

From: [Karen Miller](#)
To: [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)
Cc: [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda Sun
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:06:40 AM

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please reconsider your decision regarding the Alameda Journal and award the publishing contract to the Alameda Sun which is our only local newspaper. I do not receive the Journal and have been told that in order to receive it I need to subscribe to the Oakland Tribune for which I have no use. Thank you.

Regards,

Karen Miller



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com



September 6, 2021

1554 Everett Street
Alameda, CA 94501
kevis.brownson@gmail.com

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council Members
(by electronic transmission)

I write concerning the Agenda Item **6-H 2021-1186 Recommendation to Reconsider Award of the Contract for the Publication of Legal Notices and Consider Providing Direction for Funding Options to Assist the Alameda Sun. (City Clerk 10022020)**

A free press is so important to the functioning of our democracy. The free press model that we use, is supported mainly by paid advertisements and notices. We in Alameda are truly fortunate to have a local newspaper, both in print and online; thousands of local newspapers have disappeared or have been absorbed into larger and larger newspapers owned by large media corporations. I do not believe that a large, faraway corporation can well represent the interests and viewpoints of a 78,000 person community in California.

Advertising revenue and legal notice revenue are essential to keeping our local paper alive. All levels of government find ways to preferentially award contracts to minority owned businesses, for example. Surely, some way can be found to give extra points on a contract to a local newspaper, in order to help preserve our access to the news in our community. Please reconsider how you might award the contract for the legal notice publication to the *Alameda Sun*.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevis Brownson'.

Kevis Brownson
510-522-4966

September 6, 2021

By email

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft – mezzyashcraft@alamedaca.gov

Vice Mayor Malia Vella - mvella@alamedaca.gov

Councilmember Tony Daysog - tdaysog@alamedaca.gov

Councilmember John Knox White - jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov

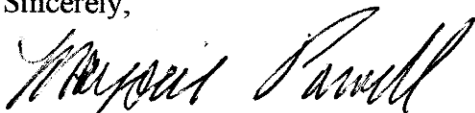
Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer - tspencer@alamedaca.gov

RE: Agenda Item 6-H Contract for the Publication of Legal Notices

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I respectfully request that the City Council re-consider the decision to award the contract to the Alameda Journal, rather than the Alameda Sun, for the publication of legal notices. I have read the Alameda Sun since I moved to the city almost 9 years ago but have only read the Alameda Journal one or two times, because the Alameda Sun is readily accessible and the Alameda Journal is not. One of the important criteria for legal notices is that they can be found easily by local residents. The Sun meets this criterion more than the Journal, in my experience. The Sun also routinely includes articles reporting on actions of the City Council and other agencies of city government. Their accessibility and continuing coverage of city news should count in the decision about which publication serves as the paper for legally required notices.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Powell

2465 Shoreline Drive Apt 306

Alameda, CA 94501

cc: Lara Weisiger - clerk@alamedaca.gov

From: [John Platt](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [cAROLYN qUEENER](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Sun
Date: Sunday, September 5, 2021 9:32:29 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I was thrilled to hear that you are reconsidering your vote on putting the City notices in the Alameda Sun.

The Sun is a LOCAL business that actively supports Alameda and provides an active platform for the city of Alameda. I just put down my copy of the Alameda Journal. It took me less than 10 minutes to read as it had so little Alameda news in it. (Thank you Mayor Ashcraft for your excellent piece).

The Sun is a local business struggling to survive in these difficult times. If anything we have learned in the last few years a free press is essential for our democracy. Sometimes we need to put our money where our mouth is and I believe the extra expense of advertising in the Sun is money well spent to keep this valuable resource up and running and to help keep Alameda the vibrant community it is.

Thank you Council members Knox-White and Spencer for voting to support the Sun in the initial vote. I am hoping to see a 5-0 vote this week to support our local newspaper, the Sun and our community.

Thank you all for all you do for our community.

John Platt

From: [Arthur Lenhardt](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Editor Alameda-Sun](#); [editor@bayareanewsgroup.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda Sun's real value
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 8:26:17 PM

Honorable Alameda City Council Members:

It is my understanding that a majority of you will be voting to move the City's advertising contract from the Sun to the Journal. This apparently has to do with saving money. That's usually a good thing, but sometimes not. Sometimes it's like taking a short-cut to a destination in order to save some time and gas and then winding up on a horrible road that endangers both you and your passengers.

That appears to me to be what's happening here. Sure, we'll save some money. I don't know how much, but how do you measure that against the fact that the Journal's coverage of Alameda is, in my opinion, nowhere near the calibre and thoroughness of the Sun's? We would wind up being a little cog in a huge wheel of press data, rather than the driving gear of a thriving local information machine. And simply because the Journal is free is no argument at all.

So ask yourselves: Is a decision to move the advertising to a non-local entity, at a slight cost savings, really in the best interests of our City, or is it a decision in the best interests of the Journal? In my opinion, it's the latter, and such a decision would certainly detract from the credibility of the Council as a whole.

Thank you for your time and attention. There's no need to reply to this. Your answers will be in your votes, as will ours.

Thank you for your time.

Peace.

