

From: [Rasheed El Shabazz](#)
To: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Cc: [Elizabeth Mackenzie](#); [John Le](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commissioner Comments for 2/1
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:02:09 PM

Peace Lara,

Here is the documentation I wrote for Item 4 for OGC on Monday. I was going to send it to full commission, but I want to make sure that's not an issue. There's nothing specific or necessarily on the agenda.

Please add to minutes and/or forward to Commissioners, when/if appropriate.

R

Peace be with you all,

Below are my extended remarks for Monday's meeting re: goals of transparency, increasing knowledge, and equity and inclusion.

I share it as an addendum to the minutes and in hopes our individual goals can become collective goals.

Rasheed

The Sunshine Ordinance codifies the City's policies on public participation in "legislative bodies" and supplements the Brown Act and California Public Records Act. According to the Ordinance, "It is an affirmation of good government; and a continued commitment to open and democratic procedures. It is an effort to expand our citizens' knowledge, participation and trust." Under the premise that, "An informed public is essential to democracy," the ordinance identifies three goals. The Ordinance is to ensure that the citizens of Alameda have

1.
timely access to information,
2.
opportunities to address the various legislative bodies prior to decisions being made,
and
3.
easy and timely access to all public records.

As we advise the Council on ways to implement the Sunshine Ordinance, the OGC webpage states, "The Commission shall develop goals to ensure practical and timely implementation of the ordinance and propose amendments to the ordinance." I hope we can develop collective goals. Perhaps those goals can lead to proposed recommendations. Here are the

principles/goals guiding my contribution that I developed last year.

As a member of Alameda's Open Government Commission, I hope to:

a.

Increase government transparency

b.

Increase public knowledge of government, and

c.

Advocate for equity and inclusion within open government.

A.

Increase Government Transparency

a.

Annual Public Record Act reporting can help ensure the public is being served with requests for information/public records. This may increase trust.

B.

Public knowledge of government

a.

Hosting Public Records Act workshop/presentation during Open Government Week 2021. This may expand people's knowledge and increase participation and trust.

C.

Equity and Inclusion in Open Government

a.

As demonstrated by the staff reports on participation in multiple General Plan 2040 surveys and some of the polling to rename Jackson Park, public commenters and appointed and elected representatives do not represent the full diversity of our community. Equitable access and inclusive practices can increase knowledge, participation, and trust.

b.

My guiding questions are: What is the role of the OGC in relationship to equity and inclusion? Can we ensure all segments of the community are being served equitably by local government, and how? How inclusive is local government? Is it "open" or "closed"?