

**From:** [harveyzu@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyzu@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for item 6B on City Council agenda of 9/7/21. Please post.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7:45:39 PM

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While the result of the City Council's vote on item 6B will likely surprise no one, I would like to comment on the process that has brought us to this point.

Mr. Biggs and Mr. Alan Tai of the Planning Department gave extensive presentations supporting delisting and demolition of the buildings of the former U.S. Maritime Service Officers Training School before the Historical Review Board which were accompanied by visual presentations. Opponents of these measures were not afforded the same opportunities to make similar presentations.

At the Planning Board meeting, Mr. Biggs again made an extended presentation accompanied by visuals as did his architect as well. No such opportunity was offered to the project's opponents. Additionally, from the comments of one of the Board members after public comments had been heard at the meeting, it became clear that Mr. Biggs had lobbied him shortly before the meeting and convinced him that the Planning Board should approve his plans because of the rapidly rising cost of construction each month. The public had no way of similarly lobbying members of the Planning Board prior to the meeting because their email addresses and phone numbers are not available to the public. Additionally, since Mr. Biggs made his arguments to the Planning Board member outside of the view of the public, there was no way to effectively argue against them by pointing out that the project will cost much more than other homeless facilities being built and that extensive toxics remediation, followed by demolition and new construction required for the project will take much longer than simply relocating the project to another site not requiring extensive toxics remediation or demolition of historic structures.

It is unfair that the developer has opportunities to lobby members of city boards, where opponents of projects are not afforded the same opportunities.

Thank you.

Harvey Rosenthal

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [james edwards](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for item 6B on City Council agenda for Sept 7,2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:48:22 PM

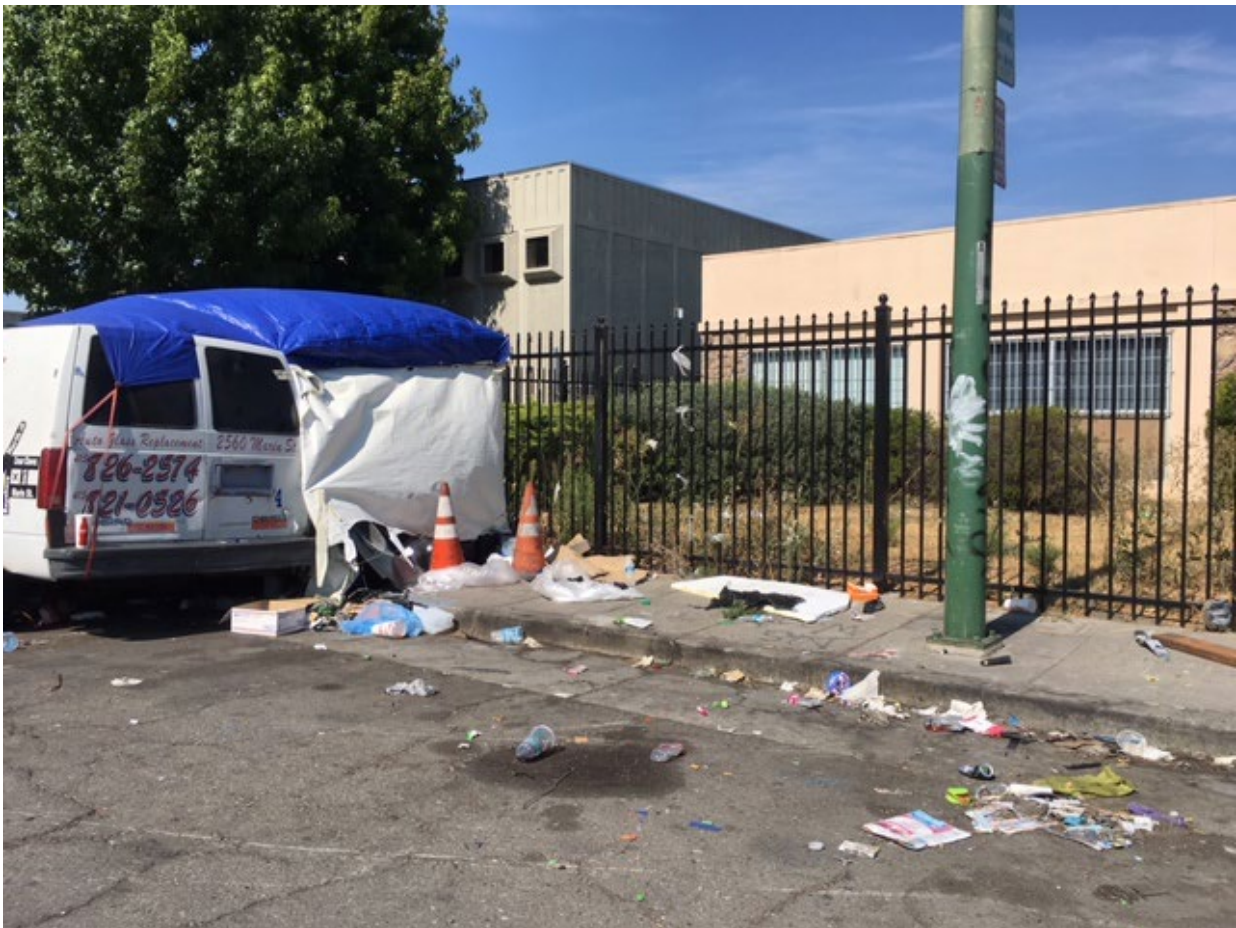
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Dear Clerk,

The public comment I submitted for tonight's City Council meeting, item 6B appears but without the photos that were attached to it and referenced in my comments. If possible, could you please attach these missing photos to my previously submitted public comment for item 6B.

Thank you.

Jim Edwards







Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Laura Cutrona](#)  
**To:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#)  
**Cc:** [Manager Manager](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6-B Wellness Center - I support the Planning Board's 7/26 vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:04:01 PM

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Mayor Ashcraft, Vice Mayor Vella, and Council Members Trish Spencer, Tony Daysog, and John Knox White:

I am writing in support of the Planning Board's decision to approve a Design Review for the Wellness Center on McKay Avenue which occurred during their meeting on July 26, 2021.

The concerns raised around an unknown or wrong Zoom ID seem to be targeting only this one item from that meeting, not the others including the projects on Harbor Bay Parkway or Webster Street. At best, re-opening the conversation and taking another vote will delay a very needed resource in our community. At worst, this looks like a blatant attack on our most vulnerable neighbors.

I ask that you vote in support of the Planning Board's previous decision so that we can keep moving forward with a much-needed community resource.

Thank you,  
Laura Cutrona

**From:** [Carly Stadum-Liang](#)  
**To:** [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for agenda item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:37:20 PM

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Hello Trish and Tony,

I'm sorry to have to call you out for your **anti-democratic moves** to overturn the will of Alameda voters, who went to the ballot box OVER TWO YEARS AGO and APPROVED the Wellness Center. Instead of performing your DUTY to uphold the will of Alameda voters, even when you disagree with the vote, **you have cowed to the minority of Alameda voters** who oppose the Wellness Center. That is what you are really doing today with agenda item 6-B, by asking to overturn ONLY the items from the Planning Board meeting that have to do with the Wellness Center.

Please respect our democratic system and our vote in favor of the Wellness Center, and STOP OBSTRUCTING the construction of the Wellness Center.

Thank you,

Carly Stadum-Liang  
Bayfarm Resident



9/7/2021

Alameda City Council  
2263 Santa Clara Ave  
Alameda, CA 94501

clerk@alamedaca.gov  
Via Email

Re: 1245 MCKAY AVE

Dear Alameda City Council,

YIMBY Law submits this letter to inform you that the City Council has an obligation to abide by all relevant state housing laws when evaluating the above captioned proposal, including the Housing Accountability Act (HAA).

California Government Code § 65589.5, the Housing Accountability Act, prohibits localities from denying housing development projects that are compliant with the locality's zoning ordinance or general plan at the time the application was deemed complete, unless the locality can make findings that the proposed housing development would be a threat to public health and safety. The most relevant section is copied below:

(j) When a proposed housing development project complies with applicable, objective general plan and zoning standards and criteria, including design review standards, in effect at the time that the housing development project's application is determined to be complete, but the local agency proposes to disapprove the project or to approve it upon the condition that the project be developed at a lower density, the local agency shall base its decision regarding the proposed housing development project upon written findings supported by substantial evidence on the record that both of the following conditions exist:

(1) The housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety unless the project is disapproved or approved upon the condition that the project be developed at a lower density. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.

(2) There is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact identified pursuant to paragraph (1), other than the disapproval of the housing development project or the approval of the project upon the condition that it be developed at a lower density.

...

(4) For purposes of this section, a proposed housing development project is not inconsistent with the applicable zoning standards and criteria, and shall not require a rezoning, if the

housing development project is consistent with the objective general plan standards and criteria but the zoning for the project site is inconsistent with the general plan. If the local agency has complied with paragraph (2), the local agency may require the proposed housing development project to comply with the objective standards and criteria of the zoning which is consistent with the general plan, however, the standards and criteria shall be applied to facilitate and accommodate development at the density allowed on the site by the general plan and proposed by the proposed housing development project.

The proposed development at 1245 McKay Avenue, is for an approximately 29,810 square foot, two-story project, that includes 90-100 units of Senior Permanent Supportive Housing, as well as a 50-bed medical respite facility, and on-site medical and mental health clinic.

