

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC
COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED
FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION
OF THE AGENDA PACKET

From: < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:10 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Respectfully request delay of president until Board is officially complete

Good Morning....I have thought about both sides of this issue, and believe the council should delay a mayor appointment until the 5th member is seated.

This will allow the entire Council to participate in future decisions, rather than allow disproportionate power before the required 5 seat is completed.

The City Council Charter clearly mandates a 5 member board. There is no emergency, and the city attorney has confirmed the charter allows the Council to make adjustments as needed regarding a decision on the mayor.

Waiting a short time for the new board member to be seated is a reasonable decision. There is a reason our City Council is established as a board of 5—to avoid the exact situation it is facing now.

From: David Long < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:55 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Solution: interim mayor until at-large election for permanent mayor

Dear San Mateo City Council,

With the political machinations happening this week I'd like to briefly add my \$.02.

Our new Mayor will be by definition be the ONLY councilmember that serves San Mateans *at-large*. Given that the new Council appears divided 2:2 along ideological lines, it makes practical sense to hold a new election for the Mayor of San Mateo. But what about the 5th position on Council until a new mayor is seated?

To bring down the volume and theatrics, the open 5th position on Council should become the interim mayor and ideally get filled by a broadly respected "neutral-ish" (not recent) former mayor if at all possible (Jerry Hill might be convinced to serve for 120-days? Sue Lampert? It's easy to extend the application deadline and pursue the best neutral temporary mayor). This will allow the newly seated San Mateo City Council to hit the ground running in January – something all constituents prefer over the prospect of a long-term schism that cleaves the city into NIMBY vs. YIMBY factions.

Further, the newly elected at-large mayor should NOT be a sitting councilmember. This preserves the four councilmembers we now have and brings in a leader selected by the entire city to represent the entire city. Sitting councilmembers may of course resign and run, but they may not run for mayor from their council perch. This makes the at-large mayor a serious run.

Finally, the rotation system isn't workable with district elections. We're 3x the size of neighboring Belmont and they just completed the election of their mayor at-large. They were wise to scrap the rotation in favor of an at-large mayor. Rotation once worked for the San Mateo Council. With distinct districts and the present political climate? Rotation will no longer work.

Thanks to you all for reading and for your hard work addressing San Mateo's future!

David Long

From: Virginia McIsaac < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:03 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Appointment for 5th chair

First, thank you for your service and a very long night! I have few points that I believe are important to the City of San Mateo and its residents.

In the past the appointments of council members using the Mayor's tie breaking vote has resulted in a 3-2 majority that runs roughshod over the council. In the past year some policies and direction for the general plan seem to be detrimental to neighborhoods as examples. Because of this past performance I encourage the council to seat the 5th chair without the Mayors tie breaking vote. We really don't need another year with a cabal. If a compromise needs to be made and the rotation falls to Amourance Lee than the tie breaking mayoral vote should be forfeited.

I have always disagreed on council filling open seats, it should be left to the voters district specific as per our new direction. I would hope that this council can direct staff to explore how to best get this to the voters in a fiscally responsible manner.

Best Regards

Virginia McIsaac

San Mateo Park resident

From: Lisa Taner < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:13 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Residents Stand Together to Appoint 5th Councilmember First

Dear City Council,

I stand with the many residents who support the appointment of a 5th councilmember before naming a mayor. **In addition, please see the attached letter, signed by dozens of residents, supporting the same.**

The two main concerns Councilmember Lee returned to again and again last Monday night have been addressed:

-Rotation of the mayoral position has generally been the norm, but not always. In recent history, Paul Gumbinger was not seated as mayor during the rotation since Council felt he was too friendly with developers. (Imagine that!?) More recently, the rotation was broken by Councilwoman Lee herself when she chose to bypass being mayor and Papan took up the position. So, this would not be the first time (or the last) that the rotation wasn't followed. Then again, it's noteworthy that the other councilmembers never said they wouldn't follow the rotation, they simply asked to appoint for the empty seat first, which seems very reasonable given resident concerns.

-A delay in choosing the mayor does not go against the City Charter. The City Attorney repeated that the delay did not go against the Charter. It is a departure from the guidelines, which Council could choose to deviate from at their discretion.

While December 5th meeting attendees were split about appointing a mayor that night, half expressed the desire to seat a 5th council member first, via a balanced council consensus, rather than allowing this all-important decision to fall to a single person – the mayor. Why? Not for any nefarious reason, but because we understand clearly the critical outcome which could have decades' long impacts. For example, one resident noted, "Land use decisions for the next 20 years depend on us getting this (method of choosing the final councilmember) right." I join the many residents who deeply appreciated Councilmembers Diaz-Nash and Newsom's grasp of the importance of this to us and to San Mateo and am unsure why councilmembers Loraine and Lee could not. Especially given that Councilmember Lee was lauded Monday as representing 'all San Mateans' with her at-large seat, yet chose to ignore fully half of the constituent attendees that evening. Happily, there is an opportunity for her to rectify this at tonight's meeting.

Again, I stand with the many residents who support the appointment of a 5th councilmember before naming a mayor. If the biggest concerns have been addressed, and the upside is extra care and caution with the future of our city, this decision should be simple.

Thank you,

Lisa Taner

December 7, 2022

Dear San Mateo City Council,

Regarding the continuance of discussions from the December 5th City Council meeting, surrounding when to choose a mayor and/or fill the current vacant council seat, we the undersigned residents and resident leaders, support the notion that democracy is best served in this very unique situation by having the full council of 5 seated prior to choosing a mayor.

We understand this option does not go against our Charter, and feel that it is the best practice for fairness and to encourage a strong democratic process, and wish Council to heavily consider our wishes as our representatives going forward.

Many of us did not speak at the last meeting, but we will be paying attention.

Thank you.

Lei Oh	Claire Mack
Calvin Dail	Mike Germano
Leo Burns	Anna Kuhre
Laurie Watanuki	MaryLou Cronin
Susan Layman	Chris Brousseau
Lisa Maley	Toom Door
Laurie Hietter	Michael Weinbauer
Kitty van Beckum	Karen Sid
Alibek Orunbaeva	Taso Zografos
Asel Orunbaeva	Jan Prisco
Meekan Ergeshove	Oscar Lopez-Guerra
Tom Morgan	Dr. Al Landucci
Lisa Taner	Dr. Steve Liu
Connie Weiss	Jean Dail
Peter Mandle	Joyce Burns
Phil Banda	Lucy Mulkerrins
Rich Mulkerrins	Carolyn Banda
Louise Bekins	Tom Lease
Virginia McIsaac	Lisa Vande Voorde
Linda Bogue	Bob Wackerman
Julie Lovotti	Genel Morgan
Claudia Ferguson	Bill Williams
Ronnie Eaton	Bruce Eaton
Tom Thompson	Deborah Steiner
Dennis Murphy	Rich Neve

From: Genel Morgan < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:11 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Choosing a mayor for San Mateo

Dear Honorable City Council members,

I have lived in San Mateo the majority of my life. I care deeply how the City is governed and how decisions made by the City Council affect my life.

I attended the city council meeting on Monday night and listened to the many points speakers made for and against naming a mayor that night.

In order to provide a democratic process, I support postponing naming the new mayor until the 5th councilmember can be seated. Also, because of the controversy about Ms. Lee's unethical behavior during the last election and her possible recall, I do not support her being named mayor at this time.

I appreciate you taking my position into account.
Genel Morgan
San Mateo

From: SMC LatinX Club <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:37 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Letter of Support for City Reorganization

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

Please find attached a letter from the San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Club in regard to Item 14.
City Council Reorganization.

Sincerely,

San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Executive Board



December 6th, 2022
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of San Mateo
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

Re: City Council Reorganization

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

It is with expeditious urgency that the San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Club Executive Board writes to urge the San Mateo City Council to select Councilmember Amourence Lee as the next Mayor of San Mateo.

According to the City Charter, the City Council is to select among its members a Mayor and a Vice Mayor in the first week of December following a general election. In addition, there is a policy in place that determines the order of the rotation, which would have placed Councilmember Lee as Mayor. By sidestepping this long-established policy and not selecting a Mayor and Vice Mayor, the council is on the verge of breaking 128 years of precedent. In addition, the City Council could violate the city charter by not choosing a mayor and a vice mayor. This goes against the core principles of San Mateo.

Councilmember Lee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in San Mateo, has served on the council for several years, and will also be the only remaining council member elected at large.

We urge the council to demonstrate your dedication to your own rule of law by working collegially with your colleagues, representing all of San Mateo, and selecting Councilmember Lee as the next Mayor of San Mateo.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Sincerely,

San Mateo County Latinx Democratic Executive Board

From: < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:29 AM

To: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Congratulations

Congratulations on the amazing recognition you received on Monday for your years of amazing service.

That's a really big deal.

Just putting my vote in to wait until there are five council members for a proper vote for mayor.

See you tonight!

Tom

From: < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:27 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor

Please have the full city council on board before selecting mayor.

Tom Lease

From: <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:00 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: City Council

City Council Members:

I support the selection of the fifth council member prior to the selection of mayor. Selecting a council member first and establishing a full City Council will provide the most democratic and inclusive process in selecting a mayor. Including the fifth Council Member in this decision will yield a more collaborative outcome; to select a mayor in advance gives way to an autocratic selection of the fifth Council Member.

I understand that this process is not in conflict with the Charter, however it should be recognized that the Charter was written prior to District elections and did not anticipate the turnover rate of Council Members and therefore should allow interpretation for this unusual circumstance. Secondly, there is a precedent for not observing the rotation of the mayor as outlined in the guidelines.

The paramount objective of the City Council is responsibility to and responsiveness to its' electorate. Having a full city council prior to the selection of mayor provides the surest way to this objective.

Thank you,

Lisa M. Maley

From: Gary Germano <>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:57 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Appointing Councilwoman Papan's Replacement

Dear San Mateo City Council Members,

We understand that you will be discussing the "timing" of electing Councilwoman Papan's replacement at your meeting on Wednesday, 12/7/22.

We wish to advise you that we are **totally in favor** of **selecting the new council member prior** to all of you then selecting our new mayor. It certainly appears that this would be a much more "democratic" process.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Gary and Janet Germano

From: Worldview Worldview < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 6:19 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez < >

Subject: FIFTH SEAT

My name is RICK KARR and I have lived at [REDACTED] since 1983 and was born in Mills Hospital in 1950 so I am well informed about SAN MATEO and allowed to pass on my humble opinions

Hence I do not think the MAYOR has the pure authority to appoint who they want to fill the open seat ,,Not sure who really is the proper MAYOR or should be proper mayor and will let that fall to the proper procedure and not some BUFFOONARY or quasi STALIN tactics of a pure appointment ,,I am old enough to stand up and not accept such a situation ,,I will not relate this to other international politics of course but those in UKRAINE have stood up to the FASCIST Putin and this is similar ,,

I am appalled to see the 55 foot height limit rule being ignored and will remind all of you that this is the current law if the current planning commissioner (?ebetner? who so often fails to understand this and seems to be in the pockets of developers does not want to comply with the law, he should be removed immediately ,,also the public needs to be allowed input on the new planning commissioner and even a vote by city council should be the rule ,,If Mr EBETNER or similar spelling does not seem to understand the 55 ruling then he should move to some other community like FRESNO or MERCED or ANAHEIM to work there,,I will help him pack his bags ,,

Bottom line is that there are "PROPER PEOPLE" who are out there who are talented and have experience and common sense Heard a rumor that MS FRESCHE has returned to San Mateo and she would be ideal as she was on SM COUNCIL ,,if you can try and get CLAIRE MACK to do this I would support this also

We are an independent city ,,we are not beholden to the REP of SAN FRANCISCO or have to follow what Burlingame does etc,,I am not enamored by SACTO dictums and if they are not good for SM we need to stand up and say so ,,WE ARE NOT BEHOLDEN TO SOME POLITICAL PARTIES beliefs and hence the members of the SM city council need to think locally about the best possible actions of SAN MATEO and not some future personal political aspirations you may desire,,,IF you cannot seem to vote for issues that benefit the citizens of SAN MATEO , I suggest you resign and move to FRESNO or MERCED and take your personal opinions with you there
,,,

Eric , i included you as I know you are interested in SAN MATEO and appreciated your fine efforts and look forward to reading comments from all especially Ms Nash and Mr Newsome,,

RICK KARR

From: Diane Smith < >
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 5:46 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Input

Dear Council-members,
Please take the time to consider the new council person and then the Mayor.
Respectfully,
Diane Smith

Sent from my iPhone

From: Linda Bogue < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 4:54 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Timing: selection of Papan's replacement and of next Mayor

This City Council and its relations with its citizens has become uncivil, even rankorous and unnecessarily contentious. This direction needs to be reversed promptly. To that end, either

- Select Diane Papan's replacement, then select our next Mayor democratically by vote of all Council members who will serve with that Mayor.

