

Irma Glidden

From: E. Fraser <elfraser@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:57 PM
To: City Clerk; Tony Daysog; Jim Oddie; John Knox White; Malia Vella; Manager Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Agenda Item 5-C

Public Comment on Agenda Item 5-C

Dear Council, Mayor, and Staff,

I am a resident of Alameda. I take issue with the authorization of the contract and the information provided in support of the City's proposed action on Item 5-C, i.e., awarding a publishing contract to the Alameda Sun.

Put simply, the Sun stopped publishing in physical form. According to the Sun's website (verified today, June 16, 2020), "**Starting March 26**, the Sun will no longer circulate free copies door-to-door in Alameda." (Emphasis in original.)

The "verified" publishing statistics selectively do not include the period of "circulation" when the Sun's circulation was zero. And the City's contract would award taxpayer money to the Sun to (presumably) publish on it's website. What value is provided to taxpayers under this contract?

While I wish the Sun were continuing to publish and I value journalism, I find it disappointing that the City would contract with the Sun in a manner that seems entirely detached from reality. The terms of the contract, on their surface, do not appear to enrich it's publisher greatly. Nevertheless, the lack of acknowledgment of the Sun's current situation leads to an appearance of impropriety which is, simply, unacceptable.

I urge you to reject this contract and have it drafted to include more specific information about how the Sun will meet its obligations under the contract if the Sun continues to operate.

Sincerely,
Erin Fraser