On July 26, 2021, the Planning Board passed *RESOLUTION NO. PB-21-09*, which approved the project's Design Review Application, noting that it complies with all elements all of the development standards for the property, including the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance:

*The proposed design is consistent with the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and the City of Alameda Design Review Manual. The project is consistent with all of the development standards for the property. The medical respite facility is a permitted use in the A-P, Administrative Professional Zoning District, and uses that are permitted in the respective zoning district are also consistent with the General Plan. The proposed medical respite facility design is architecturally compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and consistent with the design guidelines for set forth in the Design Review Manual.*

## Hearing History

The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 amended the HAA to streamline the approval process of applications deemed to meet objective zoning and general plan requirements. The HAA, as amended, now reads:

**§ 65905.5.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, if a proposed housing development project complies with the applicable, objective general plan and zoning standards in effect at the time an application is deemed complete, after the application is deemed complete, a city, county, or city and county **shall not conduct more than five hearings** pursuant to Section 65905, or any other law, ordinance, or regulation requiring a public hearing in connection with the approval of that housing development project. If the city, county, or city and county continues a hearing subject to this section to another date, the continued hearing shall count as one of the five hearings allowed under this section. The city, county, or city and county shall consider and either approve or disapprove the application at any of the five hearings allowed under this section consistent with the applicable timelines under the Permit Streamlining Act

We believe in total, the city of Alameda has held seventeen public meetings in connection to this project. Since 2020, there have been at least five Planning Board or City Council hearings for this project:

June 8, 2020 - Planning Board approval. - appealed to City Council  
July 21, 2020 - City Council approval of appealed decision.  
May 6 2021 - Historical Advisory Board approval for building demolition.  
July 6, 2021 - City Council reviews the HAB approval, and upholds it.  
July 26, 2021 - Planning Board approves the Design Review Application



The project application does not require a zoning or General Plan legislative amendment. This application has already exceeded the five-hearing maximum required under the law, and hearing a “Call for Review” of the Planning Board’s July 26th application approval would constitute a breach of the statutory requirement to approve or deny the application in a timely manner.

Should the city proceed to unlawfully conduct a sixth hearing for the above captioned proposal, please note that the proposal is zoning compliant and general plan compliant, therefore, your local agency must approve the application, or else make findings to the effect that the proposed project would have an adverse impact on public health and safety, as described above.

Yimby Law is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, whose mission is to increase the accessibility and affordability of housing in California.

I am signing this letter both in my capacity as the Executive Director of YIMBY Law, and as a resident of California who is affected by the shortage of housing in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonja Trauss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonja Trauss  
Executive Director  
YIMBY Law

**From:** [Sophia DeWitt](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B: Do Not Delay the Wellness Center any further!  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:15:48 PM

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Dear Councilmembers:

The Alameda Wellness Center has the support of a majority of Alameda residents, who want to see a compassionate and effective response toward services for those without homes. Alameda Point Collaborative has received all needed city permits. The City Council has voted to move the project forward-- multiple times.

The Wellness Center will provide critical care and housing for unhoused and medically frail elders. What an opportunity we have here in Alameda to complete this project and reduce the number of unhoused elders living on our streets. Each attempt to delay the center prolongs the suffering of real people. Councilmembers, do not permit any more delays to the completion of the Wellness Center project.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Sophia DeWitt  
1580 Buena Vista Avenue, #A  
Alameda, CA 94501

**EAST BAY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS (EBHO)**

[510-663-3830 ext. 313](tel:510-663-3830) | [sophia@ebho.org](mailto:sophia@ebho.org)

[538 Ninth Street, Suite 200](#) | [Oakland, CA 94607](#)

Join us for our annual Faith and Justice event on September 23rd, this year called, "[Faith and Justice Community Workshop and Healing Space](#)". It will be a morning to celebrate good work, good friends and good music! Register [here](#).

*"Remember who you are and what you represent."-- Mills College motto*

*"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle, the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**From:** [Savanna Cheer](#)  
**To:** [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [John Knox White](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for agenda item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 3:27:17 PM

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Dear Trish and Tony,

My comments on this particular agenda item are directed at the two of you, because it's obvious that you are the only people on council that precipitated this item coming onto the agenda.

This review regarding the Wellness Center is a pretty poor excuse for an objection to an already agreed-upon and well-supported project. Please be aware that your actions surrounding this item are perceived in the community as obstructionist, harmful, and counter to the purpose of your role as a leader in this city. This is the way a wide group of Alamedans understand your choices. Of course, that would be difficult to gauge if you only engage with residents in one, narrow way, or not at all.

The time has come for both of you to give it up - the project is moving ahead. With wide community support. In a landscape where it is needed now more than ever. The Wellness Center will protect our most vulnerable friends and neighbors, and at this point, you have an obligation as a city leader to support the project since it is now entirely uncontestable.

Tony, I heard you give a passionate, really moving speech at a recent council meeting regarding spending relief dollars on a transitional housing effort. Your words were kind, showed empathy and it would be great to see you apply that same heartfelt support to the Wellness Center.

Thank you,  
Savanna Cheer

**From:** [Jenice A](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [John Knox White](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B Call for Review of the Planning Board's Final Decisions at the July 26, 2021 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:43:49 PM

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Dear City Council,

I'm not sure that I have the correct words to convey how disgusted I am with Councilmembers Daysog and Spencer continuing to obstruct the development of the Wellness Center. In the call for review it states "We hereby Call for Review **all votes that occurred at the Planning Board meeting of July 26, 2021**" However not all votes are under review, only the one targeting assistance for our unhoused and elderly neighbors.

This is very clearly a tactic to stall development on a project that is unpopular with some *very* vocal neighbors. Those same neighbors who use social media and police resources to target unhoused people in our community. You cannot both complain about unhoused people AND block any attempt to help them. We are in unprecedented times and should be using every available resource to reduce the suffering of our most vulnerable neighbors. Every delay to this project because of tactics like this is an abuse of power and a dereliction of duty. I would hope that Councilmembers Daysog and Spencer would, in the future, use their time in office to actually accomplish something of use for this city instead of constantly trying to undo the good work of others.

Sincerely,

Jenice Anderson

**From:** [Ashley Gregory](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Meeting: Item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:33:42 PM

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Dear City Clerk,

I'm writing to you this afternoon to express my unwavering support for the proposed Wellness Center. Alameda has an opportunity to support and protect those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

Unfortunately, fear tactics are being used to attempt to block the construction of this Wellness Center. Conjuring up disaster scenarios or describing people who are homeless as self-indulgent or dangerous criminals are based upon stereotypes and do nothing to truly address the root causes of addiction, racism and poverty.

Now is the time to act with compassion, care and optimism towards a human being's innate drive to find balance and security. May we address any issues that arise, as they do in any human interaction, in community dialogue, rather than prohibit the inspiring possibilities that this Wellness Center represents.

I urge you to support the Wellness Center, an innovative hub for interconnectedness, healing and community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Gregory



**From:** [Jon Randell](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] tonight's City Council meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:23:35 PM

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Dear Madam Clerk,

Can you please forward the attached letter to the City Council members in advance of tonight's City Council meeting?

Thank you,  
Jon

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Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing to voice my concern for the unequal treatment, stonewalling, and delay-tactics that members of this Council are invoking in order to delay the construction of the approved wellness center.

As you know, this review was called for because there may have been minor access problems during the Planning Board hearing, despite the fact that there were over 50 public commenters. During that hearing there were 3 projects presented. The other two petitioners for that hearing were granted immediate exemption from this review. However, the petitioner for the Wellness Center was not. If the issue were *\*really\** about public access to Planning Board hearings, then shouldn't all three projects approved at that meeting be under review? Councilmember Herrera's dispensing of those two project reviews while holding the Respite Center hostage is a transparent attempt to further delay an already approved project, which she is on record as strongly opposing. It's an obvious abuse of process.

I ask that all Councilmembers see this for what it is: an attempt to further delay what the community has approved, and desperately needs, but that she opposes. It's undemocratic and abusive to an already marginalized and underserved part of our community who is deserving of our expedience, compassion, and empathy. Please oppose this procedural delaying tactic.

Thank you,

Jon Randell

**From:** [Zac Bowling](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for Item 6-B. Item 6-B is ridiculous  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:35:29 PM

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Mayor and Councilmembers,

If Councilmember Daysog and Councilmember Herrera Spencer truly wanted to feign this has anything to do with a potential Brown Act issue with a typo on the agenda then they would have brought forward the entire agenda from that meeting for review and not just the Wellness Center item or instead referred it to OGC.

The fact that every other action taken at the meeting was excluded in this call for review after it was made makes it clear this is simply an attempt to delay and kill this project by relitigating this project yet again for what will be the 18th time in a public meeting.

Enough is enough.

Any potential brown act issue was cured in the meeting when this was raised in the meeting. If someone wanted they could raise any potential brown act issue with the OGC instead of council members calling this item alone for review. More than ample public comment was received on this and other items. It's improbable to think one or two additional comments missed because someone may have wanted to also call and couldn't do so in some way like the 50 other attendees were able to at the meeting and that those few comments would have an impact on the decisions by the board given the vote and comments by the members at the meeting.

Council should simply vote to affirm, without discussion, the decision of the planning board, and, for that matter, the decisions of the voters in approving this project. It's disgraceful that we are wasting staff time and city funds to bring this forward to council. We need to move on and allow the wellness center to go forward without any more stall tactics.

If someone wanted to appeal this decision they should have to pay the city for the time and resources it takes for an appeal and state their basis for an appeal. Our council members shouldn't be giving this minority of detractors a freebie on our dime.

Thank you,

Zac Bowling

**From:** [Ashley Lorden](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 1:34:34 PM

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Item 6-B is a ridiculous waste of our city funds and attention. Those who oppose the Wellness Center need to accept that they are the minority and that the project is happening. Those who choose to use government to delay, diminish, or dismiss the clear will of the people should not be involved in a government whose role is to serve.

**From:** [Denise Orr](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B 9/7/2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:30:28 AM

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To our Alameda City Council -

Regarding item 6-B on your agenda for September 7, 2021, I must say strongly:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Get on with the Wellness Center project! We, the people of Alameda, voted for this to go through over 2 years ago. Enough with the inane delay tactics, enough wasting taxpayer's money, ENOUGH WITH THE LACK OF COMPASSION AND HUMANITY.

