September 1, 2015

Vice-Mayor Frank Matarrese, & City Council Members Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Tony Daysog and Jim Oddie
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room 380
Alameda, CA 94501

RE: 9/1/15 City Council Meeting Council Referral Agenda Item 9-D: Consideration of Staff Review of the City's Process for Board and Commission Appointments. (Councilmember Oddie)

Dear Council Members,

Councilmember Oddie's desire to make our local democratic political process more transparent is admirable. Interestingly, The Ford Foundation espouses the virtues of a democratic and accountable government, with a goal to improve the transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of government institutions and process. Councilmember Oddie is in good company.

In an attempt to convey my support of Councilmember Oddie's Referral, I would like to share with you the following experience. Earlier this year I received a letter from the City Clerk which pertained to my position on the Planning Board. The letter included a statement that if I was interested in submitting an Application for reappointment it was to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by June 2nd; my appointment was terming out on June 30th. Of course, I submitted my Application prior to the deadline noted in the letter.

The June 2nd deadline came and went, and then it came to my attention that applications for the Planning Board were being solicited after the deadline noted in my letter. This made me wonder why a deadline had been noted on the letter I received.

Additionally, and as noted in my letter dated September 1, 2015, RE: Regular Agenda Item 6-A, a reference in an application by one of the Planning Board Nominees noted, "I am not a Realtor." The comment seemed out of place; would someone have written, "I am not an Attorney, School Teacher, Firefighter," you fill in the blank? Obviously, a reference that pointed out the lack of a clear set of City required qualifications for the position of a Planning Board Member.

Every process can be improved upon; please consider supporting Councilmember Oddie's referral to make our local government better and more representative.

Respectfully,

Dania Alvarez, Realtor
CalBRE#01404808

9-1-15
Re: 9-D