- If you persist in selecting next Mayor first, then do so with commitment that Papan's replacement will be selected by consensus — meaning by agreement of all 4 sitting Council members.

Submitted in sincere hope that this Council can return to consensus-seeking service to the City's residents.

Linda Bogue

From: Karen S <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 3:49 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Timing of naming of mayor

Dear City Council,

I think it's crucial for the democratic process in our city to fill the 5th empty seat prior to naming the mayor.

I respectfully ask that the 5th member of the council be appointed first before turning to the next step of naming a mayor. It is a decision that should include all 5 members of the council.

Thank you,
Karen Sid

From: T W <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:22 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor / Filling the Council

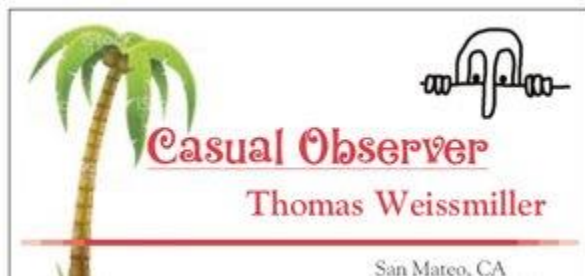
Not sure if the new council members are getting emails from this address.

I sat in the meeting until about 10pm and then watched it until 1am.

As a retired Army Officer I admire you all for your convictions. You all have shown resolve. I see a council that, if needed, will put its residents ahead of outside interests and pressure from higher government.

My wife and I got up at 5:30am this morning to attend a session at the Oakland Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One of the things they have is a prayer roll. I put the names of all council members on it. Part of the prayer was to bless all on the prayer roll with health, strength and wisdom.

Optics are important.



From: Stephen N. Floor < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:18 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: upsetting behavior by the new City Council

Dear San Mateo City Council,

I am a resident of District 1 in San Mateo. I was looking forward to celebrating the rotation of San Mateo Mayor to Amourence Lee, by far the most highly qualified City Council member and the only Councilmember elected by the entire City of San Mateo. I am profoundly disappointed that Councilmembers Nash and Newsom chose to reject the strong recommendation of the San Mateo City Attorney and the process of the City Council. As a resident of District 1, I am particularly disappointed by the behavior of Councilmember Nash, who took repeated action as a newly elected Councilmember who ostensibly represents me to obstruct appointment of a Councilmember as Mayor whom I previously proudly voted for - Councilmember Lee.

While what happened last night might not be in violation of the city charter, it was certainly in violation of the spirit of rotation of Mayor in San Mateo, a violation of the interests of the city at large that elected Amourence Lee (including my vote), and a violation of the strong recommendations of the City Attorney. I never imagined that Amourence Lee's Mayorship would be obstructed in this manner against the spirit of the Charter and the City Attorney's strong recommendations, so didn't attend or comment at the meeting or communicate this ahead of time. I will do my best to attend the Wednesday meeting, though as PTA President of Baywood I'll be out celebrating with the PTA for dinner and may be late.

In all the years I've lived in San Mateo, I've never been more disappointed by City Council. I feel like a coup has taken place. I agree with comments that the council meeting last night was an embarrassment to San Mateo. Democracy is not written in stone, it's something that requires trust and cooperation. In my opinion, last night's meeting made a mockery of democracy, of deliberation, of compromise - of a unified San Mateo. Instead, we witnessed obstructionist tactics to try to break from city tradition, rewrite the role of Mayor, and inflame divisions which I'd hoped would not be worsened by the new District system.

Councilmember Lee - I am so sorry. You were eloquent, empowered, truthful, patient - a leader. I appreciate you and look forward to celebrating your appointment as Mayor this Wednesday.

Councilmember Nash - you campaigned on being a "voice of reason and collaboration" on Council. Last night, in your first meeting, you chose to advocate for revision of the role of Mayor, to move against the recommendations of your own City Attorney, to reject public comment, and to refuse to collaborate or compromise with any of Councilmember Lee's many offers. Please reflect on your campaign promise of collaboration and consider what you would like your legacy

as Councilmember to reflect. This was an ominous first session.

-Stephen Floor

p.s. I can't find Councilmember Nash's or Newsom's email on the City website, so sent it to all of council. Should the newly elected Councilmembers not receive this email, I would appreciate it if someone could forward it to them.

From: Kolja Schluetter < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:27 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor Election

Dear City Council,

Congratualtions to all newly elected council members.

My wife and I are homeowners in District 1 and learnt about a troubling situation during the mayoral elections on Monday in the press. We are concerned that common procedure was not followed, and no mayor was elected on Monday.

We believe the city deserves the most experienced council member as mayor as defined in the city charter and elected by the city's constituency - even if that person due for rotation is not necessarily reflecting our own political believes. The city of San Mateo is facing tremendous issues, and council experience matters for a mayor.

We do not wish our city's governance to fall into a state of flux and uncertainty or worse gridlock. We feel strongly that during times where people are feeling increasingly divided, it is the duty of every elected official to adhere to political standards and norms. You are supposed to oversee uniting us not dividing us.

By going against political norms, you are setting not only a worrisome precedent for the future but will certainly divide the city council on its given task to further the interest of all San Mateans.

Our expectation is that procedure will be followed during the council meeting and San Mateo will have a new Mayor today. We urge you to prioritize the election of the mayor as defined in the city's rotational plan and focus on settling this matter so that our community can move forward.

Thank you we all appreciate your hard work,

Sincerely Kolja and Grace

From: Gary Trott 2 <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:22 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: 'Gary Trott' <>

Subject: Selection of San Mateo new Mayor - or lack thereof

Dear San Mateo City Council Members

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM Tuesday morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at the previous meeting.

Collectively, you all represent, and should act for the greater good of all San Mateo city citizens, regardless of which district anyone resides or special interest groups. Clearly this was not the case in the city council meeting. The actions and decisions of two of the members clearly deviates from normal processes. If you feel the process should be changed, fine. Do it at a time when all parties can clearly express their perspectives. But not at a time when due process is held hostage, and the operational aspects of running a city are put on hold. This jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance.

The Mayor of San Mateo is an important position, setting the tone, leading the discussion, and representing San Mateo in numerous regional bodies. I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting. She understand the city council operations, administrative functions, and the most importantly, collectively all the people of San Mateo City

Quit stalling and get on with the business of running San Mateo City for the benefit of all residents.

Regards

Dr. Gary Trott

A concerned San Mateo resident.

From: Rick Moody <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:11 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Council Members: Vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor

Dec. 7, 2022

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash:

I am unhappy about your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor. This is bad news for San Mateo. Am I wrong to think that it deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter itself? Why not listen to the recommendation from the City Attorney on this question? It makes you look very, very bad.

It makes sense to have a veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee, take the office of Mayor. She's familiar to many of us and can do the job. I'm dismayed that you seem to be acting in an undemocratic manner. I now know your names much better than I did yesterday, and many of us will remember you in the future.

I've testified before the City Council before, but you would not know that because you were not in office at the time.

Your actions last night are bad news for us in San Mateo. But it's not too late for you to change course and do the right thing.

I'm writing simply to ask that you change your mind and vote in favor of Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting tonight. I can't be there in person, but I am watching closely to see what happens and what Council members do.

With all due respect,

Harry R. Moody, Ph.D.

From: Claire Shintani < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:00 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please Vote for Council Member Amourence Lee For Mayor at the December 7th City Council Meeting

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM Tuesday morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

We are outraged by this blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first-day-on-the-job, unwillingness to compromise and your defiance of all standards of good governance reek of GOP Trump-tactics.

We are further outraged because this undemocratic and dangerous campaign was orchestrated by many in the Diaz Nash campaign, who were asked to show up at the City Council meeting in person regardless of whether they are City residents.

We note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the evening and morning, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Sincerely,
Claire Shintani, Resident of San Mateo

From: Robert Whitehair <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:28 AM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; rnewsome@cityofsanmateo.org; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: I am appalled by your actions

Dear Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom

Congratulations again on your election to the San Mateo City Council. I have known both of you for some time and know how hard you worked to get on the council. You deserve to be there. You can accomplish great things.

I have lived in San Mateo District 1 for the better part of 40 years, having helped raise our 2 sons here, coached little league for 12 years, and made, what I had thought to be, a wise decision to retire here. However, I am appalled by your actions Monday night, when even with Covid, I watched the entire proceedings by zoom.

You may know that I spent 18 years as a department head for two California cities - San Bruno and Palm Springs - with significant contact with all types of City Councils and Mayors, most of them quite proficient and very professional in their working relationships with each other, residents, businesses and staff.

When I was in the private sector, I spent a lot of time in front of other City Councils and staff, building consensus to get projects approved. I was a member and president of local service clubs, as a way of giving back to the community. You may also know that I am the winner of the 2022 Ruth Petersen award from Sustainable San Mateo County, and that I spent a great deal of time helping the San Mateo Climate Action Team grow and develop a relationship with the City of San Mateo. I am an influencer.

By comparison to these other great experiences, I am utterly embarrassed for San Mateo. I see that the region is taking note, as shown by the San Jose Mercury article, which was highlighted today by our new member of Congress Kevin Mullin. Trust is hard to gain, easy to lose.

In all the meetings I attended in other cities, I never observed such obstructionist behavior. Never. Not even in the darkest days of San Bruno.

To deny truly qualified Amourence Lee the chance to be Mayor and thereby be able to celebrate a joyous occasion with her family, is just plain unacceptable. You stole from her what she deserves - recognition and the opportunity to be the really good Mayor that she will be.

I wrote to each of you prior to the meeting, appealing to your sense of fairness and decency. I am appalled by what transpired instead.

I have to finish by saying that if Amourence Lee is not named Mayor tonight, that for me it will be a permanent stain on both your terms, and I will not be afraid to share my deep concern within my District and homeowners association.

Please end this madness tonight!

Thank you

Robert Whitehair

We can all have a direct immediate impact on the climate crisis. Learn more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRu_FwmidIU&t=10s

From: Michelle Hudson < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:49 AM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: End the Obstructionist Tactics and Select Council Member Amourence Lee as Mayor

Dear Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom,

I am a longtime resident of San Mateo District 1. I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment with your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor at the December 5 City Council meeting. I request that you immediately change course and select Council Member Lee as Mayor at tonight's continued Council meeting.

I am a practicing attorney of more than 20 years. An integral part of my job is analyzing codes and statutes, including those that are far more complex than our City Charter. Luckily for the residents of our City who are not legal professionals, our City Charter is crystal clear: the Mayor shall be selected at the first Council meeting in December. Your own City Attorney advised you of this, and strongly recommended that you follow the City Charter and select a Mayor on December 5. Yet, you chose to ignore the City Attorney and exploit a loophole in the City Charter by continuing the December 5 Council meeting. This violates both the letter and the spirit of the City Charter. It is an obstructionist power grab designed to win a Council majority that shares your political ideology because you did not win this majority through our normal democratic election process. This flies in the face of responsible governance and democracy.