ENOUGH!

Thank you.  
Denise Orr

**From:** [Ammonitee](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 09/07/2021 City Council Agenda Item # 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:28:28 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

Re: Agenda Item # 6-B

It has come to my attention that, the meeting of the Planning Board meeting on 7/26/21 appears to have violated the people's right to public comment, which is secured to them by the Brown Act, **Government Code sections 54950-54963**.

As public servants, it is now your obligation to re-schedule the meeting, in order to provide access to the people who were blocked from public comment via telephone, because the wrong number was posted on the agenda.

Please do so.

Brown Act requirements :

The meeting place must be accessible to all members of the public.

Time must be provided for comment by the public.

Public bodies may not prohibit criticism of "the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body."

I attended the meeting via computer, but was later informed that, anyone who attempted to dial in by telephone (as listed as an option on the Agenda) would not have been able to participate in the meeting during public comment.

Staff was notified during the meeting of this issue, yet butdelayed correcting the meeting IDs on the Agenda til *the following day*.

To keep an accurate record, staff should have clearly noted that the Telephone ID was actually *inaccessible during the meeting*.

Please make this correction. (see documentation below).

Thank you,  
Fey Adelstein

1. The posted agenda indicated the following information which was invlaid for telephone participants:

For information on public participation see the following:

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/GOVERNMENT/Public-Comment-Guide>

The City will allow public participation via Zoom. Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://alamedaca->



[gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA](https://gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA)

Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

**Zoom Meeting ID: 862 6195 1731**

Passcode: 260387

4. The following day, Staff altered the agenda to reflect two matching Meeting ID numbers:

For information on public participation see the following:

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**Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832**

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

**Zoom Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832**

Passcode: 260387

**From:** [Anita Burnaford](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:02:07 AM

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Council,

Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog have been opposed to the Wellness Center for years. That, I suppose, is their prerogative. But if the information shared by Doug Biggs that Spencer and Daysog singled out just one item on the previous agenda for review, the Wellness Center, and not any of the other more glamorous items, I think that just stinks.

The notification of this Tuesday's Council Meeting that arrived in my mail made no mention of the real reason this review is 'necessary'. The red tape and constant barrage of the latest hoop to go through seem to point out that those opposed just want to bleed Doug Biggs and Co dry. The voters approved Measure A. There is great need for this project to proceed and it must be allowed to go forward.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Burnaford

**From:** [mcbuck@comcast.net](mailto:mcbuck@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Trish Spencer](#); [Tony Daysog](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] please moving forward on the wellness center  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:55:23 AM

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Dear Council Members Spencer and Daysog,

I am a strong supporter of Alameda's plans for a Wellness Center Campus, which was approved by a majority of our city's voters a few years ago. Since then, the project has developed strong partnerships, met regulatory requirements, and established strong financial footing. I look forward to the day when Alamedans will play a larger role in supporting and improving the lives of medically fragile and unhoused residents.

However, it seems that despite the wishes of the community, this project has been subject to delay after delay from a very vocal minority still trying to stop it. And this latest move has gone too far. Your call for a review due to a minor error in noticing the Zoom hearing explicitly singles out the wellness center – while other projects *dealt with at the same hearing* were exempted from review.

Why? I can only conclude this is a blatant attempt to slow down a badly needed project. Where is our humanity? Do we fear change so much that we can't see the human faces behind the need this center will meet?

Please, let's stop the delays and give the wellness center our whole-hearted support. It's long overdue. Thank you.

Christine Buck  
Alameda

**From:** [lis cox](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Access  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:30:26 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

Re: ITEM 6-B

The Planning Board meeting on 7/26/21 listed an incorrect meeting ID for telephone participants.

Under the protections of the Brown Act, members of the public should be granted access to fully participate in our government.

Anyone who did not have access to the Internet and attempted to dial in by telephone, as listed as an option on the Agenda,

would not have been able to participate in the meeting during public comment.

Public participation in government meetings is an essential part of our democracy.

The fact that Staff was notified during the meeting of the issue, but corrected the meeting IDs on the Agenda to match

the following day should have been footnoted instead of simply altered noting that the Telephone ID was actually **inaccessible during the meeting**.

Please re-agendize the meeting so that any member of the public could participate and comment.

Thank you.

Lis Cox

516 Taylor Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501  
510-701-7669

See:

1.

The posted agenda indicated the following information which was invlaid for telephone participants:

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Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

Zoom Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832

Passcode: 260387



**From:** [Diane Cunningham Rizzo](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Enough is Enough. Please stop the delaying tactics against the Wellness Center Project.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:59:39 AM

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I am sending this email to notify you of my support for the Wellness Center Project and my opposition to item 6-B on tonight's agenda.

Over the last three years, the Wellness Center Project has been the subject of 17 different public hearings, and received necessary approvals at all 17.

The hearing tonight is a review of the Planning Board hearing that approved the design application for the respite center. Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog (the necessary 2<sup>nd</sup> vote for an item to be reviewed) invoked a call for review in order to save opponents the cost of filing an appeal. Instead, we the taxpayers get to foot the cost of their delay tactics. The call is based on the allegation that the meeting wasn't properly noticed because the zoom ID in one section was correct, but another place on the notice had the wrong ID. The issue was raised in the hearing itself, and the notice was corrected and the staff attorney allowed the hearing to continue.

One could understand wanting to review this action, but what Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog did next crosses the line to become an abuse of their authority. They chose to only target the Wellness Center in their call for review. Other agenda items from that same meeting which benefit the business community and a high end commercial project on Harbor Bay were granted almost immediate exemption from review by Councilmember Spencer, but the one action impacting our unhoused neighbors wasn't granted a request. We didn't even receive the courtesy of a response to our request from Councilmember Spencer!

This is clearly about delaying, harassing and discriminating against the project, and the homeless elderly that will be served. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

- More than 50 people were able attend the meeting via zoom, and many spoke on the Wellness Center as well as other agenda items. Lack of noticing was not an issue that prevented people from participating
- To say a meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the

agenda items to a higher standard of review is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for review process.

- By joining in the call for review, Councilmember Daysog forced the City, and we the taxpayers to foot the \$5,000 bill for staff time, instead of having appellants pay, as they should be required to do.
- The project already has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These delays are a disgusting abuse of power and all they accomplish is increasing the cost of the project and delaying services to our unhoused neighbors.

Sincerely,

Diane Cunningham Rizzo

**From:** [Sheldon Norberg](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 6-B Correction  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7:55:19 AM

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Dear City Council Members,

Re: ITEM 6-B

The Planning Board meeting on 7/26/21 listed an incorrect meeting ID for telephone participants. Under the protections of the Brown Act, members of the public should be granted access to fully participate in our government. Anyone who did not have access to the Internet and attempted to dial in by telephone, as listed as an option on the Agenda, would not have been able to participate in the meeting during public comment. Public participation in government meetings is an essential part of our democracy. The fact that Staff was notified during the meeting of the issue, but corrected the meeting IDs on the Agenda to match the following day should have been footnoted instead of simply altered noting that the Telephone ID was actually **inaccessible during the meeting**.

Please re-agendize the meeting so that any member of the public could participate and comment.

Thank you.

Sheldon Norberg  
420 Fair Haven Road  
Alameda

See:

1.

The posted agenda indicated the following information which was invlaid for telephone participants:

For information on public participation see the following:

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/GOVERNMENT/Public-Comment-Guide>

The City will allow public participation via Zoom. Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://alamedaca->

[gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA](https://alamedaca.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA)

Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

**Zoom Meeting ID:862 6195 1731**

Passcode: 260387

4. The following day, Staff altered the agenda to reflect two matching Meeting ID numbers:

For information on public participation see the following:

<https://www.alamedaca.gov/GOVERNMENT/Public-Comment-Guide>

The City will allow public participation via Zoom. Register in advance for this webinar:

<https://alamedaca->

[gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA](https://alamedaca.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmNPnLDhRKS4ygkybMkWjA)

**Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832**

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

**Zoom Meeting ID: 818 4232 4832**

Passcode: 260387

**From:** [james edwards](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for item 6B on City Council agenda for Sept 7,2021  
**Date:** Monday, September 6, 2021 8:08:35 PM

---

Dear Clerk,  
Please post the following public comment for item 6B for City Council meeting of Sept 7, 2021.  
Thanks.  
Jim Edwards

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:  
The proponents of the Wellness Center describe future residents of the facility as frail, vulnerable seniors and this terminology has been repeated by members of the Council who support the county homeless facility. What is not highlighted publicly by Mr. Biggs, but certified in his federal application for the McKay Avenue property, is that other licensed care facilities are simply unwilling or unable to accept older residents with serious mental illness. These seriously mentally ill will instead end up being admitted to the proposed Wellness facility. The largest nationwide homelessness survey done by UCLA experts revealed that 78% of the unsheltered homeless population report mental illness and 75% report substance abuse problems. These problems will not immediately vanish when homeless are housed in the facility. These problems will impact the surrounding community. While proponents of the county homeless facility try to downplay any possible negative effects of the proposed facility, it is likely that a large increase of severely mentally ill and substance-abusing residents will have problematic interactions with residents, park visitors, police, paramedics and neighborhood businesses and their customers. Other homeless facilities have attracted camping nearby with panhandling, car break-ins and accumulations of trash, needles and human feces. Fires, intimidation/assaults and homicides have occurred with increasing frequency. The following photos were taken on Enterprise Avenue in Oakland after a local hotel on the street was converted to housing for the homeless. Since the hotel's conversion to homeless housing, the street has attracted homeless camping in RVs and other vehicles, drug dealing and mountains of trash. Almost every other property on the street has been forced to install tall metal fencing to keep the homeless out. Councilmembers supporting the county homeless facility should not be shocked if similar scenes appear around the proposed Wellness facility in Alameda.

