

LARA WEISIGER

From: Rob Halford <rhalford@utexas.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 4:03 PM
To: John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Tony Daysog
Cc: LARA WEISIGER
Subject: Subject: Vella Government Claim - Item 3-E on Oct. 1 Closed Session Agenda

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Dear Mayor Ashworth, Vice-Mayor Knox-White, Councilmembers Daysog and Oddie:

In reference to the subject item, clearly it's been a difficult time for Alameda in the 2 years since the details broke surrounding the involvement by Mr. Oddie, Ms. Vella, and Mr. Bonta, in the City Manager's hiring of a new Fire Chief. We have seen contentious division among our citizens, we have seen an erosion of public trust, we have seen city staff upheaval, and we have seen great tangible cost to the city in the form of a nearly \$1MM settlement payment to the former city manager.

Earlier this summer, the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury reported its findings, that Councilman Jim Oddie and Councilwoman Malia Vella violated the City Charter by attempting to coerce then City Manager Jill Keimach to go along with their choice for Fire Chief, as directed by the firefighter's union president.

Given what this city has endured as a result of these actions, and the findings of the Grand Jury, I am writing to express my opposition to any further payment or reimbursement of legal or other costs by Alameda taxpayers to Ms. Vella. There is no reason that an elected official should be able to violate the city charter, retain his or her own premium legal representation and expect to be reimbursed by the taxpayers after being found culpable. Let's show that we are better people by honoring the validated whistle-blower instead of devaluing her ethical action.

To that end, I ask each of you to set aside the desires of any special interest, any backroom alliances, or partisan motivations, and simply do what is right for those that you were elected to serve, the people of Alameda.

Thank you,

Rob Halford

LARA WEISIGER

From: Paul Foreman <ps4man@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2019 4:19 PM
To: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; John Knox White; Jim Oddie; Tony Daysog
Cc: Yibin Shen; LARA WEISIGER
Subject: Vella Government Claim - Item 3-E on Oct. 1 Closed Session Agenda

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Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Knox-White, Councilmembers Oddie and Daysog:

I urge you to reject Ms. Vella's Government Claim listed as Item 3-E on the Oct. 1, 2019 Closed Session Agenda. I adopt the reasoning contained in Robert Sullwold's blog posting at <https://alamedamgr.wordpress.com/2019/09/25/vella-to-city-check-please/> I ask that you take the time to read it before making your decision.

I am aware that the aforesaid Government Claim is not limited to recovery of legal fees. Item 5 thereof also claims unspecified damages to "privacy and reputation" related to Ms. Keimach's actions. I doubt that Ms. Vella intends to pursue such an unfounded claim against either the city or Ms. Keimach, but is using it for leverage to get the city to pay her legal fees. I can only hope that Council will reject her claim.

Sincerely,

Paul S Foreman