At the December 5 Council meeting, 69 individuals spoke in support of the selection of Council Member Amourence Lee, and 37 spoke in favor of delaying the selection of Mayor. This means that you are not only subverting our normal Democratic election process, you are also subverting democracy with a lower case "d" by ignoring the overwhelming political will of your constituents.

Beyond that, you are also now alienating your own Democratic Party and its prominent leaders such as Congressman Elect Kevin Mullin, each of which has denounced your obstructionist tactics.

You are violating the letter and spirit of the law. You are alienating your own Democratic Party. You are alienating your own constituents who have spoken out in greater numbers than the small faction who you turned out to the December 5 Council meeting. Is this really the legacy you want?

Please end your divisive, obstructionist and irresponsible power grab. If you do not, this will not bode well for your term in office, or your position within the Democratic Party.

Your constituents and Democratic Party have spoken. Now it is time for you to do the right thing. Select Council Member Lee as San Mateo's Mayor at tonight's continued City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Michelle Hudson
Resident of San Mateo District 1

From: Marty Jordan <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: FW: writing in support of making Ms. Lee Mayor
Importance: High

Please consider my email below as support for Ms. Lee being named San Mateo City Mayor.

Regards,

Marty Jordan
From: Marty Jordan
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:13 AM
Subject: writing in support of making Ms. Lee Mayor
Importance: High

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM Tuesday morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Such behavior is unbecoming for someone in a leadership position and reminds me of tactics that a Trump inspired person would do.

Per custom and norm, veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee is the next and rightful Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 year history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

This appears to be a blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first-day-on-the-job unwillingness to compromise and your defiance of all standards of good governance, not to mention wasting everyone's precious time, is not something I would hold up as role model behavior to the leaders I coach in my business. On the contrary, what you did on Monday is a sign of arrogance and self-centeredness and would be grounds for getting fired.

Approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the Monday city council meeting, the majority of whom supported Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were also from Council Member Lee's supporters. There was a clear choice for Mayor and yet you chose to play petty politics. 😞

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Respectfully,

Marty Jordan (sadly from the district now represented by Lisa Diaz-Nash who I once had high regard for but no longer do)

Democracy is not a spectator sport. It's not what governments do. Democracy is what people do.

From: Mina Bressler < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:03 AM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: District 1 voter in support of Amourence Lee

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

I want to share what we all have in common: A deep love for our city, its history, and hopes for its future. Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor on Tuesday is disappointing. I live in district 1 and voted for Councilmember Nash. However, I feel the delay in appointment of our city's leadership in accordance with our City Charter was the wrong decision. I support the appointment of Councilmember Lee as the only veteran member of this body to become Mayor.

There was broad support for this move -- a majority of the speakers Tuesday seemed to support it and I hear that most letters received prior to the meeting also supported the the appointment.

These actions do not represent my views as a constituent. In order to work constructively as a legislative body for the next few years, please consider doing the right thing at tonight's meeting. I can understand the worry about power and authority, and about appointment of the next councilperson. I think this is what it comes down to. I think you may be trying to fix the problem with the wrong solution, and it will continue to grow as a wound for the council, breed mistrust, and challenge your ability to work together.

Please consider reversing course and voting to support Councilmember Lee in your vote this evening.

Thank you,

Mina Yaroslavsky Bressler

From: GEORGE BAXTER < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:02 AM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>;

Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Vote for Mayor

Council Member Nash,

I'm shocked to see such Trump-like behavior in our San Mateo community. Your behavior regarding on your first day in office seems to indicate an unwillingness to work well with others, compromise, to even rationally think lends itself better to the childlike behavior we see in todays national GOP politics rather than the heretofore cooperative spirit we had in the council. I will be speaking with my neighbors about this behavior.

I suggest you put aside whatever selfish agenda you have and approve Ms. Lee as Mayor of San Mateo. She is a fully qualified candidate, by tradition the role should now be hers and you have no reasonable excuse to block it.

George Baxter

District 1 Voter

From: Alison Proctor < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:47 AM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom

<rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Tonight's Meeting

Good morning San Mateo City Council,

My name is Alison Proctor. I am a Foster City resident and currently serving as Board President on the San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees. I am writing this email on my own and not on behalf of the school district or board of trustees.

First, a huge **congratulations** to newly elected Councilmembers Loraine, Diaz Nash and Newsom. Being elected by your community is a great feeling and also a big responsibility. I look forward to meeting Mr. Loraine and Mr. Newsom (I have already met Ms. Nash a few years back and have enjoyed watching her journey) and look forward to working with all of you as well as Councilmember Lee and the future 5th council member.

Councilmembers Diaz Nash and Newsom - I was really disappointed to see that on day 1 of your new, and very important, role, you chose to deviate from the City Charter and tradition by not electing Councilmember Lee as mayor. Lee is the only person on the current council with the necessary experience and it was her turn. She was set to make history by becoming the first Asian American woman to be mayor and would bring representation from a district (North Central) that has been historically under-represented. Representation matters.

The SMC Democratic Party, Congressman-Elect Kevin Mullin, Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor-Elect Noelia Corzo and many others have spoken out against your actions and have said that Lee should be mayor. I expect there will be even more people coming forward today to express their dissatisfaction as well.

I respectfully request that you change your minds and elect Amourence Lee as mayor tonight. A unanimous vote (although not necessary) would show the community that you are capable of working together, willing to listen and compromise, ready to restore peace and move forward together as a governing body that only wants what's best for San Mateo.

I mentioned that I'm a Foster City resident, but I'm also on the SMFC school board and it's imperative that as a school district and city that we have stable partners in both governmental bodies in order to work together and do what's best for kids and everyone in our community. I'm looking forward to working with all of you. I'm beginning my 2nd term and if I can give you

any advice it would be that it's ok to disagree with your colleagues on the board/council, but no one wins when it's dysfunctional - and that's what your council looks like on day 1. There's still time to change course and fix that.

Please follow the San Mateo City Charter and make history tonight by voting for Amourence Lee for mayor.

Thank you for your service to San Mateo and all that you do for our community.

Respectfully,

Alison Proctor

Sent from my iPhone

From: karen f <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:41 AM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Elect your new Mayor, Amo Lee

Dear Elected Council Members,

Please select your most experienced member Amo Lee at your meeting tonight for Mayor. It is time for San Mateo to have it's next Mayor.

Karen Field

From: Cynthia Eagleton <

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:32 AM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Elect Amo Mayor!!

Dear Leaders of San Mateo,

Elect Amo Lee mayor! Do not delay!!

Members Newsom and Dash's desires for democracy strike me as more about tactics to delay progress. Like old school Democrats of the South -- you know - the ones that were for segregation.

Amo is the leader with experience and seniority - one the one we need as Mayor! Now! Not weeks from now!

As someone in their sixties, I can tell you that you NEVER KNOW when an emergency will happen. It could happen ten minutes from now.

The delay engineered by Newsom and Dash would create chaos for the Community of San Mateo!

As wonderful as San Mateo is, it is part of the Peninsula and to be part of the Peninsula is to be the heiress to a long and ugly history of racism, segregation, and profiting from various ventures while not wanting to live amongst the dirt and grime of the people making those ventures profitable. You can even thread that line all the way back to Spain if you take it far enough.

This delay reminds me of that legacy. That's why it reminds me of the old school Democrats of the South. Talking about fairness while doing exactly the opposite.

It stinks.

And it doesn't help the City of San Mateo and the many wonderful people who live and work there!

DO NOT DELAY! Elect Amourence Lee as Mayor of San Mateo!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Eagleton

--

Cynthia (she/her) Eagleton, MA

adultedsustainability.com

[Support my Adult Ed Sustainability Work](http://adultedsustainability.com)

From: Teri Whitehair < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:46 AM

To: Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: City Council Mayor selection

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash:

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a racist power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

I am outraged by this blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first day on the job, your unwillingness to compromise and defiance of all standards of good governance reek of GOP Trump-tactics.

I want to note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the evening, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Thank you.

Teri Whitehair

The great work now is to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner.

Thomas Berry

From: Ken Abreu <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 11:52 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Election of mayor at December 7 meeting

Dear Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom,

You have just started your term on the City Council and the first actions will set the foundation for how well this City Council can work together to address the major challenges that San Mateo faces.

Meeting these challenges will require strong leadership and cooperation by the entire City Council.

Your first meeting on Monday was a deep failure in getting the City Council off to a positive and productive start.

The actions of Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom to not follow the normal and well-established procedure to elect Council Member Lee as mayor has the potential to greatly damage any opportunity for this City Council to function productively. You have disregarded the clear intent of the City Charter and the City Council Guidelines. You have dismissed the strong recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney. The City Charter, Guidelines and the strong recommendations by the City Staff experts are there to help the City Council be productive and fair. Ignoring them invites calamity to the governing of San Mateo. And will lead this wonderful city into a tragic dysfunctional City Council operation.

Your concern that a mayor will have a tie breaking vote is understandable. But does not, in any way, justify undermining well established and proven procedures or not following the strong recommendation by the City Attorney and City Manager. These procedures and recommendations are wise and have stood the test of time. They keep our city government functioning smoothly and respectfully. Vacancies are not uncommon and the procedure for filling them has been long settled.

Fortunately, there is a compromise that can be made at the Wednesday December 7 meeting to get the City Council back on track and moving forward in a positive and productive way.

Council Member Lee provided lengthy statements throughout the night that she will work with **all** the council members to seek a consensus selection for the vacant city council seat. She has also proposed she would not utilize her tie breaking power as Mayor until at least three votes have been taken. This is a fair and reasonable way to address your concern. Perhaps you can accept it and the council can unanimously approve Council member Lee as Mayor on Wednesday. Please get this done Wednesday.

But under **no** circumstances should the selection of Mayor take place after the December 12 meeting to vote on filling the vacancy. This would set an ugly and unfair precedent and could very well lead to a dysfunctional City Council for months, if not years. Let me elaborate.

If you try to fill the vacancy without a tie breaking mechanism in place you invite a 2-2 stalemate that could easily lead to the vacancy not being filled and to the position of Mayor also not being filled.

All well run legislative bodies have tie breaking mechanisms. Without such a mechanism the legislative body can stop functioning.

Also, if you don't select Council Member Lee as Mayor on Wednesday you will have destroyed any chance for this council to develop the trust and respect for each other and for the City Staff that are necessary for Council success. You will also be disrespecting the intent of the City Charter and Guidelines.

One of the most important things you need to establish in these first meetings is a basic level of **trust** and **respect** for the other council members, and the city staff. Perhaps you each could go out for some coffee with Council Member Lee and Council Member Loraine so that you all get to know each other better. You are just at the beginning of your service together. So, give the benefit of the doubt to Council Member Lee and also to the City Attorney and City Manager. Trust them to do the right thing for at least this initial interaction. Then see if the trust can be built stronger as you go forward.

But if you choose to not trust Council Member Lee, the City Attorney and City Manager, you are headed down a painful path of an unproductive and disrespectful next two years. A City Council can't function without a basic level of trust. It will just be a lot of arguments and not working together. The dysfunction will infect city staff and even residents. No serious progress will be made, because we are not working together respectfully.

As I said on Monday night, leadership matters. Our City needs leaders who can set an example for the rest of the city of how to work through issues in a positive, respectful way. The first step is to elect Council Member Lee Mayor on Wednesday. Take a little chance to let trust grow.

Respectfully,

Ken and Lynn Abreu

40-year residents of San Mateo

From: Elaine Salinger < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:34 PM

To: Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Your choices and behavior last night

Council Members Newsom and Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM this morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a racist power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

In the meeting, Council Members Lee and Loraine offered a significant number of motions, all of which were rejected by your votes. Your only offerings were to delay, delay, delay...We are outraged by this blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first day on the job, your unwillingness to compromise and defiance of all standards of good governance reek of GOP Trump-tactics.

We are further outraged because this undemocratic and dangerous campaign was orchestrated by many in the Diaz Nash campaign, who were asked to show up at the City Council meeting in person regardless of whether they are City residents.