Thank you.  
Jim Edwards

Sent from my iPad





September 6, 2021

1554 Everett Street  
Alameda, CA 94501  
[kevis.brownson@gmail.com](mailto:kevis.brownson@gmail.com)

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

I write concerning the Agenda Item **6-B 2021-1236 Public Hearing to Consider a Call for Review** of the Planning Board's Final Decisions at the July 26, 2021 Meeting to Approve (1) Design Review Application No. PLN21-0077 for an Approximately 29,810-square-foot Medical Respite Facility at 1245 McKay Avenue and ...(Planning, Building and Transportation 20962710).

I support government transparency and accountability. In this case, a procedural mistake was made. However, from the reams of paper in comments submitted, it seems that supporters of the Wellness Center and opponents of the Wellness Center were well aware of its upcoming consideration by the Planning Board. Many citizens orally expressed opinions at Historical Advisory Board, Planning Board and City Council meetings on the Wellness Center.

This further "Call for Review" is doing nothing but cost the taxpayers money, in terms of staff time to prepare for these endless meetings, and in eventual construction costs that continue to rise. What needed items will have to be deleted from the project in order to stay within budget with the extended delays?

It is long past time for the shovels to hit the ground on this project, and make an unused, vacant facility serve our needy, medically fragile senior citizens. Please vote to move this project forward! Compassion counts!

Thank you,

Kevis Brownson  
510-522-4966

**From:** [James Reichert](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Review on Tuesday September 7  
**Date:** Monday, September 6, 2021 6:02:27 PM

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Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing as an Alameda voter and resident to protest the review of the Wellness Center agenda item as required by Council members Daysog and Spencer that is set for September 7.

Since only this agenda item has been selected for review due to the alleged lack of notice, it can only be seen as an abuse of the process to once again delay a project approved by the voters of Alameda.

James Reichert

3284 Thompson Ave

Alameda, CA

**From:** [Rachel Lee](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on item 6-B for City Council meeting 9/7/21  
**Date:** Monday, September 6, 2021 2:38:25 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am appalled that the McKay Avenue Wellness Center Project is being singled out for delay due to a typographical error from a past meeting.

The design application has already been approved, but Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog want the Council to rehash this agenda item alone. If they were truly concerned that members of the public did not get proper access to comment last time, they would have called for ALL the items to be reviewed. However, their only concern is to thwart the Wellness Center at every turn.

This is a waste of time and it depresses me that two of our elected officials would stoop to this kind of tactic.

APPROVE THE PROJECT ALREADY!

Thank you,  
Rachel Lee

**From:** [Ezra Denney](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Why Are We Still Doing This? (Item 6-B)  
**Date:** Monday, September 6, 2021 2:22:56 PM

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Councilmembers,

I will be brief. The fact that two members (acting in the most disingenuous fashion) can hold up the critically needed services of the McKay Avenue Wellness Center is sad. What makes this move from sad to annoying is that this is just the latest (and hopefully last) ditch effort of those have tried to delay this important project for years. What transforms it from annoying to infuriating is the transparent complaint that has nothing to do with the governance issue and everything to do with the Wellness Center.

It's appalling that the other items on the agenda of the meeting in question were quickly granted relief from this annoyance. For some reason, only the Wellness Center is now impacted. So, was that the only part of the meeting that was improperly noticed? No, it was not.

The council should spend as little time as possible addressing this issue. A quick No vote, and get on with the business of running Alameda, not letting a minority delay vital services.

Thank you, and let's not do this again,

Ezra Denney

**From:** [Katherine Crawford](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center  
**Date:** Monday, September 6, 2021 8:47:46 AM

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Dear City Council - in particular members Daysog and Spencer,  
Please support the Wellness Center. Please stop delaying the implementation of this important resource that has been consistently supported by the voters of Alameda, funders, stakeholders and regulatory agencies. Stop adding unnecessary expense to the citizens of Alameda.

Thank you,  
Katherine Crawford

**From:** [nbalassi@aol.com](mailto:nbalassi@aol.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B  
**Date:** Saturday, September 4, 2021 8:08:09 PM

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I am very concerned by what I have been hearing about the delays in the approval of the Wellness Center. As a result, I am writing in opposition to item 6-B.

- Clearly, the project already has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. All that these delays accomplish is to increase the cost of the project and delay services to our unhoused neighbors. And providing services to our unhoused neighbors as soon as possible is the most crucial aspect of this project!
- It's my understanding that more than 50 people were able to attend the meeting via zoom, and many spoke on the Wellness Center as well as other agenda items. Lack of noticing was not an issue that prevented people from participating.
- To say that a meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review, is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for a review process.
- By joining in the call for review, Councilmember Daysog forced the City, and we the taxpayers, to foot the \$5,000 bill for staff time, instead of having appellants pay, as they should be required to do.
- PLEASE HELP RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- 
- Sincerely,
- Nancy Balassi
- 2254 San Antonio Ave.
- Alameda

**From:** [sheila shener](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center  
**Date:** Saturday, September 4, 2021 6:22:17 PM

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Alameda City Council Members Spencer and Daysog,

I am so disappointed that you have not helped the Wellness Center get started.  
Why are you making it hard for the Wellness Center to get built? Why do you not support it.

The project has the support of voters, stakeholders, fundraising and regulatory agencies.

I have been an Alamedan for 28 yrs. We live in a wonderful community. My family has been so privileged to reek the benefits.

I walk, and drive in Alameda as well as participate in activities at the Mastick Senior center. I see lots of homeless seniors who need help.

Please let me know what you are going to do to help the Wellness Center get up and running.

Sheila Shener

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [harveyzu@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyzu@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment for Alameda City Council meeting September 7, 2021, item 6B  
**Date:** Saturday, September 4, 2021 12:14:13 PM

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Dear Clerk:

Please post the following letter as a public comment for item 6B for the Alameda City Council meeting September 7, 2021.

Thank you.

Harvey Rosenthal

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

Alameda Point Collaborative, Inc. obtained the lease for this surplus federal property under the McKinney-Vento Act. This act was designed so that surplus federal facilities could be **reused** to provide homeless services. Mr. Doug Biggs, Executive Director of APC, certified in his federal application that the buildings were suitable for this purpose and that they would be renovated for reuse. However, almost 4 years after his initial application for the lease and after having held numerous public meetings and public visits to the project site touting reuse of the buildings, he suddenly announced that he now intends to demolish all of the buildings. In his federal lease application he also certified that he had committed funding for the project from an Alameda Community Block Grant and from California's No Place Like Home Program. A public record request to the City of Alameda indicates there is no record of the Block Grant and Alameda Point Collaborative, Inc. did not appear on the list of grantees of the state program. It appears Mr. Biggs may have misrepresented the facts on his federal application.



In April, 2019, Alameda voters narrowly approved a ballot measure allowing a change to the General Plan designation so that the surplus federal buildings could be **reused**. The accompanying official ballot argument in favor of the project signed by Mr. Biggs, Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Councilmember John Knox White argued that the initiative “takes advantage of an incredible opportunity to save money by using existing buildings on surplus government land”. Thus reuse was not a trivial, incidental detail but absolutely central in the argument for approval of the initiative to make the General Plan change. The voters voted for reuse, not demolition and have now been deceived by the bait and switch tactics of the developer. Unfortunately, the Mayor and Councilmember have yet to denounce this misrepresentation.

Alameda’s Historical Advisory Board (HAB) found the site of the former U.S. Maritime Service Officers Training School to be historically significant and kept it on the Alameda Historical Buildings Study List with an “s” (State) designation.

Unfortunately, this Board also then approved the demolition of the existing historic buildings. These historic buildings should be preserved for future generations because they have great historic significance to both Alameda and the nation as a testament to the heroism and sacrifices of the Merchant Marines during WWII and the Korean War. The Officers Training School in Alameda was one of only two such schools established at the outbreak of WWII and the only one specifically designed and built for this purpose. The prominent architect of the buildings has had his work listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Merchant Marines Veterans Association, the Alameda Historical Preservation Society and many concerned citizens want to see these historic wartime buildings preserved.

Based on a single 25-year old report and with no subsequent independent evaluation, the buildings were found by the Historical Advisory Board to have lost integrity due to later modifications. The modifications noted in the report, however, are easy to remedy. (e.g. change of paint color, change of some windows, changed exterior staircases, later additions of interior subdivisions). The report highlighted the paramount historical significance of the Engineering Building because it was central to the mission of training maritime officers for the war. This building can especially easily be restored since it originally featured huge open interior spaces to accommodate and move the massive machinery used to train the maritime officers. Subsequent interior subdivisions and enclosures of exterior spaces of this building can simply be removed. There are minimal exterior staircases.

The Engineering Building is now planned for demolition to make way for the homeless drop-in center/clinic/respite facility because the developer feels it no longer meets his needs. However, instead of demolishing this historic building, it could easily be adapted for a use for which it is better suited, such as a needed youth recreation/sports facility.

A pending application for inclusion of the historic buildings as part of an historic district, which would include buildings of the former Officers Training School now located on adjacent park-owned property, is currently under review by the National Register of Historic Places. This application should be allowed to proceed. Also, the Alameda Municipal Code states that buildings on the historical study list can only be demolished if they are so deteriorated so as to present a public nuisance. In fact the report which the HAB considered states “the buildings of the Federal Center are in remarkably good and updated condition, with few

apparent deficiencies.” No argument was made at the HAB meeting that the buildings presented a public nuisance. Destroying these perfectly serviceable buildings is extremely wasteful of public tax dollars, needlessly harmful to the environment and permanently erases the existence of historically-significant structures.

Additionally, it has been learned recently that a significant portion of the property has been declared by the California Geological Survey to be in the highest tsunami risk zone, making its location inappropriate for use as a health facility for seniors who will not be able to flee rapidly on foot.

