

LARA WEISIGER

From: Jay <garsurg@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:25 PM
To: LARA WEISIGER
Subject: Iten 5-E re Councilmember-initiated events Policy
Attachments: Recommendation from a member of the the public re Councilmember-initiated events .docx

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Dear Ms. Weisiger,

I would appreciate it is you would add the attached policy suggestion re Item-5E to tonight's Council meeting Agenda.

Thank you.

Jay Garfinkle

March 17, 2020

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Alameda City Council

Given the public's increasingly frequent expressions of distrust of the motivation underlying the actions of some of our elected officials I believe it would be best to avoid actions that at the very least appear to be designed to further someone's political ambitions at the public's expense. Incumbents have an inherently significant and, I believe, unfair advantage over challengers when it comes to making presentations to the public, and I believe we should mitigate this advantage whenever practical, especially when such presentations appear to be for the benefit of a single, or possibly two, potential candidates and are funded by the City. I believe that limiting/minimizing the opportunities for incumbents to engage in City-funded gatherings in the months leading up to elections would one way to regain public confidence in our government.

I am submitting the following in furtherance of this goal.

Jay Garfinkle

Item 5-E on 3/17/20 Council Agenda

Policy Proposal

Use of City resources to support Councilmember-initiated events

Whereas it seems inappropriate for the City to provide resources including Staff time and the use of City facilities that are, or give the appearance of, supporting campaigns for election to public office, the following policy will be established:

- **Subject** – If an event such as a forum, town hall, workshop, or other planned gathering is Councilmember-initiated, the topic must be one that is under current consideration by the City Council.
Frequency - For each Councilmember, the number of events would be limited to one Councilmember-initiated event per quarter;
- **Election Black-out Window** - The use of City resources and/or facilities may not be permitted to support any Councilmember-initiated events during the 12 months preceding an election in which the Councilmember will be eligible to run for re-election or run for any other public office.

- Amount of Staff Time – No Staff, facility, or other resources shall be allocated in support of any Councilmember-initiated event during the “Election Blackout Window”.

The aforementioned parameters **cannot be waived or changed for a specific event.*