We note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the evening, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

You ran on a platform of transparency and fairness. But your back room plotting is neither. And it smells of a Brown Act Violation. Your plotting and attempt to power grab are making Lorraine and Lee look like the thoughtful, articulate, respectful people they are. And it makes you look like Mitch McConnell grabbing and plotting, gloating over your brilliant obstructionist tactic. Will it backfire?

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Elaine Salinger

From: Joel Scott < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:36 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Att'n: Council Members Newsom & Diaz Nash

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM this morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a racist power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

In the meeting, Council Members Lee and Loraine offered a significant number of motions, all of which were rejected by your votes. Your only offerings were to delay, delay, delay... We are outraged by this blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first day on the job, your unwillingness to compromise and defiance of all standards of good governance reek of GOP Trump-tactics.

We are further outraged because this undemocratic and dangerous campaign was orchestrated by many in the Diaz Nash campaign, who were asked to show up at the City Council meeting in person (see email copy below) regardless of whether they are City residents.

We note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the evening, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Joel Scott, Resident of San Mateo

From: Francie < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 4:54 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk
<clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayoral vote

Please note that as a resident of San Mateo, I'm requesting that the vote for mayor does NOT occur until the 5th member of the council is appointed.

Frances Souza

Sent from my iPhone

From: Phoebe S Venkat < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:42 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please appoint Councilmember Lee as Mayor of San Mateo

Dear San Mateo City Council,

[I am on the Foster City planning commission, though this email represents my personal views.]

This should be a time of celebration and community building. Instead, the swearing in of your new councilmembers has been sullied by last night's antics.

I don't need to list Councilmember Lee's qualifications - my short email couldn't properly summarize her numerous accomplishments and servant leadership. I am vexed and frustrated by how Councilmember Lee was treated last night...and in front of her family to boot.

Please follow protocol and appoint Councilmember Lee to San Mateo Mayor.

Be the leaders you were elected to be. Bring our community members together, don't be a wedge to drive us apart - the world and media already does a great job of that. Your job is to serve San Mateo, follow the democratic process, and model behaviors we need to see more of.

Regards,
Phoebe

Phoebe Shin Venkat

From: Ricki McGlashan < >

Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 12:11 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Douglas McGlashan [REDACTED]

Subject: Electing our new Mayor

My husband and I have lived here for many decades and have watched our city council with interest. I don't recall such an ugly stalemate as the one we are witnessing now.

We have the following observations:

1. There is a non-partisan tradition for the Vice Mayor to become the next Mayor.
2. Council Member Lee has the only experience on the council.
3. Council Member Lee was elected district wide and therefore received more votes from San Mateans than anyone on the new council.
4. Adding one new, unelected council member in no way increases how representative of San Mateo the council is.
5. City government cannot effectively proceed without a mayor; stalemate prevents effective governance.
6. Fighting about who will be the new mayor or about how even to choose one starts the new term on a very rancorous note; only cooperation and listening will make for a successful council.

Because of the above, we urge you to elect Amourence Lee Mayor unanimously and proceed promptly to other business.

Doug and Ricki McGlashan

From: sue <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:48 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Dec 7th council meeting - public comments

I am writing this email in support of Council Member Lee as mayor.

Council Member Lee is the obvious choice as she is the only city council member who has served on the council.

I was very disturbed about Monday night's meeting and urge ALL members of the city council support Council Member Lee.

Thank you,

Sue Blockstein

City of San Mateo Resident, District 3

From: Alan R. Mattlage < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:54 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Please Follow Regular Order in the Council

Dear council members,

At the Dec. 5th meeting of the San Mateo City Council, two council members asserted that the Council faced a “unique” situation, by which I believe they meant that a vacancy on the Council existed while the City’s mayor was yet to be inaugurated. I doubt this is unique, but certainly neither component of the situation is unique. The Council routinely authorizes the most senior member of the Council to serve as mayor at their first meeting in December and it routinely fills vacancies on the Council whenever they occur. This is all done in accord with regular order.

What might be unique is that two council members, in their first act on the Council, decided to depart from regular order and delay the largely ceremonial action of inaugurating the mayor in an explicitly stated effort to disempower her. Their decision does not appear to be based on principle. When asked, they did not clearly state support for amending the City’s Charter to disempower mayors generally. The action would bear only on the present case. Their departure from regular order can only be understood as an ad hoc political move to gain unwarranted influence in filling the current vacancy on the Council.

Please conduct the business of the Council in accord with regular order.

Alan Mattlage

"It is a magnificent thing to be alive in a moment that matters so much."
-- Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

From: Sun Hee Kim <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:07 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Calling for smooth transition of mayorship

Dear City Council members,

My name is Sun Hee Kim pastor at Hillsdale United Methodist Church in San Mateo.

Upon hearing the news that a mayor wasn't seated the way it was supposed to be at the last San Mateo City Council meeting, I am writing this to call for following the standard transition of mayorship, which has been smooth and non-partisan up until now. This is important for the democratic system which is following what we have agreed upon. In this case, in our City, the role of the mayor rotates among city council members. People are watching, especially our children are watching and you are supposed to be the model for how government offices are working properly and in a democratic way. I hope you would do the right thing tonight to follow the standard transition and move forward for the City of San Mateo. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Pastor Sun Hee Kim

Rev. Sun Hee Kim

Pastor of Hillsdale United Methodist Church

<http://hillsdaleumc.org/>

From: Carol Steinfeld < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:09 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Appoint Amourence Lee mayor and stop violating Brown Act

Councillors:

One new councillor mentioned talking to two others about the choice of mayor.

Please remember that all such discussions must occur in open public meeting. Otherwise, it is a violation of the Brown Act.

It is time to show good democratic process and appoint Amourence Lee to be mayor for the year. She has rotated into the post and has shown that she can chair a meeting.

Remember that none of you supported better democratic process three years ago when Maureen Freschet's seat was open. At a study session, it was noted that, historically, the next highest vote getter in a city council election in the past two years was eligible to fill the seat of an unfilled term. At least one of you was at that meeting and did not support this, the most democratic way to fill the seat.

The thinning of democracy and decline of understanding of democratic procedure in our city are disheartening. Please show that you uphold best practice. Doing otherwise will ultimately undermine your desired outcomes.

Carol Steinfeld

From: Jon New < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:10 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please elect Amourence Lee for Mayor

I'm writing in solidarity with Congressman Elect Kevin Mullin, State Senator Josh Becker, San Mateo County Democrats, and countless others who support the peaceful mayorship transition as we have done for the last 100 years. Please vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor so we can end this embarrassing chapter.

Jonathan New

From: Lauren Fitzgerald < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:27 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Selection of San Mateo Mayor

Hello members of the council,

As several of you know, my name is Lauren Fitzgerald, and I am a lifelong resident of San Mateo's district five. I am writing to share my disappointment in the ability of this council to respect the recommendations of the city charter and city staff on Monday night. Councilmember Lee is an admirable leader who offers experience in elected office to the council – the only one of you to do so. She led our city through a global pandemic, economic hardship, and countless divides, all while supporting growth and improvement. Not electing Councilwoman Lee tonight would be a grave mistake.

While the charter does allow for the postponement of the vote on a technicality, the circumstances of this vote are not extraneous. For 128 years, a Mayor has been selected amidst global and local challenges much more difficult than an open seat. I challenge the perspective that districting changes this at all – if anything, it goes to show more urgency for Amourance's selection, as she is the only member of the council elected by the entire city. The fairness and representation that you seek already exists, and it is clear that any further delays are not the result of a desire for representation, but a desire to diminish the power of a deserving and trailblazing woman of color.

Councilmembers Lee and Loraine, I applaud your efforts in compromise, creating unprecedented opportunities in the interests of Councilmembers Nash and Newsom that are difficult to pass up. Councilmember Nash, had you voted yes on Loraine's motion for Lee and Mayor and yourself as Deputy Mayor, you would have a clear pathway to the mayorship in an election year during only your second year on council, as I am sure that you are aware. I hope you reconsider this gracious offer and Councilmember Loraine, I encourage you to make the motion again.

I join Congressman-elect Kevin Mullin, State Senator Josh Becker, the San Mateo County Democratic Party, Supervisor-elect Noelia Corzo, and more in urging you to vote for Amourance Lee for Mayor tonight.

Lauren Fitzgerald
San Mateo, District 5

From: Alicia Ong < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:39 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayoral vacancy

Hi,

I'm a resident of District 1 in San Mateo (address is [REDACTED]) and I'm dismayed that the charter was not followed and Amourence Lee was not made mayor on December 5th. Please follow the city charter and appoint a mayor tonight.

Thank you,
Alicia Ong

From: <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:07 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Adjourned Council meeting 12/7/22- Postpone choosing a mayor

Re: Adjourned meeting 12/7/2022

Honorable Council members,

I urge you to adjourn tonight's meeting without choosing a mayor. Please ensure that the mayor will be chosen after a fifth council member is seated. Many have referred to such a delay as an embarrassment. To me a true embarrassment results if your pick someone this week, knowing that you are setting up an undemocratic scenario where one person, that newly selected mayor, has the power to make the choice single handedly.

You will likely hear many assurances tonight that the mayor's power can be "curbed" or can be "promised" away. Don't make the mistake of going down that path. It is so very easy for a mayor to set up an unbreakable tie, thus becoming the only person to make the decision. And when one person wields that power, the balance of action among the four of you is skewed from the very beginning. The way to avoid any misunderstanding or unexpected outcome is to keep the playing field level by appointing the mayor after the fifth person is seated. With such an equal balance, a divided city and a divided council is likely to end up choosing a moderate consensus builder, which we all certainly need.

On a personal note, I am likely the only person who will contact you on this item who applied for a council vacancy when there was a sudden council member's death and then watched the council come to a 2-2 first vote. The mayor then polled the council members, decided there was an impasse, and no further votes were taken. Having a mayor can lead to such a hasty decision. The next day the mayor made her choice - not me. Without a mayor I probably still would not have been the choice, because the council would have had to work together to come up with a compromise. That person likely would have served the city well.

Waiting sounds like the democratic process to me. I encourage you to stick with democracy and choose the mayor after you make your council member decision.

Karen Herrel

59 year San Mateo resident

From: Colleen Doing < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:59 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Lee Needs To Be Sworn In As Mayor

I am shocked that your Council is resisting the swearing in of Amourence Lee.

Colleen Doing

From: Craig Wiesner < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:39 PM

To: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Vote to Select Mayor Tonight Please

Dear Members of the City Council,

What happened on Monday was heartbreaking. To a gay Jewish man married to an Asian American with one father interned during WWII and the other one of last Jews at Dachau, who has witnessed the sad truth that hard work and playing by the rules doesn't necessarily result in fairness when someone can change the rules at the last minute, who has been turned away from too many tables like the one I saw last evening, I urge to you switch course this evening and appoint Amourence Lee to be the mayor.

While some may see this as a battle over housing and climate policy, those of us who have lived on the margins can't help but feel something more. As a colleague in government whose role is to promote equity and inclusion in our county I hope you will quickly vote this evening and move on to the work of selecting a new council member and coming together to do the work San Mateans elected you to do.

Thank you,
Craig Wiesner

--

Craig Wiesner - ReachAndTeach.com
Pronouns He/Him/His

Please consider signing up for the Reach and Teach eNewsletter which includes coupon codes and specials available only to eNewsletter subscribers. <http://www.reachandteach.com/s/signupnewsletter>

From: Derrick Kikuchi < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:37 PM

To: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please consider installing Amourence Lee as Mayor

Dear Members of the City Council,

My Dad was interned in World War II . Through the lens of that experience, he hammered into me, like many Japanese Americans, the need to always work harder than anyone else and follow the rules. And then you will get ahead. It is in my life experience and 64 years of witness that I learned that this is often not the case. A person of color can work hard and follow the rules and the rules will change just before it is their turn. For this reason, even the appearance of such changes in process when a person of color is involved can easily be viewed in the wrong way. I truly believe this is not the implied intent of the Council but it is nevertheless the perceived effect. I am proud to own a business in a city and live in a county that raised the progress flag during Pride Month. I can be even prouder of a city and county that lives up to the aspirations of that flag. I urge installing Council member Lee as mayor this evening.

much peace,
Derrick Kikuchi

From: Wallace Mersereau < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:35 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Election of Mayor

City Council:

I watched the December 5 council meeting online. This was shameful and embarrassing. New members Nash and Newsom could not have acted more disgracefully--and at their first council meeting just after having been sworn in! Their behavior indicates they are unqualified to be council members. They lack basic human qualities along with respect for long-established traditions.