It is unclear why this facility for the county’s homeless is being located in this location in the west end of an island city with only 2.09% of the county’s unsheltered homeless population, with no BART or freeway access, accessed by a frequently backed-up tunnel and in the highest tsunami risk zone as determined by the California Geological Survey. The property will also require extensive toxics remediation, costing at least \$9,000,000 for asbestos removal, before any demolition or new construction can occur. This will significantly delay any construction of a new facility. Since Mr. Biggs has stressed the urgency of providing shelter for the county’s homeless without delays, he might want to consider other locations for the proposed facility in Alameda County that neither require extensive toxics remediation nor subsequent demolition of historic buildings. Hopefully, he might choose a location which is not located in the tsunami risk zone and which is more easily accessible for the county’s homeless population. While other cities are trying to rapidly and inexpensively convert motels and other buildings so that homeless can be housed quickly, the proposed Wellness Center

will take 3 to 5 years to complete and will be exceptionally costly compared to other projects designed to house the homeless.

Mr. Biggs and the private, non-profit Alameda Point Collaborative, Inc. were set to receive a huge Project Development and Management fee of \$3,025,000 for this project. That fee was based on a percentage of total construction costs and will now likely significantly increase as the costs of the proposed new construction will greatly exceed those previously projected for reuse. This fee is largely being paid by public tax dollars. Further on-going management fees normally would be received as well during the operational phase following construction. This project represents a financial windfall for Mr. Biggs and APC. It is not known to what degree the financial incentives for APC associated with demolition followed by more costly new construction may have influenced its decision to demolish these historic structures. It is unfortunate that Councilmember Knox White, whose name has appeared as a Boardmember of Alameda Point Collaborative, is apparently unbothered by the appearance of a glaring conflict of interest as he is voting for a project for which Alameda Point Collaborative stands to reap many millions of taxpayer dollars.

If the deed to the property is transferred to APC from the federal government, Mr. Biggs will receive the property for free. APC estimated in 2017 that the value of the land and existing buildings at that time was approximately \$21,000,000. The planned construction costs will be financed in large part by public tax dollars. After 20 years, Mr. Biggs and Alameda Point Collaborative, Inc. will be free to sell the property to the highest bidder and walk away with many tens of millions of dollars. The buyer will be under no further obligation to provide any homeless services. What is now public land owned by the federal

government ends up in private hands. This project offers temporary homeless services in exchange for a permanent loss of public land.

Other concerns about the project exist:

An earlier asbestos study noted that additional destructive testing must be done for asbestos before any construction or demolition occurs. There is no information about whether this has been done.

Mr. Biggs is currently attempting to be exempted from a legal requirement to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the health facility. The Planning Board submitted a “Mitigated Negative Declaration” which was approved by City Council in December 2018 based on an adaptive reuse proposal that declared that CEQA did not apply as they considered it to be a “ministerial decision”. However, the project has now completely deviated from reuse to demolition which should trigger CEQA and a full Environmental Impact Report.

For financial reasons Mr. Biggs is trying to have his health facility exempted from review by the California Office of Statewide Health Care Planning and Development. The age 55+ convalescent care component of the Wellness Center will provide specialized nursing care, medical care, wound care, hospice care and medication management. He instead proposes that this medical care be supervised by the California Department of Social Services. If this occurs the result will be that the age 55+ component of the Wellness Center will be operating as a de facto unlicensed nursing home.

This facility is planned for a location at the entrance of Crab

Cove Regional Park, across the street from the Visitors' Center to which thousands of school children are bussed each year to visit the sea life museum. The planned medication-assisted treatment program (e.g. methadone, suboxone) for heroin addicts is also directly across the street from a building with neighborhood businesses providing children's tutoring and piano lessons.

Please do not allow this deceptively-marketed project to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues I have raised in this letter.

Respectfully,

Harvey Rosenthal

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Bonnie Halpern](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sept 7th Meeting Item 6-B  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 4:24:12 PM

---

Dear Alameda City Councilmembers -

I am writing in opposition to item 6-B on next Tuesday's council agenda. It is my understanding that this is the only item that was not given an exemption due to the incorrect noticing of the agenda items. This is highly suspect as having ulterior motives when no other item was denied exemption.

Delaying the progress of this project is really unconscionable as all the other necessary support has been put in place.

Please do your job and approve this project ~ no more delays!

Respectfully,  
Bonnie Halpern  
838 Laurel St.  
Alameda

**From:** [Grover Wehman-Brown](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B - The Wellness Center is Critically Needed - Do not delay  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 2:09:37 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

The [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#) released by the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) in March showed that even before the pandemic - with its massive job loss, tenants unable to pay rent, and families in distress from death, illness, school closings, and uncertainty - homelessness had increased in the U.S. As you know, Alameda County did not do a Point in Time count in January 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the growing encampments and a vast number of people in economic distress before and during the pandemic indicate our county will mirror the nationwide increase in people who are trying to survive living outside, in vehicles, and in shelters.

The Wellness Center will provide critical care and housing to unhoused elders. During the last council meeting that you voted on issues related to the Wellness Center, a large number of community members provided written and verbal comments. The Wellness Center has a majority of support from the voters, funders, and regulatory agencies - no small feat in creating housing and care for our neighbors with low- and no- income because of inequity and disability.

What an opportunity we have here in Alameda to complete this project and reduce the number of unhoused elders living on our streets. Each attempt to delay the center prolongs the suffering of real people who deserve so much more. Councilmembers, please do not permit any more delays to the completion of the Wellness Center.

Sincerely,

--

**Grover Wehman-Brown**

Communications Manager

[EAST BAY HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS \(EBHO\)](#)

510-663-3830 Ext 314 | [grover@ebho.org](mailto:grover@ebho.org)

538 Ninth Street, Suite 200 | Oakland, CA 94607

pronouns: she/her/hers or they/them/theirs



**From:** [Betsy Bozdech](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center call for review -- enough is enough!  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 10:07:20 AM

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Dear Alameda City Council -

I'm writing today to register my opposition to item 6-B on the upcoming agenda and urge you, from the bottom of my heart, to put an end to the transparent delaying tactics being used by certain council members to delay progress on the Wellness Center.

It is petty and harmful to try to further stall the approval of the center's design application due to a minor Zoom technicality during the previous hearing. \*Plenty\* of people (more than 50) were able to attend the meeting, and many spoke on the Wellness Center. And even if that hadn't been the case, to call for a review of only a single agenda item is discriminatory. This further delay is costing the Alameda taxpayers -- who have \*repeatedly\* demonstrated their approval of this project -- money that could be better spent on just about anything else.

It is past time to get the Wellness Center project truly underway. Please put an end to this abuse of power!

Betsy McNab  
Alameda resident and voter

**From:** [bmathieson@aol.com](mailto:bmathieson@aol.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council September 7, 2021, meeting -- Agenda Item 6-B  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 10:06:52 AM

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Honorable Councilmembers,

Please do all in your power to expedite construction of the much-needed Medical Respite Facility on McKay Avenue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mathieson  
Alameda

**From:** [Carne001](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting- Item 6-E, Correspondence  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 9:22:44 AM

---

Dear City Council,

ITEM 6-E---Correspondence

It appears that the **Planning Board Meeting from 7/26/21** did not provide suitable public phone access. The Agenda listed incorrect information for the public to dial in.

The instructions stated on the Agenda were as follows:

For Telephone Participants:

Zoom Phone Number: 669-900-9128

Zoom Meeting ID; 862-6195-1731

This was brought up during the end of the meeting, after a public comment was made about lack of access, whereas Staff confirmed that the Phone Zoom link was not accessible. They stated that the Webinar Zoom link was working, but this did not address the fact that the public was in fact denied access. Many residents in the community phone in to participate in meetings. These individuals were not able to participate.

Furthermore, the City Staff appears to have altered the Agenda after the meeting ended:

**See Attachments:**

Agenda\_104\_11:08PM --FROM JULY 12, 2021 meeting (**where the meeting Phone Zoom Meeting ID was erroneously copy and pasted**)

Both Webinar and Phone Zoom ID: 862 6195 1731

Agenda\_103\_7/26/21\_11:06PM--FROM JULY 26, 21, DOWNLOAD timestamp


Webinar ID: 818 4232 4832

Phone Zoom ID: 862 6195 1731

Agenda\_106\_7/27/21\_11:22AM--JULY 27, DOWNLOAD timestamp

Both Webinar and Phone Zoom links were changed to # 814 5870 4942

Why were the IDs altered *after* the meeting ended?

 [Planning Board Meeting 7/26/21 AGENDA alterations](#)

I respectfully ask that you re-agendize the meeting in order to fairly allow public participation in our City government.

See video that was taken while the meeting was in progress:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EDyc57NECmoIsvA5ACWVKwalGEHQWjlu/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you.

