

independ Oct 17, 2017

ALAMEDA RENTERS COALITION

WWW.THEALAMEDARENTERSCOALITION.ORG

Good evening Madam Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers. My name is Mari Perez-Ruiz, and I am speaking tonight as President of the Alameda Renters Coalition. Our concern is the unfolding story over our new fire chief's selection process.

Alameda Renters Coalition stands with Vice Mayor Malia Vella and Councilmember Jim Oddie. Alameda's renting majority has benefited from their support.

Alameda Renters Coalition also stands with organized labor, including the Alameda Firefighters Union, Local 689.

Alameda residents need this government to function. We are relying on this government to help solve a housing crisis, develop better ways of getting on and off the island, and create new revenue streams. We need city management to effectively administer our city's budget, direct staff to draft legislation, and, through it all, work in sync with our elected officials.

When our government is hamstrung by the threat of an expensive lawsuit, we can't deal with those issues. When anti-union ideologues spin a story that organized working people are the problem, then we aren't dealing with those issues. Instead, we are insulting our hospital workers, teachers, paraprofessionals, firefighters, and service workers.

We will continue to hear calls for a full investigation as this is played out in public opinion emboldening the tired, regressive, and completely unoriginal story that unions are corrupt and pro-union elected officials are cronies. Creating divisiveness within our community.

Alameda Renters Coalition asks: How much time, money, and energy of this government will go towards a poorly envisioned civil suit instead of new legislation to protect long-term tenants, bring in new revenue for much-needed housing, and create bold innovative ways of addressing traffic and environmental health? How much time and energy are we willing to spend on funding deadlock within our government?

From our conversations with seniors, low-income tenants, and new immigrant families, the answer should be none. Alameda Renters Coalition urges the timely completion of evaluations for appointed officials and the full, effective functioning of this city government. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari Perez-Ruiz
President
Alameda Renters Coalition

Submitted by Mari Perez-Ruiz
At the 10/17/17 meeting
under Oral Communications