Not only is Councilmember Lee due to become mayor under the rotational system that has been followed by the city council for decades, she is the only council member with any experience serving on the city's governing body. She is fully qualified. No other council member is.

The council should quickly and unanimously select Councilmember Lee as mayor at the continued meeting on December 7, ending this immature and humiliating farce.

I have followed San Mateo's city government for nearly 70 years. There has never been such outrageous conduct even slightly approaching that of Nash and Newsom by any of the many council members I have observed over the years.

Wallace D. Mersereau

Resident since 1964

From: Lucy Mulkerrins < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:59 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re: 5th council seat/mayor

Hello San Mateo City Council Members,

We hope this note finds you doing well. We have lived in San Mateo's District 5 for 30 years, so we care very much about our city. It is the place where we have raised our children and been active volunteers in our schools, sports organizations and in the general community.

This letter concerns the mayoral issue at hand. A full democratic process in choosing our mayor should include the 5th council person. Fill the empty council seat first, then the mayor.

We thank you in advance for your work on behalf of SM citizens in a cooperative and civil manner with integrity. The personal attacks we saw on a candidate during the election was disheartening and disappointing to say the least. SM is better than this.

Best regards,
Lucy & Rich Mulkerrins

From: Kathy Shea < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:33 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: M. A Lee

Dear Council members.

I believe it of utmost importance to make Amourence Lee the mayor of San Mateo. Her previous council experience and knowledge of affordable Housing will benefit needs here in our city.

Please confirm Ms Lee as mayor of San Mateo tonight!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shea

Resident of

Sent from my iPad

From: Michael < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:27 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Seat the 5th Councilmember Before Selecting a Mayor

Dear Councilmembers - I'm urging you to do what's right, and fair, and wait until 12/12 after the fifth Councilmember has been chosen to select the new mayor. Enough with fearmongering about not having mayor for a week during the holidays - San Mateo will endure. Similarly, enough with the comparisons to J6, McConnell and Trumpian tactics - I mean, really? Comparing a stalemate on a vote for a week to a violent uprising and/or the appointment of a Supreme Court justice? That's what's embarrassing - being a slave to a document and tradition that didn't account for this scenario vs being judicious and wise in your selection process.

It's way too important that we get this right, given the massive long-term land use decisions that will be likely finalized in 2023. Special interests have literally hundreds of millions, if not billions riding on who sits in that 5th seat and controls the majority. Will we have balance and sanity, or a developer free for all? The residents have spoken strongly for the former in this election, and net of a tawdry election smear campaign in D5, this would have been settled Monday.

Prasanna and Drew - I implore you to be extremely clear in your direction to council, and inject yourselves wherever necessary to correct and clarify misinformation. Councilmember Lee in particular continues to dramatically cite "extreme concern" over "violating the city's charter", when the fact is there is precisely zero legal obligation to conform to it, even if these weren't extraordinary circumstances with newly formed districts, a vacant seat, three new council members, and the prospective mayor facing a recall. We need you now more than ever - this is not a time for vagaries or to sit silently by. While we're at it - if you're going to demand decorum, then enforce it. The crew in the back of the room pushing for Councilmember Lee's appointment broke decorum several times, including a huge outburst of applause. Start bouncing people, or else the words ring hollow.

Thank you for listening - let's get this right. We can wait 5 more days. This isn't even a tough call.

Sincerely - Michael Weinbauer

From: Edward Evans < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:21 PM

To: City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Comment letter on continued item 14 on Dec 7 2022 special meeting agenda

Dear Mr. Corbett,

Please see attached letter with my comments on continued item #14 from the December 5th adjourned meeting. Thank you.

All the best,

Ed Evans

Senior Field Representative/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Local 217, San Mateo County

Nor Cal Carpenters Union

"Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on earth." Roberto Clemente



CARPENTERS UNION LOCAL 217 SAN MATEO COUNTY

1153 CHESS DRIVE • SUITE 100 • FOSTER CITY, CALIFORNIA 94404-1197 • (650) 377-0217

December 7, 2022

Mr. Drew Corbett
City Manager, City of San Mateo
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

RE: Item #14, continued from adjourned meeting of Dec. 5th, 2022

Dear Mr. Corbett,

I write today, both as a representative of Carpenters Union Local 217 and a concerned citizen of San Mateo – I reside in the Parkside neighborhood. On behalf of the members of Local 217, I stand in strong support of Council Member Amourance Lee to rightfully serve as San Mateo's next Mayor.

Council Member Lee is of the highest character, she is intelligent, and she is empathetic. She has been a strong advocate of Labor and San Mateo's working families since she joined the City Council in 2019. She is now the ranking member of this City Council with three years of governing experience – in fact, she is the only member of this council with any governing experience.

Unfortunately, a wedge has been driven into our city government, and this concerns me as a San Matean. This disruption not only constitutes a break in 128 years of precedent in San Mateo governance, but threatens to supplant it with an unpredictable new political precedent that there is no need for.

I believe that 128 years of past practice, our clearly worded City Charter, and a good dose of tolerance are the only guides needed to see our city through this unnecessary storm. Where personal politics are injected – good will, compromise, and effective municipal government cannot flourish.

The oaths that the City Council Members took on Monday night should compel them to fidelity, compromise, and practical governance for the people of San Mateo. This is their responsibility, and I believe that Council Member Lee is best suited and most prepared to lead them in that direction as Mayor of our city. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward Evans
Senior Field Representative

cc: City Clerk's office

EE/em
OPEIU:29/afl-cio



From: Stephanie Kasten < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:14 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: In support of Amourence Lee for San Mareo mayor

Dear City Council Members,

I'm a San Mateo resident in Lisa Diaz-Nash's district. I wasn't able to call in for public comment at the December 5 meeting but was disappointed to hear that two of the new city council members are seemingly going rogue on what should be a simple motion to bring on the most senior member of the council to become our city's next mayor. It appears that blocking Amourence Lee from becoming mayor comes from fear of progressive leadership in San Mateo, but this doesn't need to become a partisan issue. Let's just let the person best qualified for the role, who has waited her turn and learned from her years on city council, become mayor. I urge the new members of the council to think of the precedent for partisanship they may be setting, and instead do the right thing by voting in the most experienced council member to lead San Mateo. It's what's right for our city.

Thank you,
Stephanie

From: Carol Ford <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:29 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor

We need Amourence Lee to be sworn in as Mayor of San Mateo.

It is most disappointing that this was not done Monday.

This is not proper governance and many of us are confused, disgusted and disappointed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Carol

From: Penny Nixon <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:27 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Marlyn Bussey <stjamesamezchurch@gmail.com>; Ben Meyers <benkm8@gmail.com>

Subject: Tonight's meeting public comment

Dear newly elected council members Diaz Nash and Newsom,

In the event that public comment is not allowed at the extended meeting this evening, I am emailing you, along with many others, to urge you to follow city charter protocol and the rotation of mayoral election protocol that has served our city well.

Please do not begin your service to our city with what feels like a power play and a disregard of the democratic process. Please do not begin your service to our city with giving the majority of us a reason to question your integrity. Please do not be a reflection of our national politics.

Trust the process, trust that disagreements and differences of opinion can be resolved through process.

Please do not begin to build your foundation of service on the sand of suspicion rather than the rock bed of integrity.

I am not well acquainted with your specific politics views so I am not writing about a specific issue. I am writing about the democratic process and how it will feel to me, and to a vast host of others, if you disregard process and protocol and the city charter itself less than an hour after you pledged an oath to uphold it.

Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon
Co-Director, Peninsula Solidarity Cohort



From: Robert Sandoval < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:30 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Support for Councilwoman Lee

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached letter of support for Councilwoman Lee as the next mayor of San Mateo.

Robert M. Sandoval
Business Representative
Communications Coordinator
Teamsters Local 350



JOHN BOUCHARD
Secretary-Treasurer

SANITARY TRUCK DRIVERS AND HELPERS

Local NO. 350

— AFFILIATED WITH THE —
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



Office: CEDAR HILL OFFICE BUILDING
295 89th STREET, SUITE 304
DALY CITY, CALIFORNIA 94015
Telephone: (650) 757-7290
FAX: (650) 757-7294

AFFILIATED WITH
Joint Council of Teamsters No. 7

December 7, 2022

San Mateo City Council

RE: OPPOSITION OF THE DELAY FOR MAYOR OF SAN MATEO

Dear Council Members of San Mateo,

On behalf of the Sanitary Truck Drivers and Helpers Teamsters Local 350, this letter is a notification that the Local Union is in opposition of the council's unprecedented delay of San Mateo Councilwoman Amourance Lee to Mayor of San Mateo.

Teamsters Local 350 endorses Democratic Party candidates for elected office and local measures that are consistent with Democratic Party values, and to see the newly elected government of our city in disagreement over an appointment, which should be routine, following a 128-year precedent of policy, goes against our political values and the trust we place in public service.

In addition, there is a policy that determines the rotation order, which would place Councilmember Lee as Mayor. Councilmember Lee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in San Mateo, has served on the council for years, and is the only Council member elected prior to November 2022 and was elected by all the city residents before district elections.

Teamsters Local 350 urges Councilwoman Lisa Diaz Nash and Councilmen Robert Newsom to demonstrate their dedication to their own rule of law by working collegially with their colleagues, representing all of San Mateo, and selecting Councilmember Lee as the next Mayor of San Mateo.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Sandoval
Business Representative
RS / vt

From: <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:23 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Regarding Mayor Selection

Dear Honorable City Council,

"Sometimes when we look out, the world seems so dark. War, violence, hunger and misery seem to abound. This makes us(the City of San Mateo) anxious and helpless. What can I(we) do in my(our) private little corner of life that could have any effect on the march of world events? The usual answer is: nothing. We then decide to do what we can for our own, and leave the great events to their domain. Thus, we opt out, and join the largest majority in the world: those who acquiesce. Believing ourselves to be helpless, we hand over all our power to forces and systems outside of us that then act in our names; they go on to put their beliefs into action; and ironically these actions are often sinister and destructive. We live in times when the call to full and critically aware citizenship could not be more urgent. We need to rediscover the careless courage, yet devastating simplicity, of the little boy who, in the middle of the numbed multitude, in naive Socratic fashion, blurts out: "But the emperor has no clothes." When spoken, the word of truth can bring down citadels of falsity."

John O'Donhue

Late Irish Poet and Father

Everyday that the City of San Mateo does not have a Mayor causes more work and turmoil for City staff. The City Manager, Drew Corbett is not an elected official and he cannot fill the role of Mayor. There are numerous things that the Mayor does that the new Council has no idea that goes on. None of us can predict the future. None of us know when the next earthquake or emergency will come. We need a Mayor at the helm.

The public is confused, dismayed, angry, disgusted and disappointed. Those are the words from residents in Lisa Nash's district, my district, District 1.

Elected Officials in higher office support Councilperson Lee for Mayor. Follow decorum, **stop** the created chaos and elect Amourence Lee as Mayor.

Sincerely yours,
Suzanne Bonilla

From: Bradd Silver < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:20 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor

I absolutely fully support Amourence Lee for the position of San Mateo mayor.

I do this for two reasons

1). Our charter and tradition is to have to mayor be the most experienced person in that role.

We have a major turnover in our council. This is the time the most experienced council member should lead

2). Amourence Lee has been a stellar council member. She has served my city with distinction.

Clearly her support by experienced San Mateo county elects was earned by her dedication to our city and all of its residents. I am proud and reassured to have her on our council.

