

LARA WEISIGER

From: Paul Foreman <ps4man@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Jim Oddie; John Knox White; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Malia Vella; Tony Daysog
Cc: Eric Levitt; LARA WEISIGER
Subject: July 16 Agenda Item 6B

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Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers:

I strongly disagree with either of Mr. Levitt's options for responding to Finding 19-4. The option 1 mention of the Jenkins Report would be irrelevant to Council's agreement with the Grand Jury. In Option2 Council would be rejecting the Grand Jury finding with regard to Ms. Vella and adopting the Jenkins conclusion, something that is unsupportable because of Mr. Jenkins reaching his conclusion without the benefit of hearing the tape of the August 2017 meeting of Mr. Oddie and Ms. Vella with the City Manager.

Option 1's statement that the Grand Jury reached no conclusion that Mr. Oddie and Ms. Vella had not engaged in "willful or corrupt misconduct in office." is also in error. In fact, in the next to the last paragraph on page 13 of the Grand Jury concluded that both Mr. Oddie and Ms. Vella knowingly violated the Charter and summarized their improper actions. The Grand Jury went on to say at page 29 that, "While the Grand Jury believes that the conduct described in this report did, in fact, violate the city charter, it also believes it does not warrant moving forward with formal Accusation proceedings." The reasons given for not doing so are recited in the same paragraph and relate to matters unrelated to their page 13 conclusion.

As stated by Robert Sullwold at <https://alamedamgr.wordpress.com/2019/07/07/playing-the-trump-card/> "Both of these responses can be used – and will be used – by Ms. Vella's and Mr. Oddie's apologists to whitewash the two Council members' transgressions." The other three members of Council should not be complicit in anyway qualifying their support of the Grand Jury Report. This will not result in the removal of Mr. Oddie or Ms. Vella from office, but it will allow Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers Daysog and Knox-White to firmly demonstrate their adherence to the rule of law expressed in the Charter, while also enhancing their argument for denial of the request for reimbursement of legal fees by Mr. Oddie and Ms. Vella.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Foreman

LARA WEISIGER

From: Patricia Gannon <pg3187@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2019 10:39 AM
To: John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Subject: City Council response to Grand Jury responses

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July 14, 2019

Honorable Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor, City of Alameda
Honorable Members of the City Council

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and City Council Members:

On Tuesday, July 16th your Council faces a momentous decision in how to respond to the Alameda Grand Jury's report and recommendations on allegations that two Council members violated the City Charter. The Grand Jury made four very specific recommendations for the City to follow if it wishes to restore credibility and relevance to our City government.

- 1) Establish policies that mandate initial and annual training relating to ethics and governance for both elected officials and senior staff.
- 2) Investigate "Charter and Municipal Code amendments that clarify and strengthen provisions relating to governance, especially regarding Section 7-3 prohibiting the Council from interfering with the City Manager in the execution of his/her duties."
- 3) Council members who knowingly violate ethical codes of conduct would not be able to seek reimbursement for related legal representation.
- 4) The City develop and implement a Code of conduct and a handbook for Council members.

In closing, I strongly urge the City Council to follow the recommendations of the Grand Jury in full. It is imperative that the Council make a very strong commitment to the citizens of Alameda that it will not allow this type of behavior by Council members without meaningful repercussions.

Thank you.

Patricia M. Gannon
1019 Tobago Lane
Alameda, CA 94502
pg3187@gmail.com