Best,  
Carmen



**From:** [Jennifer Hastings](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 9/7 meeting: My opposition to item 6-B  
**Date:** Friday, September 3, 2021 7:55:41 AM

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As an Alameda citizen and voter, I am beyond angry at the blatant and discriminatory undermining of the Wellness Center project by certain council members. Why I oppose item 6-B specifically:

- Lack of noticing was not an issue that prevented people from participating. More than 50 people attended the meeting via zoom, and many spoke on the Wellness Center as well as other agenda items.
- To say a meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for review process.
- The project has the CLEAR support of voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These delays are an unacceptable abuse of power, forcing up costs of the project and delaying services to our unhoused neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Hastings

**From:** [Patricia](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ITEM 6-B ON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:41:48 PM

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**Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers Vella, Daysog, Spencer, and Knox White,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to state an opinion concerning item 6-B on this meeting's agenda.**

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Please strike item 6-B from the agenda for the next City Council meeting. There is no need**

**for Councilmembers to obstruct the forward movement of The Wellness Center Project. It has been presented often**

**enough and has received approval. Now let the work begin. VOTE NO ON ITEM 6-B AT TUESDAY'S, SEPT 7, COUNCIL MEETING.**

**THANK YOU,**

**Sharon Joyer**

**From:** [Patricia](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] re Item 6-B in upcoming City Council Meeting, City of Alameda, CA  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 5:02:32 PM

---

**Mayor AshCraft and Councilmembers Vella, Daysog, Spencer and KnoxWhite,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to state an opinion concerning item 6-B on tonight's Council meeting agenda.**

**I do believe that everyone of you was elected to serve, that is TO SERVE ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN ALAMEDA. I WILL EMPHASIZE THIS**

**AGAIN...YOU WERE ELECTED TO SERVE ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN ALAMEDA. We have had before us for the last three years, the much needed planning of the WELLNESS**

**CENTER, ETC for our vulnerable community members who are without homes, and the medical care they need. There have been 17**

**public hearings regarding the center and opposition each time. IN SPITE OF THE OPPOSITION The Wellness Center Project has been approved at all 17 hearings...and yet some of you**

**have seen it necessary to call for another "review" in a blatant attempt to hijack this process one more time. THIS MUST STOP. We can't wait any longer.**

**Facts show us that this last ditch attempt to delay the project has been organized by Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog, undoubtedly representing special interests**

**here in the City of Alameda, where "ALL BELONG." These actions are exclusionary and clearly not in the best interest of ALL of the Citizens of Alameda.**

**THEREFORE, I URGE A VOTE OF OPPOSITION TO ITEM 6-B and I ask each one of you to consider ONCE AGAIN why you are here, on the City Council. What really motivates you?**

**THANK YOU.**

**MARY NAGLE**

## City Clerk

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**From:** Anita Burnaford <aburnafo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to item 6-B

Dear Council Members,

I find that I must express my gross dissatisfaction with repeated delays of this project. Despite the clear choice of the electorate in support of the Wellness Respite Center, as well as support from every subcommittee of the City, this latest delay by Council members Daysog and Spencer stands out as a clear effort to delay the final approval further, simply because they can.

It would be more understandable had all the items on the agenda been called for review because the meeting wasn't properly noticed. That not being the case, only highlights the fact that their intention is to continue their allegiance to that part of the electorate who did not vote in favor of this project.

From some points of view, Councilmember Spencer should be disqualified from voting on this project since she actively campaigned against the project at tables throughout the community, including the Farmers Market.

This is not City government at its best.

Anita Burnaford  
623 Central Avenue at McKay



## City Clerk

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**From:** Bronwyn Harris <bronwyn\_harris@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] item 6B for Sept 7

Dear City Council,

I cannot believe I am having to write YET ANOTHER email about the Wellness Center on McKay. This project has had SEVENTEEN different public hearings and has been approved every step along the way. And now we are wasting taxpayer money - MY MONEY, along with the money of all Alameda residents - to have yet another hearing, which is a transparent attempt to delay the project.

Apparently this latest has to happen because there was a small typo in one of the zoom links for the planning board meeting. But not all of the agenda items have to be re-litigated, just (not at all shockingly) the project that Tony Daysog and Trish Herrera Spencer opposed.

This is a blatant abuse of power and needs to stop immediately before more money is wasted and there is further delay in what will certainly be a lifesaving project.

Bronwyn HarrisAuthor:

*Literally Unbelievable: Stories from an East Oakland Classroom*

*Letters from the Inside: Hope in the Journey Beyond Classroom and Cell*

<https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/4IH4CpYI7Pu73yMcPHE4Z?domain=bronwynharris.com>

## City Clerk

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**From:** D Zachariah <denisezachariah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 11:54 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] in opposition to item 6-B of upcoming City Council meeting, Tuesday, September 7th

Dear Alameda City Clerk,

I'm writing in opposition of item 6-B on the agenda calling for review of Planning Board votes regarding the Wellness Center.

This motion/action by Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog is a very obvious attempt to target the Wellness Respite Center since they are both willing to release the other items on that Planning Board meeting from review of votes. It is very disingenuous along with a waste of taxpayer money for them to continue to find ways to harass the process of the Wellness Center. Unless they have a list of people who complained to them directly regarding this matter, I believe they should be censured for this action. If their claim that the meeting wasn't properly noticed based on the Governor's rules for meetings via teleconference then it should be a review of EVERYTHING that happened at that meeting. But to find out that Councilmember Spencer & Daysog have 'relieved' the other items is blatant targeting of the Wellness Center which Spencer campaigned against.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Measure Z passed, they need to get over it and stop wasting time and money at City Council meetings to try and delay a project to help homeless seniors in our community. It is my understanding that over 50 people were able to attend the virtual meeting and comment on not only the Wellness Center but other Planning Board agenda items. I cannot sit idly by while our elected Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog abuse their power in the name of believing that they 'know better' and defending the 'public's right' of meeting notice. The next city council election can't come soon enough for their seats.

Sincerely,

***Denise Zachariah***  
***Alameda homeowner and supporter of the Wellness/Respite Center***

**From:** [Al M](#)  
**To:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#); [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 6-B  
**Date:** Thursday, September 2, 2021 9:45:44 AM

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To Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers,  
I'm writing in opposition to file #2021-1236 / item 6B on the 9/7/21 City Council agenda.

This is a waste of my tax dollars, a waste of city staff time, and a waste of our council meeting time.

It speaks volumes that other items from the same meeting were exempted from review while the McKay Wellness Center project was not. Please don't get sucked into an unnecessary debate on this project that has been approved by voters, reviewed by neighbors in community meetings, and discussed in 17 meetings already.

To Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog—stop spending our tax dollars to delay this project. Stop wasting our time. **Stop delaying efforts to create a Wellness Center that will serve our community.**

Allison Marin  
Alameda resident

## City Clerk

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**From:** Doug Keen <dougkeen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter in opposition of agenda item 6-B at 9/7/21 council meeting

Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Councilmembers,

I am writing to you in opposition of item 6-B. I am deeply disappointed to see that Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog are once again targeting the Wellness Center in a call for review. The issue of an incorrect Zoom ID on the Planning Board hearing invite was addressed during the hearing itself, and the hearing was allowed to continue by the staff attorney. It would be one thing if *all* agenda items from the hearing were included in the call for review, but all items except the Wellness Center were granted exemptions, with no clear reason why the Wellness Center item is singled out, and simply no response to Doug Bigg's letter requesting exemption for the Wellness Center.

This is clearly a cynical ploy to further delay the project and increase its cost through weaponized bureaucracy. As a constituent, I'm appalled that my tax dollars have to pay for extra staff time caused by these delays. The cost for any further calls for review should be borne by the appellants, not the City. I also implore Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog to stop wielding bureaucratic process as a weapon against a project that has already won support from a majority of voters and all involved stakeholders, funders, and regulatory agencies.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Doug Keen

## City Clerk

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**From:** Avi Warner <aviwarner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Resident opposition to file #2021-1236 / item 6B on 9/7/21 City Council agenda

Resident opposition to file #2021-1236 / item 6B on 9/7/21 City Council agenda

To the City Clerk's office,

My name is Abraham Warner, I'm a resident of Alameda. I'm writing in opposition to file #2021-1236 / item 6B on 9/7/21 City Council agenda.

I agree with the City staff's view that the meeting in question was well attended and that the correct Zoom link was indeed included in the information. I understand that not all of our city council members were supportive of Measure A, but it *did* pass, and I would ask that those council members stop spending our tax dollars to delay the project. No one is served by this.

I would hope that the rest of the city council recognize that no review is necessary, and quickly move on from this item.

Best,

Abraham Warner  
2122 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA 94501

## City Clerk

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**From:** Anne Beavers <anbeave@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 2:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Councilmembers

>  
> I am a resident of Alameda; I voted to SUPPORT the Wellness Center; Alameda voters support the Center.  
>  
> I OPPOSE item 6-B.  
>  
> Council members who attempt to block the will of the voters, as well as disregard doing the “right” thing in and for our community should stop attempts as such.  
>  
> Anne D Beavers  
>  
>

## City Clerk

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**From:** Jeff Locke <jeffclocke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Council Agenda Item 6B

The Wellness Center on McKay Ave needs to go forward, and obstructionism from members of city council are placing special interests above the compassion we want represented in our island community. There have been more than enough hearings to look at the project from any number of angles. Another hearing is just one more attempt at delay and distraction by those more concerned with property values than people's lives. Enough is enough. This project has won the support of the voters of Alameda. Please let this move forward and stop mucking up the works in opposition to the clear will of the people.

Respectfully,  
Jeff Locke

—  
Jeff Locke  
jeffclocke@gmail.com

**From:** [Robert Matthews](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 5:21:35 PM

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I OPPOSE Item 6-B on the Council agenda for Tuesday 9/7. This issue has had enough hearings. I SUPPORT final approval.

Rev. Bob Matthews  
460 Cola Ballena #B  
Alameda CA 94501  
510-697-7713

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Ryan LaLonde](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6B Agenda Item for Next Tuesday  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 5:12:30 PM

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Hello City Clerk, Mayor Ashcraft and City Councilmembers,

Let me be quick and sum this up. Councilmembers Trish Spencer and Tony Daysog think that an error in a Planning Board zoom meeting email was so egregious that they want the City Council to talk about overturning ALL the decisions made at that meeting – because it was unfair to “maybe” someone who couldn’t get into the zoom. Item 6-B- Exhibit 3 in City Council Agenda-(This act will cost the city \$5,000 in staff time).

The 4 items whose votes will be overturned if the meeting forced to repeat are: The motion to approve the Webster Street Healing Garden calendar and events, and a Harbor Bay project, the McKay Wellness Center Design approval and the Planning Board minutes approval.

OK, so let’s do that.

BUT instead, Trish and Tony want have granted exemptions for the Webster Street and Harbor Bay Projects – allowing for their votes to stand as is. Meaning – they are fine if zoom meeting had a typo in the email for these projects – but NOT the Wellness Center. This is a blatant and calculated targeting of the Wellness Center project AGAIN – by our elected officials.

It is disgusting to see our city council meetings used for overt harassment of the McKay Project. The residents are so tired of this game that a handful of residents are playing in their effort to unsuccessfully stop the homeless respite center.

