

**LARA WEISIGER**

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**From:** Carolyn Mason <carolyn.mason1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** LARA WEISIGER  
**Subject:** Appointment of Alameda Planning Board Members

I would like to go on record in support of Councilmember Oddie's 9/15 Referral Item 9-D.

Carolyn Mason, Alameda Resident

## LARA WEISIGER

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**From:** David Howard <dhoward773@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 03, 2015 6:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk; IRMA Glidden  
**Cc:** LARA WEISIGER  
**Subject:** External Correspondence for Item 9-D, City Council 9/15 meeting, Oddie Referral

Please add this e-mail to the packet as external correspondence for item 9-D, City Council 9/15 meeting, Oddie Referral re: "transparency" in board appointments...

The hypocrisy of some of our so-called "leaders" compels me to write. Mr. Oddie and his backers couch this referral in terms of "transparency."

Yet, if Mr. Oddie were truly transparent, he would plainly declare what all five councilmembers reading this know, but dare not speak of aloud, and what many city hall watchers know.

Namely, this referral item is not about transparency at all, but about the fear among certain members of the local establishment that the current Mayor will not appoint favored parties to seats on local boards and commissions.

Specifically, Mr. Oddie is part of the circle of local Democrats that includes Rob Bonta and defeated Mayor Marie Gilmore. Had Gilmore won the election last November, this referral would never have arisen.

The federal analogy to Mr. Oddie's referral is a Republican congress questioning the process by which a (Democratic) Mayor makes appointments to the Supreme Court.

Likewise, Mr. Oddie apparently favors for municipal government the federal model that saw George W. Bush appoint conservatives John Roberts and Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

Indeed, we saw Gilmore upon election appoint favored souls to various boards and commission. Mr. Oddie then apparently had no questions about the process.

Certainly the process by which the Mayor appoints persons to boards and commissions is crystal clear - it's spelled out in Article X in the City Charter.

If Mr. Oddie doesn't favor a nominee, as a councilmember, he can vote against or challenge a nominee.

He could also, as the charter provides, attempt to persuade two other councilmembers to remove a board or commission member with a total of three votes.

These provisions already exist today, and are clearly spelled out for anyone to read in the city charter.

No, Mr. Oddie's referral is not at all about "transparency," but rather, about obfuscation. His true intention is to weaken the powers of one particular Mayor who he does not favor.

Let's be transparent about his intentions so we can do the real business of government and stop playing petty politics.

David Howard  
Alameda, CA