I love San Mateo and am discouraged by attempts by new council members to hijack the great progress made by previous councils.

I expect Amourence Lee to be appointed mayor tonight. Anything else will be a travesty

Bradd Silver

From: Benjamin Meyers <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:33 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: DANGER: The Peaceful Transfer of Power is at Risk here in San Mateo

Dear Council Members,

Our democratic processes have been attacked and eroded by those wishing to circumvent them by force or coercion. This includes the events of Monday evening, when a peaceful transfer of power was thwarted by freshmen councilmembers Nash and Newsome. Yes, the charter does allow for an alternate process, but only if the council votes to do so. The motion to formally do so was never made, and obviously, if Nash and Newsome had followed that procedural route, it would have failed. Having failed, the proscribed protocol of immediately electing a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from the current council members should be followed. This is the San Mateo way. this is the current way. If another way is sought there are procedures to follow to make those changes or see them fail by due process.

The antics of Nash and Newsome are but tyrannical tantrums and I implore them to stop this blatant power-grab dressed up as a concern for a democratic process that has already been approved of, provided for, and which has worked for 128 years in order to diminish divisiveness in our city. Their politicization of procedure is a dangerous and slippery slope, self-serving, and an affront to those to whom they have vowed to serve. Their first order of business was to break the very vows they had just taken moments before. An apology should be made at tonight's meeting and a renewed pledge to work together to attend to the difficulties that face our city and its people. To do else is a dereliction of duty and an usurpation of power.

I pray that we return to the guidelines of our city charter in selecting the next Mayor and Deputy Mayor so that we can get on with the task of creating a full council to address the problems that need your collective vision and abilities. We will also need time to heal from the hurt that these unfortunate events have caused. I hope such a process will be sought, found and followed.

Thank you for your willingness to serve from the best of yourselves, and blessings on your journey back to wholeness,

Rev. Ben Meyers

--

[Why Solar? Why POWUR?](#) (Click this link for answers!)

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." --Buckminster Fuller

"There is an urgent need to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, dramatically reduce wasted energy, and significantly shift our power supplies from oil, coal, and natural gas to wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources." --Bill McKibben

"African Americans and all people of color can benefit greatly by supporting the Clean Power Plan, which will help reduce the impacts of climate change and expand the use of clean, renewable energy from the wind and sun."

--Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Benjamin Meyers, pronouns [he / him / his](#) (Click to learn why this matters.)

Independent Solar Consultant

From: Jennifer Martinez < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:33 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: support in selection of mayor

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing in support of selecting a new Mayor at tonight's city council meeting. Specifically, I support the selection of Amourence Lee. She clearly has the most experience, was elected at-large, and comes from a neighborhood that has not been adequately represented in council leadership for decades.

The failure to select City Councilmember Lee to the position of Mayor on Monday was a shocking break from protocol and reasonability and should be rectified immediately. Please do your jobs and what is mandated by our city charter.

Thank you,

Jennifer Martinez

From: Pamela Ferris < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:17 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayor

I support Amorence Lee as the new City of San Mateo mayor. She has experience on the City council and will look at issues from her perspective with experience and also from her area of the city that she represents

Pamela Ferris

Sent from my iPhone

From: Meredith Keefer < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:16 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayoral vote

Dear city council members:

This mayoral vote kerfuffle is an absolute disgrace.

Vote in Amourence Lee now. New council members with no experience should not be allowed to derail business as usual because they don't like Lee's progressive stance. She is the most qualified candidate, and it's her turn.

Meredith Keefer

San Mateo

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nate Nickolai < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:40 PM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please Listen to Your Constituents

Dear Lisa,

I am a member of district 1, and I am appalled by your and Rob Newsom's actions at the last San Mateo city council meeting. I urge you to appoint Amourence Lee as mayor as is dictated by our city's 128 year tradition. This is a horrible start to your time on the council, and as someone who voted for you, I expected more. This isn't about making the process more "democratic," it's clear to me and to your constituents that this is a power grab for the small, yet vocal, group of homeowners in San Mateo who refuse to look to the future when it comes to affordable housing. Is this really the legacy you want for your time serving the city? Is it worth the chaos you have created? Do you truly think you are making the city better? I still think you can be the person I voted for; it's not too late to do what is right.

Be better,
Nate Nickolai

From: Alexandra Dove < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:36 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Tonight's mayoral selection must be Amourence Lee

Dear City Council members,

I am writing today to express my concerns about delaying Amourence Lee as mayor and violating the established democratic protocols. Monday night's delay on selecting Amourence Lee as mayor was unacceptable. This must be corrected immediately at tonight's meeting. The justifications given for the delay are not sufficient to breach the expectation of mayoral selection as first order of council business, even when a seat is unfilled.

Alexandra Dove,
San Mateo resident

The task of art today is to bring chaos into order.
-Teodor Adorno

From: Justin Alley < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:34 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: End the anti-democratic coup

Dear councilmembers and staff,

I am writing to you out of grave concern for San Mateo's democratic system of governance.

As a lifelong resident of San Mateo and someone who has been actively engaged in its civic life from the time I was in high school to today, I have never born witness to a more flagrant disregard for the basic covenants of our community than that perpetrated Monday, December 5th, a date that will forever go down in infamy in San Mateo's history.

I am speaking of course of the willful abrogation of the unambiguously established norms for the orderly transition of mayoral power. The responsibility for the innumerable harms stemming from this abuse rests entirely upon Councilmembers Nash and Newsom who took it upon themselves alone to upend the wholly standard and generally ceremonial process.

Simply put, there is now but one course of action for remedying and perhaps ultimately healing the ongoing damage that is being inflicted upon our community: firstly, Councilmbers Nash and Newsom must vote without further delay to allow Councilmember Amourence Lee to ascend to her legally and morally rightful position as mayor; and secondly, Councilmembers Nash and Newsom must sincerely apologize to the people of San Mateo for the grand offense which they have committed against our city.

The calls for Councilmembers Nash and Newsom to do their jobs and fulfill their oaths of office is resounding loudly throughout our community and beyond. All of us, from those in positions of power, such as State Senator Josh Becker and Representative-Elect Kevin Mullin, to mere citizens such as myself, will not stand down until Councilmembers Nash and Newsom correct their divisive and anti-democratic actions.

Regards,

Justin Alley

From: Rebecca Schaaf <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:41 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Adhere to democratic processes

Dear Council,

I am writing to urge all members of the Council to adhere to the City's established democratic processes. Honor the rotating mayoral system and direction of the Charter by appointing Amourence Lee as mayor without delay. City residents deserve to have their City Council adhere to standards of good governance, and disregarding established procedures to unduly influence the outcome of a vacancy appointment does not meet this standard.

There are important policy decisions ahead for the City, and I look to the Council to engage on those issues without anti-democratic maneuvering.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Schaaf

From: Jackie < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:44 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Election of Amourence Lee for Mayor

Sent from my iPhone

Dear City Council Members, Lee, Loraine, Diaz-Nash and Newson,

As a long time resident of District 1, I am very disappointed with the actions of the new City Council. I trusted there would be a smooth transition to make Amourence Lee Mayor. Instead it has turned into a decent into chaos.

Please elect City Council Member Amourence Lee Mayor tonight. Our council needs to redeem itself and follow the long standing protocol. The city of San Mateo cannot function efficiently in limbo.

Thank you,
Jacqueline Panigada

From: <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:26 PM

To: Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Re: Written Public Comment for Continued Council Meeting on Wed. 12/7 at 7pm

December 7, 2022

Dear Honorable San Mateo City Councilmembers,

I was in attendance at your Transition and Reorganization meeting on Monday, December 5th.

As a fellow elected in our County, as well as a friend or acquaintance of each one of you, I came to share in the celebration of the recent election and the beginning of your roles as a new Council for the City that I have lived in for 21 years — a City whose constituents *I also represent* and have the utmost respect for in my role as a San Mateo County Board of Education Trustee for Area 4.

I submit this statement on my own behalf, and not on behalf of any organization, Board or Commission on which I serve.

Sadly, I was not only shocked, but very dismayed by the initial inappropriate display of disrespect I witnessed at the beginning of your meeting in the form of a man yelling at Councilwoman Lee about an impending recall effort.

This display set a negative tone for much of your meeting and was completely out of order, given the presence of children (many of whom were sons and daughters of outgoing and incoming Councilmembers) and in light of the planned ceremonies and business on your Council agenda for the evening.

As the evening progressed, it became clear that there was an effort underway by Councilmember Newsom and Diaz Nash (and their supporters) to obstruct and delay the orderly transition of City Council leadership, as intended by and set forth in the City's governing document, its Charter, as approved by the voters of our City, effectively derailing your governance team from being able to conduct the business set forth on Monday's Agenda, and foreseeably halting future Agendas and the conduct of essential business of the City and your Council.

The refusal of this Council to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Monday, and any continued delay that may be planned for tonight's meeting is a direct violation of the purpose and intent of the City's Charter, which is to allow for the seamless and orderly transition of leadership and the conduct of the City's business by the Council in protection of each and every resident of the City of San Mateo.

On a personal note, Lisa, I can hardly believe that you would, in a public forum, *as your first impression as a new Councilmember, and as a community representative with ties to multiple organizations locally and at the State level, including our beloved EmergeCA*, treat a fellow Councilwoman with such grave disregard and absolute disrespect. I was shocked during the meeting, and I will continue to mourn what are sure to be repercussions and reverberations *far beyond your council chambers* following Monday's events and your role in instigating a challenge to (1) the City Charter, norms, guidelines and protocols

setting forth our longstanding rules of leadership transition and (2) the City Manager's and City Attorney's recommendations for action on Agenda Item 14.

It was a very sad night (and early morning) for the City of San Mateo.

Your actions were inappropriate, unnecessary and mean spirited, at best.

I hope that you will take the opportunity this evening to do everything that you possibly can to correct the mis-steps of Monday's meeting.

We depend upon each elected (and soon to be appointed) councilmember to govern our City *together* with respect, honor and effective leadership. Monday's divisive actions have already had a direct consequence on this process.

You have hard work ahead, and I am fairly concerned that these initial events will now present a difficult hurdle for you to overcome.

I nevertheless remain hopeful that you will make every effort to restore our trust and faith in you as our City leaders, and that you will do the right thing this evening by **appointing Councilwoman Lee as our next Mayor**.

This action will enable you to move forward to complete the City Council team on Monday, December 12th — and then get to work on the many issues we are facing in the City and County of San Mateo, and that we are depending upon you all to lead us through at the helm of our beautiful City.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bonini
Resident, City of San Mateo, District 5

On Dec 7, 2022, at 3:15 PM, wrote:

December 7, 2022

Dear Honorable San Mateo City Councilmembers,

I was in attendance at your Transition and Reorganization meeting on Monday, December 5th.

As a fellow elected in our County, as well as a friend or acquaintance of each one of you, I came to share in the celebration of the recent election the the beginning of your roles as a new Council in the City that I have lived in for 21 years — a City whose constituents *I also represent* and have the utmost respect for in my role as a San Mateo County Board of Education Trustee for Area 4.

I submit this statement on my own behalf, and not on behalf of any organization, Board or Commission on which I serve.

Sadly, I was not only shocked, but very dismayed by the initial inappropriate display of disrespect I witnessed at the beginning of your meeting in the form of a man yelling at Councilwoman Lee about an impending recall effort.

This display set a negative tone for much of your meeting and was completely out of order, given the presence of children (many of whom were sons and daughters of outgoing and incoming Councilmembers) and in light of the planned ceremonies and business on your Council agenda for the evening.

As the evening progressed, it became clear that there was an effort underway by Councilmember Newsom and Diaz Nash (and their supporters) to obstruct and delay the orderly transition of City Council leadership, as intended by and set forth in the City's governing document, its Charter, as approved by the voters of our City, effectively derailing your governance team from being able to conduct the business set forth on Monday's Agenda, and foreseeably halting future Agendas and the conduct of essential business of the City and your Council.

