Please see the correspondence below regarding the vacant City Council seat. This will be part of the Public Record for the May 22, 2018 City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Lynn

From: Ms. Carolyn McAllister
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2018 4:29 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Vacant Council Seat

I would like to recommend that Kevin Park be considered for the vacant Council Seat. These are my reasons:

1. Kevin Park was only 3 percentage points behind Dominic Caserta in the last election.
2. The City Council has the authority to appoint Kevin Park.
3. Kevin Park will bring diversity to the City Council.
4. This is the most cost efficient way to fill the vacant seat.

At last week's Council meeting, Council demonstrated a renewed commitment to the Code of Ethics. This selection will allow the City Council to move on with the other business at hand. I think Mr. Park's selection will be supported by the community.

Respectfully,
Carolyn McAllister

POST MEETING MATERIAL

05/22/18

#8

Lynn Garcia

From: Mayor and Council
Subject: FW: Public Comment for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 City Council meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: kirk vartan [mailto:]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2018 7:48 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Public Comment for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 City Council meeting

To Mayor and Council,

I know it's a tough time for you, the City, the community, and especially the victims. Even though I was in another country, I watched your last council meeting via live stream. Using technology makes it easy to see City activities, so thank you for doing that. There were so many courageous men and women speaking to you that evening, with heavy emotions in the room; they were felt online too.

After the strong, emotional, and difficult to hear comments made during the Censure item, each council member spoke. While many spoke from the heart about the issue of harassment and abuse, two councilmembers made comments that I felt were problematic:

First, Councilmember Kolstad said the following:

"none of these alleged behaviors was in connection with his role or duties here as a Santa Clara Councilmember."

Putting aside the issue of whether or not Mr. Caserta did these actions or not, to say this had nothing to do with his role as a Councilmember is horrible. As an elected official, you represent the City. You represent the community, always. While the role may officially be "part time" due to pay, it is a 24/7/365 commitment, if you take the job seriously and do it well. Residents constantly walk up to the Mayor and councilmembers in the community, asking them questions, bending their ear, talking politics. And for a four-term elected member of this body (that's 16 years) to say the actions of another councilmember outside of the "role or duties" is not an issue, is shameful. Even watching Councilmember Kolstad stumble over his prepared words tells me he was struggling with his own content. He then restated it even more clearly, this time adding the word "politician." Again, a direct quote:

"these activities that are being alleged didn't occur at City Hall or in connection with someone's duties as a councilmember. They occurred in connection with somebody's activities as a schoolteacher or a politician. So we have to have a clear understanding of when these things happened."

Is Councilmember Kolstad saying that if you are not on the dais or at an official City meeting, it isn't relevant to being a Councilmember? Or worse, implying even if these allegations are true, it should not be a problem for the residents since it didn't happen when he was performing his "duties as a councilmember." Is non-official time not relevant? And to overtly state "these allegations" happened in the person's other duties and don't look too hard at us, we are doing our job, is eye opening. Politicians are public servants. You voluntarily ran for this position. You spent money trying to convince people you are the best person for this position and to vote for you. And you did this four times over 18 years. Maybe it wasn't meant to be stated that way, but that's what I heard.

Second, Councilmember Mahan spoke about her experience with cancer, how hard it was to speak about, and how acceptance is needed. While everyone in the chambers has been impacted by cancer, some much more than others, cancer is a disease and not a choice. Sexual assault is a crime. It is an action someone makes. And until I heard many of

the comments from the men and women last Tuesday, I didn't see it as a form of bullying. But when I heard Lydia speak about her voice being taken away, that's what resonated with me. Bullying is not tolerated. Sexual assault is not tolerated. So when Councilmember Mahan drew what i would consider as a false equivalency between these two traumatic conditions and the difficulty of the experiences, I felt the need to comment on it.

On top of that, turning the sobering moment into a rant about elections, seat assignments, and some discussion about majority was disrespectful. A dozen people just shared their traumatic and personal experience about being attacked, and she turned it into a discussion on election. Her quote:

"I believe that the only way our City should move forward is with a free and open and transparent election"

Councilmember Mahan spoke at the prior council meeting, lecturing the council and audience on how the council should not use its influence to sway any voter, which make this statement seem hypocritical. That being said, how is talking about elections respecting the victims of these actions? That agenda item period was to hear the victims, and not how to move the City forward. This coming from someone that has been on the council for around 20 years.

Mayor Gillmor continues to lead by doing the incredibly difficult thing of being transparent and open about issues facing the City...the good, the bad, and the ugly. Her leadership and the mostly female council continue to create a welcoming environment for everyone to share and be heard. This session was hard to watch and learn of the many people impacted, and I applaud their courage in sharing their message in chambers.

Regards,

Kirk Vartan
#MeToo

05/22/18

#8

Lynn Garcia

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Subject: FW: Vacant Council Seat

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Respectfully,
Carolyn McAllister

5/22/18

ITEM #8

Council and Authorities Concurrent Meeting on 2018-05-22 4:00 PM

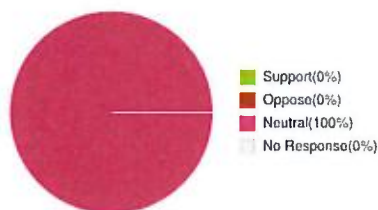
05-22-18 16:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
8. 18-714 City Charter Options for Vacant Council Seat	1	0	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

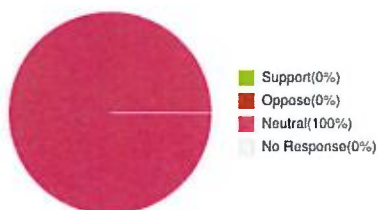
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 8. 18-714 City Charter Options for Vacant Council Seat

Overall Sentiment



J. Byron Fleck

Location:

Submitted At: 5:59pm 05-21-18

No recommendation, as appropriate, is offered by City Attorney. The options outlined to City Council are consistent with the requirement that Council take a vote(s) to appoint prior to setting a Special Election [Note, Section 703 uses the term "Forthwith" not, "Reasonable"].

Importantly, it is critical, given the sensitive events leading to the vacancy that this council collectively continue to act swiftly, decisively. Consensus must guide over factionalism as you have so well demonstrated.