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OF ALAMEDA

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Dear City Council,

It has come to our attention that City staff recommended moving the regularly scheduled City Council meetings from the usual first and third Tuesdays to the first and third Wednesdays in September. This would place a City Council meeting on the evening of Yom Kippur, the night that Kol Nidre is chanted, the single most observed service of the Jewish year. Doing this denies access to Jewish citizens of Alameda to an otherwise public meeting.

We assume that the date was changed due to the Labor Day holiday, and the cross scheduling was an unfortunate oversight. We ask that you move it instead to the second and fourth Wednesdays, Sept 8 and Sept 22. This avoids Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and also the first day of the holiday of Sukkot.

We ask for no special treatment. The City Council should respect the traditions of its citizens and ensure that meetings are accessible to everyone. If the meeting were on Eid, or Easter we would support our fellow citizens' right to access.

We understand that you have an opportunity to correct this oversight at your July 20 meeting. Please vote to have your meetings on September 8 and 22.

Respectfully,

Eric Strimling

Eric Strimling

Representing the Temple Israel Board of Directors.

