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CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

***Item 12-1:
Request by Social & Economic
Justice Commission to Amend Work
Plan and Increase Commission
Membership***

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2019

From: [Preston Jordan](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: no Council-as-a-whole appointees (12-1.1)
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019 10:45:36 AM

Hello Council-

Please do not create more Council-as-a-whole appointees, either on the Social and Economic Justice Commission or any other body. Rather than increase the diversity of perspectives on a body, Council-as-a-whole appointments reduce diversity both in theory and practice. Such appointments damage democracy.

A simple majority of the Council can make Council-as-a-whole appointments providing those three members with more appointees on the subject body. On a body with five members appointed by individual Councilmembers and two by the Council as a whole, this provides three Councilmembers with five of the seven appointees. This results in a supermajority that is less prone to give any consideration to the perspective of the two appointees of the other two Councilmembers. It creates a supermajority whose vote in favor of controversial policy appears much closer to consensus than is actually the case.

For this reason, a previous Council eliminated the two Council-as-a-whole appointments on the Charter Review Committee and the Waterfront Committee after substantial conflict in each due in part to the presence of two Council-as-a-whole appointees in both.

Please don't take democracy in Albany backward. Thank you for your consideration.

Preston

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Preston Jordan
510 418-9660

"If you don't like the news ... go out and make some of your own." - Scoop Nisker

From: [Judy Kerr](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Letter in support of SEJC workplan change and Commission size
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019 11:35:42 AM

Dear Council Members,

Please consider the following and support the proposed work plan change and commission size on the agenda for your consideration for 10/21/20

Commission Purpose

The charge of this Commission (SEJC) is to research, analyze, discuss and evaluate a broad range of data and opinions on social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of the residents of Albany as inhabitants of both a local and a global community, and make recommendations to the City Council on positions and/or actions to take to address these issues.

Recommendations to the City Council shall state the relevance, important and/or particular impact that the issue has on the welfare of the residents of Albany.

Commission Purpose

The Planning & Zoning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding all provisions of the General Plan, advises the City Council regarding the physical development of the City, and exercises functions with respect to land subdivisions, planning, and zoning as specified by Planning and Zoning Code and as set forth in the State Government Code and by the California Environmental Quality Act.

SF Chronicle 10/21/20 Editorial

California's Greatest Concern

"Californians have named homelessness as the most important issue facing the state today, according to a recent poll from the Public Policy Institute of California."

"No city in California can do it alone, in fact. The magnitude of the state's intertwined problems on housing and homelessness as outstripped the resource of an one local government. Judging from the PPI poll results voters appear to be realizing this. Now they just need their state and local governments to work together on a solution.

For the Bay Area, that means a regional solution, with each city doing its part to increase all housing in general and very low income housing for the Homeless population. Because too many cities have failed to do their fair share, it makes sense for the state to take on a strong enforcement role.

All our elected leaders need only to look at voters' top concerns to see the wisdom-and the necessity-of this course."

The reasoning in the above editorial supports the proposed amendment to the SEJC work plan and an expansion of membership from 5 to 7 appointment commissioners. I ask the Council to consider approving both of these important items.

Judy Kerr

SEJC Commissioner 2019-20

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From: [Nick Keefe](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: ridleykerr@gmail.com
Subject: Item 12-1: Request by Social & Economic Justice Commission to Amend Work Plan and Increase Commission Membership
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019 1:28:19 PM

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of Item 12-1 (above.) We need to focus on issues of fairness and support for our homeless and insecurely housed population.

Thank you,

Nick Keefe 664 Spokane Ave Albany CA 94706 415 637 7168