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On a personal note, Lisa, I can hardly believe that you would, in a public forum, *as your first impression as a new Councilmember, and as a community representative with ties to multiple organizations locally and at the State level, including our beloved EmergeCA*, treat a fellow Councilwoman with such grave disregard and absolute disrespect. I was shocked during the meeting, and I will continue to mourn what are sure to be repercussions and reverberations far beyond your council chambers following Monday's events and your role in instigating a challenge to (1) the City Charter, norms, guidelines and protocols setting forth our longstanding rules of leadership transition and (2) the City Manager's and City Attorney's recommendations for action on Agenda Item 14.

It was a very sad night (and early morning) for the City of San Mateo.

Your actions were inappropriate, unnecessary and mean spirited, at best.

I hope that you will take the opportunity this evening to do everything that you possibly can to correct the mis-steps of Monday's meeting.

We depend upon each elected (and soon to be appointed) councilmember to govern our City *together* with respect, honor and effective leadership. Monday's divisive actions have already had a direct consequence on this process.

You have hard work ahead, and I am fairly concerned that these initial events will now present a difficult hurdle for you to overcome.

I nevertheless remain hopeful that you will make every effort to restore our trust and faith in you as our City leaders, and that you will do the right thing this evening by appointing Councilwoman Lee as our next Mayor.

This action will enable you to move forward to complete the City Council team on Monday, December 12th — and then get to work on the many issues we are facing in the City and County of San Mateo, and that we are depending upon you all to lead us through at the helm of our beautiful City.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bonini
Resident, City of San Mateo, District 5

From: Rick Ballard < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:23 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Dec 7th council meeting - public comments

Amourence Lee must be appointed mayor without further delay at tonight's council meeting.

The delay at Monday's council meeting is a severe breach of the intent of the city charter rules and the longstanding apolitical mayoral rotation that have kept transfer and sharing of power functional in our local democracy. The idea of adjourning the first meeting without addressing its first and only order of business as a workaround to the city charter requirement is an odious breach of democratic norms.

Please do the right thing and elect Amourence Lee mayor tonight.

Thank you,
Richard Ballard
San Mateo Resident

From: Vivienne Scott <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 2:57 PM

To: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please Select Council Member Lee as SM Mayor

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

I am a registered voter in San Mateo District 1. I am writing to you because your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session on December 5 is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

I note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the meeting on December 5, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee's selection as Mayor. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions on December 5 do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Scott

Registered Voter, San Mateo District 1

From: L. Eberhart < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:52 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: 2023 City of San Mateo Mayor + Vice Mayor Selection

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM Tuesday morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a power grab.

As a resident of District 2 (or at least North Central San Mateo) for almost 20 years I'm disheartened that some members are wanting to jump the line and put patience, decency and diplomacy on the sidelines at the very beginning of their tenure. All I can say is, if you start this way, what did you learn in kindergarten?

Please be respectful.

Let veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee have her turn in the office of Mayor. She will be the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo and the first to represent District 2 in almost 20 years. Your vote of approval will win you more votes when it is your turn. Do not discount District 2.

With respect,
Leane Eberhart

From: Dave Clark < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:34 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Dec 7th council meeting - public comment

Good afternoon Patrice!

Please find attached my comments for the meeting tonight at 7PM.

Dave Clark

San Mateo

From: Stephanie Reyes < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:19 PM

To: Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please appoint Councilmember Lee as Mayor

Dear Councilmembers,

As a resident of the Bay Meadows neighborhood, I am writing to strongly urge you to appoint Councilmember Lee as Mayor at your meeting this evening.

I was shocked to hear that Councilmember Lee was not appointed Mayor at Monday's meeting. Like most residents, I was looking forward to a routine appointment of the Councilmember with the most experience. I think it is completely reasonable to expect such a peaceful "transition of power" in our community, in keeping with over a century of precedent.

This departure from practice was particularly upsetting because Councilmember Lee is a woman of color.

I strongly urge the Council to do the right thing and appoint Councilmember Lee as Mayor without further delay.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Reyes

From: Belinda Chlouber < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: City Council Meeting

Hi,

I hope that City Council Member Lee will be appointed Mayor as soon as possible. She has the experience and integrity (especially given the very poor treatment she received on Monday night.)

I also wanted to say, I am very sorry that the city staff had to stay so late for that meeting on Monday night. I am extremely unhappy with the two new council members Diaz Nash and Newsom. They were totally out of line.

Thank you again,

Belinda Chlouber
District 5
San Mateo, CA

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Belinda Chlouber

website <http://www.belindachlouber.com>
email

Social Media

Fine Art, paintings, mixed media and prints inspired by nature, and poetry.

~ Find Joy in the everyday, while crafting a life rich through nature, beauty and compassion.

From: Jon New < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:08 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Public comments regarding Mayor Election

I'm writing in solidarity with Congressman Elect Kevin Mullin, State Senator Josh Becker, San Mateo County Democrats, and countless others who support the peaceful transition mayorship as we have done for the last 100 years. Please vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor so we can end this embarrassing chapter.

Jonathan New

From: Daniel Schonberg < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 1:04 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please appoint council member Lee as Mayor tonight.

I am a resident of San Mateo and live in District 3 ().

I am writing because I find the behavior of councilmembers Nash and Newsom during the city council meeting on Tuesday to be very disturbing. The erosion of our city's democratic norms is a disturbing escalation and is suggestive of a non-neighbourly politics that is not sustainable for a community of our size. No matter what aim is intended, no matter how just they feel their ends to be, these means will ultimately undermine our community. The aims of a non-yimby replacement for councilmember Papan do not justify these means. I fear what the consequences of Nash and Newsom's means will be if they are not immediately abandoned.

Thank you,
Daniel Schonberg

From: Martha Park < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:48 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Fifth council seat and appointment of mayor

Dear Council Members Lee, Loraine, Diaz Nash, and Newsom,

I watched more than four hours of the city council meeting Monday night, and came away believing that it wasn't the right night to vote in a new mayor.

I would like to support waiting for the fifth councilmember to be seated before voting on that position. If a mayor is voted in, that person would automatically have more influence in the appointment of the 5th member of the council, and potentially more "power" throughout that person's tenure. This seems like the fairest way to proceed. Thank you for your consideration,
Martha Park

From: Jennifer Holthaus < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:50 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please do not block the mayor rotational system

Hello Honorable City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to end the divisive block of San Mateo's time-honored process of rotating the position of mayor among City Council members. Amourence Lee has served honorably for more than two years and she should become Mayor now, regardless of whether you agree with her politics or not.

Please do not duplicate the demoralizing, paralyzing divisiveness that we are seeing in national level politics! Our proudly diverse city, with its tradition of pulling together and supporting each other, deserves better than to have this senseless deadlock over the appointment of our mayor.

Jennifer Holthaus

15-year resident of San Mateo

Homeowner in District 5

From: Thomas Gillett < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:52 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Wait for 5th seat to elect Mayor

The Mayor's position should not be filled until the 5th seat is in place. The charter mandates a 5 member council. The city attorney confirms the council is allowed to delay.

We are entitled to a full city council before permanent positions are completed.
Do NOT elect the mayor until the 5th member is seated.

Tom Gillett

From: Nancy Schneider <hnancy.schneider@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:58 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Selection of Mayor - 12/07/22 Meeting

City Council Members:

I am a proud, long time San Mateo resident and homeowner. Both of my daughters attended San Mateo public schools which inspired in them both a passion for public service. That is why I am so disappointed in the recent actions of two of our council members. I live in District 1 and am incredibly upset by my newly elected council member, Councilmember Nash. She is not representing our city's values of democracy, transparency, fairness and good governance.

Section 2.09 of the City Charter, San Mateo's governing document, says that the City Council is supposed to elect the mayor and deputy mayor at the first meeting. As we all know, that did not happen. Councilmembers Nash and Newsom claim we need to have the 5th member there to vote for the mayor in the supposed name of fairness and representing the whole city.

That is disingenuous. Citizens in Districts 2 and 4 did not vote in this election. Regardless of when it happens, the appointed 5th member will not be chosen by the people, but by the appointment process laid out in the Charter for filling vacant seats. Also if Councilmembers Nash and Newsom are willing to follow the Council guidelines on the rotation of the mayor after the fifth member is chosen rather than now, there would be no difference in the outcome. Councilmember Lee would be elected mayor. She has the seniority. It is her turn to be mayor. She has demonstrated incredible skill in representing the people of San Mateo, especially those from neighborhoods historically ignored by the Council. Why change the process?

To reiterate, I am extremely disappointed in my councilmember, Councilmember Nash. This is no way to start her tenure on the Council – changing precedence that has worked for the last 128 years of the City of San Mateo for no good reason.

Councilmembers Nash and Newsom, please do the right thing tonight and vote to elect Councilmember Lee as mayor. In this time of national uncertainty, we should be seeking to provide an example of public service and good governance, not unnecessary stalling and division.

Thank you,

Nancy Schneider

P.S. I'm including a copy of the letter that you have already received from Ken Abreu, because he raised a lot of good points more eloquently than I and I want them to be remembered.

Dear Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom,

You have just started your term on the City Council and the first actions will set the foundation for how well this City Council can work together to address the major challenges that San Mateo faces. Meeting these challenges will require strong leadership and cooperation by the entire City Council. Your first meeting on Monday was a deep failure in getting the City Council off to a positive and productive start.

The actions of Council Members Diaz Nash and Newsom to not follow the normal and well-established procedure to elect Council Member Lee as mayor has the potential to greatly damage any opportunity for this City Council to function productively. You have disregarded the clear intent of the City Charter and the City Council Guidelines. You have dismissed the strong recommendation of the City Manager and the City Attorney. The City Charter, Guidelines and the strong recommendations by the City Staff experts are there to help the City Council be productive and fair. Ignoring them invites calamity to the governing of San Mateo. And will lead this wonderful city into a tragic dysfunctional City Council operation.

Your concern that a mayor will have a tie breaking vote is understandable. But does not, in any way, justify undermining well established and proven procedures or not following the strong recommendation by the City Attorney and City Manager. These procedures and recommendations are wise and have stood the test of time. They keep our city government functioning smoothly and respectfully. Vacancies are not uncommon and the procedure for filling them has been long settled.

Fortunately, there is a compromise that can be made at the Wednesday December 7 meeting to get the City Council back on track and moving forward in a positive and productive way.

Council Member Lee provided lengthy statements throughout the night that she will work with **all** the council members to seek a consensus selection for the vacant city council seat. She has also proposed she would not utilize her tie breaking power as Mayor until at least three votes have been taken. This is a fair and reasonable way to address your concern. Perhaps you can accept it and the council can unanimously approve Council member Lee as Mayor on Wednesday. Please get this done Wednesday.

But under **no** circumstances should the selection of Mayor take place after the December 12 meeting to vote on filling the vacancy. This would set an ugly and unfair precedent and could very well lead to a dysfunctional City Council for months, if not years. Let me elaborate.

If you try to fill the vacancy without a tie breaking mechanism in place you invite a 2-2 stalemate that could easily lead to the vacancy not being filled and to the position of Mayor also not being filled.

All well run legislative bodies have tie breaking mechanisms. Without such a mechanism the legislative body can stop functioning.

Also, if you don't select Council Member Lee as Mayor on Wednesday you will have destroyed any chance for this council to develop the trust and respect for each other and for the City Staff that are necessary for Council success. You will also be disrespecting the intent of the City Charter and Guidelines.

One of the most important things you need to establish in these first meetings is a basic level of **trust** and **respect** for the other council members, and the city staff. Perhaps you each could go out for some coffee with Council Member Lee and Council Member Loraine so that you all get to know each other better. You are just at the beginning of your service together. So, give the benefit of the doubt to Council Member Lee and also to the City Attorney and City Manager. Trust them to do the right thing for at least this initial interaction. Then see if the trust can be built stronger as you go forward.

But if you choose to not trust Council Member Lee, the City Attorney and City Manager, you are headed down a painful path of an unproductive and disrespectful next two years. A City Council can't function without a basic level of trust. It will just be a lot of arguments and not working together. The dysfunction will infect city staff and even residents. No serious progress will be made, because we are not working together respectfully.

