

Mayor Ezzy-Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council:

On behalf of the Alameda renters, the Labor community, and residents from every neighborhood, I want to thank the Grand Jury for their work, and the City for taking steps to bring closure to an issue that became an unnecessary distraction.

While many of us don't agree with all aspects of the Grand Jury's findings or how the Fire Chief selection process was characterized, we should all be able to agree on the following:

First, Fire Chief Rodriguez has been doing a great job leading the Department and building trust with his firefighters and the public. Thank you, Chief—and Alameda Firefighters -- for responding so quickly to this weekend's Woodstock Park fire incident!

Second, we can also agree that with a new leadership team in place—including a new City Manager and Mayor, working with committed Councilmembers who have championed our 911, emergency medical, affordable housing and homeless services -- our City should be positioned to address the difficult challenges that remain before us.

Our Island has been characterized by our strong quality of life, diverse residents, and welcoming spirit.

Yet our immigrants are under attack like never before by the Feds—and some of that hate has entered our local places of worship, and even our schools.

Future generations of Alamedans may never be able to afford to live here, a disturbing reality we must address.

Traffic congestion threatens our quality of life—we need real transit solutions.

And finally, sea rise and climate change affect the unique Island environment we all enjoy.

We ask that you answer our call to move forward in addressing these issues as a team. In these challenging times, we need the best leadership each one of you provides.

And it was in that spirit—that vocal, unabashed commitment to our safety and quality of life from two of our Councilmembers, that brings us to where we are today.

As you know, public service is gratifying and tough. We support the City providing additional training and Charter clarifications that help our public servants lead.

Laura Thomas Comments
6-B
7/16/19

But we are not supportive of any punitive actions that take us backwards, when we have so much important work to do ahead.

We are pleased the Grand Jury determined that no further accusatory action is needed—but angry that divisive elements in our own community have chosen to proceed with a seventh misguided recall attempt, a waste of taxpayer dollars and a distraction from the service we all deserve. Public service should not be reserved for the rich who have unlimited funds to fight these attacks or pay thousands in unwarranted legal fees.

By moving forward, not backwards—we can put this episode in the rear view mirror—and work together on the safety and quality of life issues of concern to us all.

Sincerely,

The workers, renters and citizens of the city of Alameda