Art Lenhardt

--

Arthur W. Lenhardt
Alameda, CA

"Until there is peace among the religions of the world there will never be peace on earth"

--H.H. the Dalai Lama

"Prejudice, a dirty word, and faith, a clean one, have something in common: they both begin where reason ends." Harper Lee

From: [Alameda Citizens Task Force](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); tdaysog@alamedaca.com
Cc: [Eric Levitt](#); [Lara Weisiger](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 6-H Sept. 7, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Agenda-Alameda Sun
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 3:03:15 PM

ACT

Alameda Citizens Task Force

Vigilance, Truth, Civility

Dear Mayor Ashcraft, Vice-Mayor Vella, and Council Members Knox-White, Spencer and Daysog:

The ACT Board strongly supports the termination of the legal notice contract with the Alameda Journal and awarding the contract to the Alameda Sun.

We are fully aware that the cost of placing legal notices in the Sun is higher than the Journal. However, the cost of legal notice publication is a very tiny item in the City budget. The Sun is the only truly local paper dedicated entirely to Alameda. It is a significant source of local news and opinion. It has always operated on a very slim budget and has almost miraculously continued publishing throughout the pandemic. Depriving the Sun of this source of revenue may place its continued existence at risk.

If you weigh the increased cost of the Sun against its contribution and importance to the community, the legitimacy and wisdom of awarding the legal notice contract to them should be apparent.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Lipow
President
Alameda Citizens Task force

From: [Gabriele von Ingersleben](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda Sun
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 10:21:45 AM

I never wrote before to our City Council but the Alameda Sun issue is very important to me. This paper (and not the Alameda Journal) gave me a lot of information about our town. I think we deserve to get our Alameda Sun back. Of course I am aware that the price is higher but the people of this town should have their own independent paper.

Thanks your consideration,

Gabriele von Ingersleben
301 Broadway #302
Alameda

From: [David Stranz](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Alameda Sun is important for Alameda
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021 8:41:09 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I was dismayed to read earlier this year that the Council had voted to award its newspaper advertising contract to the Alameda Journal after years of using our own hometown newspaper, the Alameda Sun. The Journal is owned by a New York-based investment capital company with no relationship to Alameda, and the Journal rarely has the same coverage as Alameda news and events as the Sun. It is the "Alameda" Journal in name only.

The loss of the City's contract threatens the existence of the already financially weakened Sun. The COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of many of its advertisers due to business closures forced the Sun to turn from a free weekly delivered to all residents into a subscription-only model in order to survive. The loss of the City contract has caused further belt tightening and the retirement of one of the editors.

We need a true, local newspaper focused on the news and events of our city. The demise of the Sun would be the end of the only remaining edited independent content in Alameda. As you reconsider your vote to award the City's advertising contract to the Journal, please be aware that your decision over what is in truth a small amount of money could lead to the death of our only local news resource. Why send that money to New York when it can provide jobs and information right here in Alameda?

With best regards,

David

David Stranz

1338 Bay Street
Alameda, CA 94501

510-523-7014

From: [lina](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support the Alameda Sun
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 7:39:37 PM

Dear City Council members:

Recently I was quite disheartened to learn that the City has awarded an advertising contract to the Alameda Journal. Although billed as a local paper, I find that the Journal reports on other cities in the county rather than on Alameda, as the Alameda Sun does.

Alameda Sun not only reports on the news here in Alameda, but it also has a history section on many aspects of Alameda, which is of interest to me and a big reason I love living here. Who knew that Alameda is the first terminus of the transcontinental railroad?

I'm elated to hear that the Council is reconsidering its vote on awarding the advertising contract. I hope that you will support our true locally-owned and run paper. It's also going through the same difficult time that we all are. Please keep Alameda strong!

Although I'm a long-time resident (32 years), this is the first time I'm writing to anyone in the City government. But I feel very strongly about this, so I decided to write you even though it's not in my nature to do something like this.

Thank you!

Lina Au

From: [Leslie Graham](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda Sun
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 6:37:17 PM

I am an Alameda resident who would like to urge you to award the city's advertising contract to the true local paper, The Alameda Sun.

Thank you.

Leslie Graham
1345 Bay Street

From: mcbuck@comcast.net
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please support the Alameda Sun with our city's advertising dollars
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 5:38:23 PM

Dear City Council members,

I was quite disheartened to learn a few months back that you had awarded the city's advertising contract to the *Alameda Journal* instead of the locally founded and run *Alameda Sun*.

Today I learned that you plan to reconsider this decision. That is great news! I'd like to strongly urge you to support the *Sun* by awarding them this contract. We need local journalists to follow our city's issues, and the *Journal* just does not maintain that focus – even less so now that it's a part of a large capital group based in New York that has stakes in over 200 papers across the country.

Our democratic government does not function effectively without a well-informed citizenry – something we've learned a lot about these last few years.

Please, please award this contract to the *Alameda Sun*.

Thank you,
Christine Buck
Alameda

From: [Dennis Cox](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Alameda Sun
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 5:12:02 PM

Sent today

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Cox <coxerect@aol.com>
To: CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>
Sent: Fri, Sep 3, 2021 5:10 pm
Subject: Alameda Sun

Council members,

Please support the Alameda Sun by designating them for our local Alameda news. I understand that they are a bit higher in price than the Journal, but they are a true Alameda-only news paper. We need to keep them going. They are far superior to the Journal for everything of local interest.

Sincerely

Dennis Cox