

LARA WEISIGER

From: Trish Spencer
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 10:48 AM
To: Liz Warmerdam; LARA WEISIGER; Janet Kern
Subject: Fwd: Rent Review Advisory Commission

FYI

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Karin Lucas <karin_lucas@hotmail.com>
Date: 11/15/2015 1:14 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Trish Spencer <TSpencer@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: Rent Review Advisory Commission

Dear Mayor Spencer,

I hereby offer my resignation from the Rent Review Advisory Commission. The reason is that I will be involved in a group of small rental property owners in Alameda who do not wish to see rent control or restrictions on no-cause evictions. This may just make me too controversial in the eyes of the public appearing before the RRAC.

I regret that I have been able to serve only at one meeting of the RRAC after being appointed by you.

Now that there will be new demands on the RRAC, I suggest it be strengthened with a requirement that all commissioners take a course in mediation and that they be briefed by the City Attorney's office in applicable Brown Act provisions.

Thank you for your support and all the work you are doing for our City.

Karin Lucas

LARA WEISIGER

From: Brian McGuire <brianrmcguire@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 1:00 PM
To: Trish Spencer; LARA WEISIGER; Frank Matarrese; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Tony Daysog
Subject: Item 6-B Karin Lucas nomination to the RRAC

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I want to share some thoughts and bring your attention to information about the Mayor's nominee for a four year term on the Rent Review Advisory Committee.

First, when these nominations came up last month, the council made it clear that formalizing these appointments before the special meeting and its aftermath were clear on the direction of the RRAC was premature. I do not think the council has finalized its deliberations and actions around the issue, so passing a resolution on these appointments still seems premature.

The RRAC is an important body and is likely to become even more important after you act on whatever items staff brings back to you at the end of the moratorium. The signal the mayor sends with her nominations, and by extension, your confirmation of them by passing the resolution appointing them, represents Alameda's collective will.

Karin Lucas' comments at the November 4th meeting bring into question her ability, or even desire to help tenants reach mutually beneficial agreements through effective mediation.

Beyond that, new (old) information has come to light in a Lauren Do post on Blogging Bayport Alameda regarding Ms. Lucas' actions and attitudes towards renters, affordable housing, and the existence of documented cases of housing discrimination while she sat on the City Council. This information disqualifies Ms. Lucas for this important position.

<https://laurendo.wordpress.com/2015/11/13/rrac-track/>

From the post referencing the minutes of a CC meeting (I implore you to read the whole post):

"Karin Lucas bristled at the conclusions in a report entitled "Citywide Needs for Public Services [1991–92 Community Development Plan]' which pointed out that escalating rents were a problem in the City as was housing discrimination. She dismissed a reported 30 cases as not meaningful because she didn't believe there to be housing discrimination in Alameda."

This attempt to whitewash the record of Alameda's documented cases of housing discrimination are perhaps of most grave concern. Sweeping the problem under the rug is not acceptable. Combined with her decades long stance against "low-income housing," and stances against any proposed renter protections and you start to see the picture.

I understand this is a "landlord" seat on the RRAC and that point of view needs to be represented, per the ordinance. However, going by the speakers at your November 4th meeting, there are numerous landlords capable of speaking up for the plight of burdened housing providers without endorsing the idea of turning a blind eye to misdeeds among the landlord population by simply wishing it away.

Please consider carefully if this is the signal you want to send the community. All the nominations should be continued until after you act on upcoming legislation. This one should be withdrawn or voted down.

Thank you,

Brian McGuire