



City of Albany

Mental Health Board

1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE • ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706-2295

April 10, 2007

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CITY ATTORNEY

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CITY CLERK

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CITY COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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- Engineering
- Environmental Resources
- Maintenance
- Planning

PH. (510) 528-5760
FAX (510) 524-9359

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CITY TREASURER
PH. (510) 528-5730
FAX (510) 528-2743

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PH. (510) 528-5771
FAX (510) 528-5774

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POLICE

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PH. (510) 524-9283
FAX (510) 528-8914

- Friendship Club/
Childcare Program
PH. (510) 559-7220
- Senior Center
PH. (510) 524-9122
FAX (510) 524-8940
- Teen Center
PH. (510) 525-0576

Mayor Bates and Honorable Berkeley City Council Members

I am writing to you to express my concern that the Albany City Council's nominee to the Berkeley Albany Mental Health District's Advisory Commission has not been seated on the Commission and that the Berkeley City Council has instead approved a resolution continuing the service of Albany's prior Commission member. The City of Albany and the Albany City Council has had the prerogative to make nominations for appointment to the BAMHD Advisory Commission since the inception of the district.

The City of Albany has a vested interest in this Commission as it oversees local and state funds and services allocated to the Mental Health District, of which Albany is an inseparable part.

On December 18th, 2006 the Albany City Council selected Councilmember Joanne Wile to replace outgoing Councilmember Allan Maris. Mr. Maris was informed of the Council's decision. Carol Patterson, Heath & Human Services and secretary to the Commission, was also informed that Councilmember Wile would be Albany's new appointee of the Commission. Councilmember Wile proceeded in good faith and in a timely manner to meet all of Berkeley's requirements to serve on the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission. As a mental health professional, Councilmember Wile is highly qualified to serve on this Commission.

I am concerned that the BAMHD Advisory Commission on January 25th, 2007 recommended Allan Maris to a second term without considering Albany's nomination. The recommendation was adopted well before Mr. Maris' term was due to expire on March 9, 2007.

On February 27th, 2007, the Berkeley City Council adopted Resolution 63,599-N.S. The Resolution seems to indicate that no Albany resident other than Allan Maris was available to serve on the commission. The staff report made no reference to Albany's pending nomination of Councilmember Wile and made no reference to the Albany City Council's role of making nominations for appointments set aside for Albany residents. In fact, there was no public notice to the citizens of Albany of a potential Albany seat vacancy on this commission.

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future.



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Given the history of close cooperation between the Cities of Albany and Berkeley on not only mental health issues, but also so many other projects and services of mutual interest, I believe that had the Berkeley City Council been provided a full and accurate staff report on the matter of Resolution 63,599-N.S. it would not have been approved nor would the item even been included on the consent calendar. The Albany City Council's ability to have its nominated member for the BAMHC confirmed serves the best interests of Albany and the general public, and is good government practice.

I urge you to take action that allows the City of Albany to be represented by its chosen nominee and guarantees that our future nominations to the Berkeley Albany Mental Health District will receive due consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lieber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert Lieber
Mayor