STOP and look who you are harming in this endeavor. According to EveryoneHome.org – in Alameda County, the unsheltered population that the Wellness Center will be treating....:

Are 47% African-American (compared to only being 11% of the overall population)

- Has a median age of 51 years old

- A majority who have lived in Alameda County for 5+ years (57% of the population has lived in the County for more than 10 years)

- Are 3x more likely to be a Veteran than the general population

- Are 14% LGBTQ

This continued assault on this project makes me fear for the safety of these future clients who are already facing so many challenges. Can we just stop. Please. The time and money wasted on fighting this compassionate project is mindboggling. In fact, it is severely hypocritical of Councilmember Spencer to be complaining on Nextdoor about the city paying \$10,000 for the voluntary Shuumi Land Tax – while spending \$5000 on this blatant attempt to delay the inevitable.

Ryan LaLonde

2945 Marina Dr

**From:** [Sharon Buckley Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wellness Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:58:28 PM

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City Clerk & Council Members,

The voters in Alameda have been heard - the Wellness Center project was voted on and approved. Please stop allowing the minority opposition to continue debate and stall the project.

People in need are not being served, delays are costing the project more money, the city and voters of Alameda are footing the bill for the debate and stall tactics, and again, people in need are not being served!

It's time to move forward with the project. Stop allowing the minority opposition to try to derail an approved, appropriate, and necessary project.

Thank you for your time and attention

~Sharon Hernandez

Alameda Resident and Voter

**From:** [Maria Piper](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop Delaying the Wellness Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:56:54 PM

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To the City Council,

The delay tactics for the wellness center must stop now. Hasn't Alameda already paid enough via a special election and 17 (and counting) meetings to discuss something as simple as having a place to help unhoused people in our community? I'm tired of continuing to have to fight for something that should already be settled.

I'm especially dismayed by Councilmember Spencer's continued delay tactics on all meaningful change in Alameda and this last motion she made (seconded by Daysog) cross the line. If something as simple as a zoom invite ID are enough to have something reconsidered from a meeting, then EVERYTHING on the initial agenda should be reconsidered, not just one item. More than 50 people were able to attend the meeting via zoom and the City's attorney addressed the issue of notice in the meeting and allowed it to continue. This delay is just another attempt by Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog to reject the will of the voters who approved the Council's decision to allow the center to move forward.

Stop wasting our money and scant resources.

—  
Maria Piper  
Alameda, CA 94502

**From:** [Steven Garner](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:46:16 PM

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I join with Doug Biggs and other Alameda voters in saying that ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Item 6-B on next Tuesday's City Council agenda should be dismissed with no hearing. The Wellness Center proposed for construction has had sufficient examination during the past 17 reviews by Council and Planning Commission and it is way past time to allow this project to break ground and get built. The project has the support of the majority of Alameda voters and time is wasting. Let's get this Wellness Center built and quit wasting tax payer money pandering to a couple of City Council members. The need to care for our homeless neighbors transcends all this needless waste of time and money.

Steven Garner

[stevengarner5@gmail.com](mailto:stevengarner5@gmail.com)

**From:** [Lilli Keinaenen](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Enough is enough  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:33:27 PM

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Dear Councilmembers, Mayor, and City Staff,

I'm writing to voice my concern for the unequal treatment and blatant delay-tactics that members of this Council are using to delay the construction of the approved wellness center. 17 meetings and approvals, public hearings, ballot measures, and picketing — enough is enough. This is a project Alameda wants, and it's time for council members to stop playing dirty tricks to delay a project.

This latest review was called for because there may have been minor access problems during the Planning Board hearing with the Zoom room. Which was fixed, and approved by the city lawyer to resume the meeting. More than 50 public commenters showed up, so it was not an access issue.

During that hearing there were 3 projects presented. The other two petitioners for that hearing were granted immediate exemption from this review. However, the petitioner for the Wellness Center was not. If the issue was truly about public access to Planning Board hearings, then shouldn't all three projects approved at that meeting be under the same scrutiny and review requirements? If the issue was bad noticing, and not a whataboutist tactic?

Councilmember Herrera's dispensing of those two project reviews while holding the Respite Center hostage is a transparent attempt to further delay an already approved project, which she is on record as strongly opposing. It's an obvious abuse of process.

I ask that all Councilmembers see this for what it is: an attempt to further delay what the community has approved, and desperately needs, but that she opposes. It's undemocratic and abusive to an already marginalized and underserved part of our community who is deserving of our expedience, compassion, and empathy. Please oppose this procedural delaying tactic.

The residents of Alameda have voted on this project. Let their will be heard, and stop the naked attempt to hijack justice.

Thank you,

Lilli Keinaenen

**From:** [Laura Gamble](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:32:44 PM

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Council Member Trish Herrera Spencer and Councilmember Tony Daysog are abusing their power to try and stop the respite center for homeless seniors but continuing her obstructionism that has harmed and will continue to harm our most vulnerable communities by calling the planning board meeting for review.

Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog are abusing their authority to harm unhoused neighbors. They chose to only target the Wellness Center in their call for a review. Other agenda items from that same meeting, that benefit the business community and a high-end commercial project on Harbor Bay were exempted from review by Councilmember Spencer, but the one action impacting our unhoused neighbors wasn't granted a request. This is shameful and blatant

This project has completed 17 reviews since its inception. This 18th review, in front of you, is an absolute sham (like so many that came before).

The planning board meeting in question had over 50 people in attendance via Zoom - they spoke to every agenda item.

Suggesting that the meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for review process. This is an abuse of power.

Thank you,  
Laura Gamble

**From:** [Jason Biggs](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [City Attorney](#); [Manager Manager](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting - Item 6-B - Call for Review, Planning Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:15:14 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my outrage over what is not just another attempt by Council Member Trish Herrera Spencer to try and stop the respite center for homeless seniors, but this time by outright corrupting the city's Sunshine Ordinance. It is a blatant abuse of power by the Council Member.

Council Member Herrera Spencer and I have always had our disagreements and agreements over the years based on the merits of our cases, but her latest action has crossed a line – it is a blatant abuse of her authority. This is no longer about whether the meeting was properly noticed, but whether the citizens of Alameda and public servants should enable this blatant abuse of power by the Council Member.

The Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance were designed to promote **fairness, transparency, and accountability** in government. Council Member Herrera Spencer's decision to call for review process the noticing of the planning board meeting, but specifically targeting only 1 out of 4 agenda items from that meeting, is a blatant abuse of the Sunshine Ordinance, as I will describe below:

1. To claim a meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the 4 agenda items to a higher standard is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for review process. **This is not fairness.**
2. Council Member's abuse of power to increase the cost of the project and delay life-saving services is unfairly targeting our unhoused neighbors, who are disproportionately minorities. Meanwhile, the other 3 agenda items are exempted. **This is not fairness.**
3. This call for review by council members are classified as de novo, which basically means they can make any claim or action they want without reference to the facts. Council Member Herrera Spencer unilaterally chose to remove 3 agenda items and target only the respite center without any justification. **This is not transparency.**
4. In 2019, the majority of Alameda voters overwhelmingly rejected Council Member Herrera Spencer's ballot measure (Measure B) to stop the wellness center, and instead of honoring the will the people by respecting democracy, she is abusing her power as a single individual to try and stall the project. **This is not accountability.**

We should discuss whether or not the planning board meeting was properly noticed. That should be the focus of the agenda, as it fits with the spirit and intent of the Sunshine Ordinance. But by removing 3 of the 4 agenda items from the call for review process to intentionally target the respite center, Council Member Herrera Spencer has corrupted the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability into an antithesis of these principles – a blatant abuse of power.

Whether or not you support the wellness center, you should always support ethical governance. I call on the City Council and other public servants of Alameda to join me and other citizens in condemning Council Member Herrera Spencer's blatant abuse of power.

Regards,

Jason Biggs  
Alameda Resident

**From:** [M-L](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No More Planning Board Reviews for Item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:09:40 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose calling a review of the Planning Board hearing in reference to item 6-B, the Wellness Center for the elderly who are homeless. The antagonism toward this project from its very inception has been an appallingly classist display of entitlement by a very strategic and vocal minority of Alameda residents and so-called leaders. The majority of Alamedans have made it clear that we wish to live in world in which we care for our community's most vulnerable populations, and we support the development of programs such as the Wellness Center that aim to provide such services. The amount of time, money, and resources that have been squandered on having to respond to the many ways in which Trish Spencer and her cohort of supporters have been bogging down the realization of this project is positively shameful.

The claim is that there was a question about the manner in which this most recent hearing was noticed, and yet only one agenda item was selected to be delayed for review while others were deemed to have been adequately noticed. It seems pretty evident that notice was not really a concern, but that this is yet another delay tactic, which would constitute an abuse of power and process by Spenser and Daysog. My understanding is that the review hearing was well attended, and there is no valid reason to waste even more taxpayer resources indulging the elitism of this vocal minority with an 18<sup>th</sup> hearing on the matter.

Please do not reward these kinds of shady tactics any further by allowing the Wellness Center project to be further impeded by dishonest bureaucratic machinations. Let the Wellness Center project proceed without further delay so that Alameda can devote our limited municipal resources toward providing much needed human services during this time when so many people are in such dire circumstances.

Thank you in advance for insisting that elected leaders be held accountable to performing their duties honestly and responsibly.

Ronit Matabuena-Lev  
Alameda Resident



**From:** [Joan Farnsworth](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Alameda Wellness Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 4:03:42 PM

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Enough is enough! After 17 hearings for this project that the citizens voted for, the only possible reason for these hearings is to delay and obfuscate the situation, which increases costs and delays the project. No more, please!

