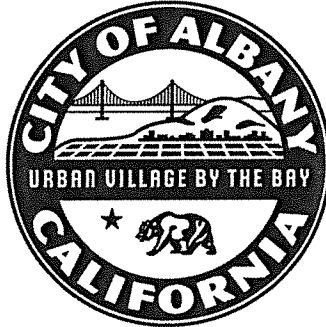


EMAILS RECEIVED REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

**WORK SESSION ITEM 1-1:
BIENNIAL BUDGET COVERING FY 2019/20 – 2020/21**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 3, 2019

Anne Hsu

From: JUDITH <judyandmatt@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2019 5:57 PM
To: citycouncil; Isabelle Leduc
Subject: SSB tax allocation

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

After reading the city council staff report and the 2019-20 proposed expenditure plan for "soda tax" revenues, I have a few comments.

The Friends of the Albany Senior Center appreciate the council for its commitment to find alternate funding for the important health projects requested for the Center. In particular: a visiting podiatrist and blood pressure monitoring. Noted is the allocation for the center for a water bottle filling station. Please note we already have a well functioning water fountain in the center where one may lean over to take a drink. If a water bottle filling station will be installed, it should not supplant the existing fountain; or should offer an outlet to fill a bottle as well as the ability for one to take a fountain drink. Many bottle stations do not include a drinking fountain and unless one already has a bottle, there is no way to drink.

It appears the bottle filling station is ready for approval, so we request this very important feature be included. We look forward to receiving funding for the podiatrist in the new fiscal year. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Judith Cohen,
FOAS Treasurer
(510) 914-1278

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

Anne Hsu

From: Karen Holzmeister <newsie602008@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2019 11:04 PM
To: citycouncil; Isabelle Leduc
Cc: Karen Holzmeister
Subject: Monday, June 1, discussion of programs to be subsidized by sugar – sweetened beverage tax

Albany city council members:

At previous meetings, and in previous correspondence, I have spoken of the need for Albany senior center services such as a blood pressure machine or podiatrist.

In prior reports, as well as the documents accompanying the 2019-2021 budget discussion on Monday, Council members have made it clear that they want to spend approximately \$90,000 on 6 to 8 water bottle filling stations throughout the city.

One of these locations is proposed for the senior center. However, as I have indicated in emails to staff and to all of you, the Albany senior center already has an interior water fountain from which bottles can be filled. Walkers and bikers don't necessarily think of the senior center as a place for services such as this. It would make more sense to put a bottle filling station/water fountain across the street from the center, on the Ohlone Greenway where exercise and play equipment are located.

Oh, there already is one at that site.

The other issue is cost. The budget documents referred to 6-to-8 Bottle filling stations at a cost of \$90,000. Some of this money would be needed for staff and perhaps consultant research into locations, bid documents etc., in addition to purchase and installation of the units themselves.

However, a cost of between \$11,000 and \$15,000 is a lot of money for essentially duplicating a service/equipment already available at The senior center.

Have all of the council members visited the senior center to scope out the needs? Have you spoken with neighbors who attend the senior center, who could speak with you about health or nutrition program needs as alternatives to duplicating the water fountain and other user – friendly water provision services in the building? Have you really paid attention to the correspondence and testimony of those of us from the senior center?

And, are you recommending a water bottle filling station to show that you are attentive to the needs of seniors without realistically looking at what might be a better expenditure of the money?

If each of you were non-elected residents of the community, and saw councilmembers spending this kind of money to duplicate services already available in the building and directly across the street, wouldn't each of you would be critical of the expenditure when so many other Health and nutritional needs of seniors could be met with the allocation of \$11,000-\$15,000?

Sincerely,

Karen Holzmeister
820 Cerrito St.
Albany, CA 94706

Sent from my iPhone

Anne Hsu

From: Zion Lee
Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2019 12:52 PM
To: citycouncil; Nicole Almaguer; Isabelle Leduc
Cc: Robin Mariona
Subject: Proposed SSB Expenditure

To the Albany City Council & City Managers:

Regarding the expenditure of SSB tax money, I applaud the proposal to install water filling stations around the City, which will encourage the consumption of natural water for health. However, placing one at the Senior Center prompted some serious reservations for the following reasons:

The Senior Center already has a drinking fountain which can also be used for filling water bottles, although somewhat awkwardly. This notwithstanding, there is a newly-renovated pantry a few steps from the fountain where drinking water can be easily filled from a tap, or even hot water (free) readily from a heated coffee machine.

Secondly, in my 11 years as participant and part-time employee at the Center, I have almost never seen a seniors or other persons come in needling to fill water in a bottle. The only people who would carry water bottles are members of our hiking group, but their re-filling needs are on the walking trails, away from the Center.

Additionally, there is a water fountain just across from the Senior Center that can fill bottles very easily.

In short, installing a filling station at the Senior Center, or around it, spears to be superfluous and unnecessary. There are other more beneficial things the City can do to promote health in seniors, e.g. Podiatry and Blood Pressure testing. I sincerely hope that City Council would find it fit to budget resources to meet these practical needs.

Thank you.

Zion Lee
Senior Services Coordinator
Albany Senior Center
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Albany CA 94706
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1-510-524-9131