Thank you,  
Joan Farnsworth  
3246 Briggs Ave.  
Alameda, 94501

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Andrew Wiedlea](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Item 6-B on the City Council Agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:37:13 PM

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Hello,

The McKay Ave. Wellness Center project has gone through 17 public hearing and review sessions, and has been approved by the voters of Alameda. It is time for a minority of the council to stop attempting to thwart the provision of services to our community's most vulnerable citizens through procedural maneuvers.

While there may have been an error made with the Zoom address, over 50 people attended the previous session and it was not a significant barrier to public participation. I understand that other projects discussed at that session are not being held up -- and if there are no reasons to hold up projects other than the McKay Ave. Wellness Center, there should be no further delays made upon the McKay Ave. Wellness Center either.

Regards,

Andrew Wiedlea  
438 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501

**From:** [Janet Terra](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opposition to item 6-B,  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:26:35 PM

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Enough is enough!

The review of the Planning Board hearing that approved the design application for the Wellness/Respite Center has the appearance of being a delaying tactic that discriminates against the project and the homeless elderly that it will serve. The review has been called for because of an error in the noticing that was corrected at the hearing and the hearing was allowed to continue. Now Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog have called for only the Wellness Center to be reviewed, exempting the other items that were reviewed in that hearing. More than 50 people attended that meeting via Zoom and many people spoke on the Wellness Center as well as other agenda items. To say a meeting was not properly noticed but only hold one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review is unfair and a misuse of the call for review process.

The Wellness Center project has already been reviewed in 17 public hearing and received necessary approvals at every one. The project has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These delaying tactics increase costs to both the project and the taxpayers and delays services to our unhoused elderly neighbors .

I urge the Council to oppose a Agenda item 6-B, deny a review of the Planning Board's Final Decisions and allow the project to finally move forward.

Yours truly,  
Janet Terra  
2122 Santa Clara Ave. #106  
Alameda

**From:** [Emily Lin](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Opposition of Item 6B / City Council Mtg (9.7.21)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:23:54 PM

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Dear Mayor Ashcraft and Members of the Alameda City Council -

As the pastor of Twin Towers United Methodist Church, a partner to the City's Dine & Connect Program, I have eagerly awaited forward movement on the Wellness Center Project designated for the property near Crab Cove. It is a project that our community has followed eagerly and with hope.

I was taken aback, however, to learn that the Project is facing its 18th hearing this upcoming Tuesday over a technicality. Even more disappointing is that the technicality - the proper noticing of a previous meeting - is only being applied to this one project considered that evening rather than all projects included in the agenda that night. Should the concern be proper noticing, shouldn't every item on the agenda be subject to review? If not, why not? What makes the Wellness Project "special"? Furthermore, more than 50 members of the community were present that evening via Zoom, raising the question of the legitimacy of this concern.

The Alameda community had the opportunity to vote on this project.  
We did.

The project was supported then and we must move on with a strong sense of urgency and commitment. We cannot continue to be party to delay tactics that seek to derail a worthwhile and important project that has already weathered many hurdles and deserves to move forward. More than anybody, this hurts the most vulnerable in our (Alameda and beyond) community. We cannot continue to allow this to happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peace,  
Emily Lin

--

Rev. Emily Lin  
(She/Her/Hers)

*Pastor*

Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda

[www.twintowersumc.org](http://www.twintowersumc.org)

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursday, 9:30 - 4:30 p.m. Fridays by appointment

*The information contained within this email is considered confidential unless otherwise noted. Please do not forward the contents without first obtaining explicit consent. Thank you.*

**From:** [Brandon J Svec](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to item 6-B  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 3:13:11 PM

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Please record my opposition to the repeated delay tactics being used by council members Spencer and Daysog. This will be the 18th hearing about the critically needed wellness center. Their actions cross the line, are discriminatory and an abuse of their power to use the review process and the city attorney should not allow it any further.

Brandon Svec  
Alameda Resident

**From:** [Jason Buckley](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ENOUGH IS ENOUGH  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 2:48:26 PM

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Dear Council,

I am writing in opposition to item 6-B in next Tuesday's hearing for the Planning Board review.

We're really going through yet another round of obstruction with the Wellness Center from the usual suspects? How many special elections and lawsuits do these NIMBYs need to lose before they stop screwing around and let this project move forward so we can do our part to help the most vulnerable people in our community? This is such a blatant yet unsurprising abuse of authority from councilmembers Spencer and Daysog. Given that this is the only item from the Planning Board meeting they have called for review, this is just a political stunt, and it continues to hurt people who need help the most. To say a meeting was not properly noticed, but only hold one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review is discriminatory and a misuse of the call for review process. And this stunt has cost our city \$5000 in staff time.

Please do whatever possible to stop these kinds of ugly and costly delays to the wellness center by people who continue to do everything in their power to hurt the most vulnerable communities in our city. And consider some sort of censure for the nonstop wasting of time and resources that their perpetual obstruction causes.

Enough is enough. The project already has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These delays are a disgusting abuse of power and all they accomplish is increasing the cost of the project and delaying services to our unhoused neighbors.

Thank you,  
Jason Buckley  
A resident sick and tired of having to write these letters already



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Michele J. McGarraugh](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Spencer and Daysog are Off the Rails and Abusing Their Power to Derail an Urgent Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 2:35:37 PM

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Dear Council Members,

Thus far today, I have read two accounts about Spencer and Daysog calling for a review of the Planning Board hearing that approved the design application for the Respite Center. The basis for their calling is questionable at best: based on the allegation that the Planning Board meeting was not properly noticed due to an issue with the Zoom meeting ID, despite the fact that more than 50 people participated in the meeting via Zoom, the issue was raised during the meeting and the ID corrected. Further, the Staff Attorney allowed the meeting to continue.

Given that the Wellness Center Project has already gained approval in 17 different reviews/hearings, one wonders why it now must go through an 18th process when the other agenda items for that same Planning Board meeting received no scrutiny and were granted an almost immediate exemption from review by Spencer. I would like to know what she has against the Wellness Center and the unhoused people in dire need of its services and support.

And by the way, how much of a financial burden are the taxpayers having to bear as a result of this baseless and ill-disguised attempt to foil the Project which already has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These delays are a disgusting abuse of power and all they accomplish is increasing the cost of the project and delaying services to our unhoused neighbors.

We need the truly caring and level-headed members of the Council to bring Spencer and Daysog under control, put a stop to these unjustified delays, save the taxpayers some money and get the Wellness Center moving forward.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Michele J. McGarraugh  
Alameda, California

**From:** [Jeffrey Cheifetz](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#); [Jeffrey Cheifetz](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I am recording my opposition to item 6B of City Council meeting on 9/7/21  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:36:30 PM

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To the Clerk:

I am recording my opposition to item 6-B (File # 2021-1236), the proposed review of the Planning Board hearing that approved the design application for the respite center. There is an allegation that the meeting wasn't properly noticed because the zoom ID in one section was correct, but another place on the notice had the wrong ID. The issue was raised in the hearing itself, and the notice was corrected and the staff attorney allowed the hearing to continue.

The Wellness Center Project has been the subject of 17 different public hearings, and received necessary approvals at all 17;

Many people who attended the Planning Board meeting spoke on the Wellness Center as well as other agenda items. There was nothing that prevented people from participating;

Holding only one of the agenda items to a higher standard of review is discriminatory and a blatant misuse of the call for review process;

By calling for review, Councilmembers Spencer and Daysog forced the City, and thus the taxpayers, to foot the \$5,000 bill for staff time, instead of having appellants pay, as they should be required to do;

The Wellness Center Project already has the support of the voters, stakeholders, funders and regulatory agencies. These unnecessary delays are an abuse of power. They only serve to increase the cost of the project and delay needed services to our unhoused neighbors.

I urge the City Council to defeat the call for the proposed review.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cheifetz  
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Friday is my sabbath day - leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



**From:** [William Smith](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Approve Design for Medical Respite Facility, Item 6B on the August 31, 2021 Agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:17:01 PM

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Honorable Mayor Marilyn Ashcraft and Members of the City of Alameda Council:

I urge you to approve "Design Review Application No. PLN21-0077 for an approximately 29,810-square-foot medical respite center located at 1245 McKay Avenue, subject to the following conditions of approval:" listed in the resolution under Item 6B on the September 7, council agenda. " That application is for a medical respite facility to be constructed at 1245 McKay Avenue.

I support the right of those who called for the review of the planning board approval in light of the unfortunate error in one of the phone numbers listed to access that planning board meeting. Still, the permit application has undergone rigorous review for many years now and it is unlikely that any new substantive objections will be raised at your hearing on Sept. 7th,

If there are no new substantive objections raised at the September 7th hearing, I urge you to approve the application and expedite construction and opening of this literally life sustaining facility.

William J. Smith  
City of Alameda Resident  
Alameda, CA 94501  
(510)522-0390

**From:** [Andy Murdock](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Tony Daysog](#); [John Knox White](#); [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [Malia Vella](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of the McKay Wellness Center project, once again  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 1:07:26 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I wrote in June in support of approving the McKay Wellness Center project following the decision by the Historical Advisory Board. It is now back on the agenda (Item 6-B on the Sep. 7, 2021 City Council Meeting agenda) yet again thanks to a minor technicality.

The underlying facts have not changed, the recommendation from the HAB remains the same, yet the cynical efforts to delay this worthy project continue unabated, as evidenced by this unnecessary call for review. The fact that other items from the same meeting were exempted from review while McKay Wellness Center project was not speaks volumes.

Please approve this project quickly. It has come up for debate so many times that I've lost count, and each time only serves to slow down a project designed to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

Thank you for your time on this important matter,

Andy Murdock

**Andy Murdock**  
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**From:** [Joe Stephens](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Wellness Center  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 9:15:00 PM

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Please stop the delays. We voted for it and it passed. Trish Spenser and Tony Daysog are costing us money and not representing us as promised but their own agenda. Voted for and passed!

Thank you  
Joe Stephens  
Adolfo Romero-Duran  
Erik Romero  
Krissia Romero