As I said on Monday night, leadership matters. Our City needs leaders who can set an example for the rest of the city of how to work through issues in a positive, respectful way. The first step is to elect Council Member Lee Mayor on Wednesday. Take a little chance to let trust grow.

Respectfully,

Ken and Lynn Abreu

From: Sarah Hubbard <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:53 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Dec 7th council meeting - public comments

Dear Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash,

Your decision not to select a Mayor and Vice Mayor after an 8 hour marathon City Council session which ended at 2:59 AM Tuesday morning is deeply troubling. Such a delay upsets all precedents, customs and norms. Your decision deviates from the City Council Guidelines and the City Charter, and disregards the "strong recommendation" of your City Attorney to make a decision at last night's meeting. Everyone can see that this is plainly a power grab.

You blocked the only veteran Council Member, Amourence Lee from rightfully taking the office of Mayor. Amourence Lee has served on the Council with distinction for three years, and is now the only council member with any legislative experience. She would have been the first female Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to hold the Mayoral position in the 128 history of San Mateo. She would have been the first Mayor from District 2 in 20 years.

We are outraged by this blatant, shameful filibuster which jeopardizes the City's legislative functions and impedes governance. Your first-day-on-the-job, unwillingness to compromise and your defiance of all standards of good governance reek of GOP Trump-tactics.

We are further outraged because this undemocratic and dangerous campaign was orchestrated by many in the Diaz Nash campaign, who were asked to show up at the City Council meeting in person (see email copy below) regardless of whether they are City residents.

We note that approximately 75 different speakers appeared over the course of the evening and morning, the majority of whom support Council Member Lee. According to accounts from the outgoing Mayor, the vast majority of letters sent to Council before the meeting were from Council Member Lee's supporters.

Your actions last night do not bode well for your terms in office or for San Mateo or your place in the Democratic Party. This is not responsible, consensus-building governance. This is divisive, obstructionist behavior unbecoming the office of City Council. San Mateans deserve better from their elected representatives.

I request that you change course, and vote for Amourence Lee for Mayor at the December 7 City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hubbard ([she/her/hers](#))

c:

From: Pam Rittelmeyer < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4:00 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Dec 7th council meeting - public comments

Dear City Council Members,

I urge you to follow established norms and expectations tonight by selecting Council Member Amourence Lee to be Mayor. As I am sure that you are aware, this year's city council election has been fraught with hostility, bullying, and other divisive actions, much of this on the Nextdoor website. I was sad to see so much anger between residents. Now the postponement of the mayor being chosen is again being led by the same people who caused so much divisiveness online over the past months. By refusing to follow the City Charter and the City Council Guidelines, this divisiveness is growing. You have the capacity to make the decision tonight to do what many residents expect, which is to appoint the next in line as mayor.

Thank you,

Pam Rittelmeyer

From: Christine Padilla <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 3:55 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Mgr <citymgr@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: City Council Reorganization - we need a Mayor!

Dear City of San Mateo Councilmembers and dedicated staff,

As a longtime San Mateo resident, I would normally address this public comment letter to our mayor, but sadly not having a mayor is why I'm having to write to you. A peaceful transfer of power is a concept important to democratic governments in which the leadership of a government peacefully hands over control of government to a newly-elected leadership. This matters whether it is at the federal, state, county or local. **The City of San Mateo needs a mayor and deputy mayor now!**

As you know, the San Mateo Charter and San Mateo City Guidelines are clear: the first order of business for a reorganizing Council is to elect the most senior councilmember as mayor and draw lots for rotation, with position two named deputy mayor. **Overriding the democratic process of electing a mayor and deputy is a breach of protocol and 128 years of precedent.**

I support Councilmember Amourence Lee's rightful place as mayor. Councilmember Lee was appointed and then elected at large by nearly 24,000 San Mateans—more than the number of votes electing all three other councilmembers combined. With the remaining three councilmembers having less than 48 hours in their seats, Ms. Lee is the only councilmember with over three years of experience on the Council.

San Mateo needs a mayor and I am sad and embarrassed to see our city in this avoidable situation. I was born and raised in San Mateo County and am grateful so many of our values do not mirror the ugliness in politics all over the county, but when something like this happens it truly makes me fearful we too, are slipping backwards. **The opportunity to have our first AAPI female mayor is not lost on me and my family and rather than coming together to celebrate, we have to fight for what should have only been a formality.** The continued failure to appoint a mayor and deputy mayor puts undue burden on City staff, risking prolonged dysfunction and instability. The time is now to heal the breaches of precedent and protocol and get down to the business of running the City in the best interest of the people of San Mateo.

I, along with so many of my neighbors, call on San Mateo councilmembers to do what's right for its constituents. The City Council must prioritize the peaceful transfer of power before any other business and elect its mayor and deputy now.

Sincerely,

Christine Padilla & family

San Mateo, 94403

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC
COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED
AFTER 4:00PM ON
DECEMBER 7, 2022

From: Stephen Chen < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:00 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Protect our city charter and select our Mayor now/tonight

Dear Sir:

Please help me to relate to our new city council woman , Ms. Nash what she has said after the election, in the Daily Journal dated Nov 26, 2022 " The people I spoke with wanted us to really try and reach across the divisions _ _ _ and try and MAKE THE CITY COUNCIL WORK A LOT MORE EFFECTIVELY AND TOGETHER FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL IN SAN MATEO". Ms. Nash, does your words reflecting what you are actually DOING in real life?

Our ex-president wanted to terminate our constitution so he could claim he won the 2020 election. On the first day you and Mr. Newsom sworn in as our new city councilmen, using the vacancy of the 5th council member as an excuse, you two were doing exactly the same thing to our city charter. This is totally non-excusable! And despicable!

Sincerely,

Stephen Chen

San Mateo District 4

From: Mitch Speigle < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:41 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayoral decision and timeline

Hello new city council,

I am writing today to support delaying the decision on who will become mayor until after the 5th council member is chosen.

At the core of any system of governance, and especially in a democracy, a key tenant is not "procedure" but checks and balances to ensure that those in power don't have the opportunity to imbalance the whole show.

These checks and balances are needed now.

This is what will happen if city council appoints a mayor prior to the 5th council member decision. San Mateo needs unity in the form of the 4 of you working together, with EQUAL power, to decide on the 5th council member. If a mayor is elected before that then there is not only horrible optics that the mayor is unfairly using their position to appoint a person that will favor them but also that those pushing for a mayor decision now value procedure over what's best for San Mateo - directly what you each swore and oath to hold above all else.

Please allow this decision to remain fair and EQUAL so that, whatever decision is made, there can be no claims that the mayors deciding vote outweighed the others.

San Mateo deserves equality in this in order to be united. Without that decision made equality amongst council members this great city will continue to be plagued by divisiveness.

Unite San Mateo, hold off on the mayor decision until after the 5th council seat is selected.

Mitch, D5, Renter

Sent from my iPhone

From: <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:39 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Seat

I believe that The Council must delay a mayor appointment until until the 5th seat is included. The ENTIRE Council should be in all decisions. Since the CHARTER clearly states a FIVE member board, this must be done. Five Council Members makes for a clearer decision----- not a 2-2 vote. Follow the CHARTER as there is no emergency.

Juliet Burkett Hooker, San Mateo. California

From: Elizabeth Dallman < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:26 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Appoint Amo Lee as Mayor

I am writing to submit this written public comment to the San Mateo City council.

As a voter in Councilmember Nash's district, **I urge you to appoint Amo Lee as Mayor.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Ellie Dallman (she/her)
City of San Mateo resident

From: Jackie Huang Linayao < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:12 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please do the right thing and appoint Amourence Lee to mayor

Hello San Mateo City Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my concern about the delay of Amourence Lee's appointment to mayor. I am a current resident of district 3 (Fiesta Gardens) and was dismayed to read what had happened at Monday's meeting, as well as confused as to why we would prevent an experienced and elected councilmember from taking the seat as outlined in our city bylaws.

I would hope that the councilmembers would take into account the wishes of the residents of San Mateo when acting in an official capacity. For what it's worth, my wish as a resident is that Amourence Lee is appointed as mayor tonight. In the long run, as we consider electing a new councilperson and also making change within our community, I also stand by Amourence's positions on affordable housing and advocating for human rights issues such as Prop 1.

—

Jackie Huang Linayao (she/her)

From: John Gieseke < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:10 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: City council appointment and election of mayor

To City of San Mateo City Council;

On the question of electing a mayor and appointing a council person to fill the vacant seat. There are over 40,000 registered voters in the city of San Mateo who should have the opportunity to help choose their representatives on the city council. Thousands of voters in every district. Under special circumstances the current council has to appoint someone to fill a vacancy on the council. This decision should be made by the entire sitting council who were put there by the voters and they should not leave the decision to one person. This is not right for the current council to pass off this responsibility, and it is not the democratic way. Let's have an open, transparent process of filling the open seat on this council so we can move forward knowing we all had a voice in the decision.

First fill the vacant seat and then have the full council elect the mayor.

John Gieseke

From: Pat <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:28 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Council Member Lee for mayor... TODAY!

Dear Council Members Lee, Loraine, Diaz-Nash and Newsom,

I watched the spectacle that should have been a peaceful reorganization on Monday night. I'm on the SSFUSD Board of Trustees but am writing on my own behalf and not representing the Board on which I sit.

As the member of a Board, I can tell you that the job of your governance team is to set policy and to ensure that the work of your body is completed. Your constituents expect you to take that job seriously. There is no place for theatrics!

On Monday night, there was one agenda item for the newly formed council and that was to name the new Mayor and Vice Mayor. That didn't happen despite the city charter and encouragement from the city attorney and city manager.

How arrogant is it that Council Members Diaz-Nash and Newsom, in their first hours as council members, would ignore their city charter, traditions and protocols, city manager and city attorney to block Council Member Lee from rotating in as Mayor.

Instead of looking for loopholes and blocking the ONLY person qualified to be the Mayor of San Mateo, perhaps newly seated Council Members Diaz-Nash and Newsom should have listened, learned, voted for Council Member Lee to become mayor, accepted the many olive branches being sent their way and enjoyed a celebration with their community. That's what leadership sometimes looks like.

I'm writing this evening to encourage Council Members Diaz-Nash and Newsom to do the RIGHT thing and to vote for Council Member Lee's rotation into the mayor's seat. Do what you were voted in to do. Make it a majority. Your governance team will be stronger. Council Member Lee is the ONLY one qualified to be mayor and when the new council member is appointed, she will STILL be the ONLY one qualified to be mayor!

I know Council Member Lee to be intelligent, thoughtful, and a true leader. She will represent your city well. She brings with her a wealth of experience as a 4 year city council member. She brings a lived experience that hasn't been represented before. AND, she represents a part of your city that hasn't had a mayor in over 100 years. This is a slam dunk in terms of showing your city what you stand for. This is where equity lives and I implore you to do the right thing!!

Pat Murray

From: Amy Lee < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:46 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please continue the rotation of Mayor to Amourence Lee

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking time to hear my request.

As a long-time resident over 14 years and homeowner in San Mateo, I have enjoyed seeing Ms. Lee fight for our community, participate in it, and lean into women's leadership. Especially in times where a diverse set of voices should reflect our growing community, I think she exemplifies the kind of leader San Mateo needs right now. She also has the support of many other elected officials.

Please swiftly confirm Ms. Lee's appointment to the role of Mayor as per city Charter. Thank you.

Amy Lee

From: Fiona Hsu < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:20 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Appoint City Council Lee as Mayor

Dear City Council, I am a resident of District 5 and am incredibly disheartened by tonight's proceedings.

I called in, but raised my hand too late to urge the Council to select Council member Lee as the Mayor of San Mateo tonight, December 7.

Please stop the division and consider the soul of the City, which is on the verge of breaking. The right thing to do is to select Amo Lee tonight. We need her leadership at this critical time more than ever.

Thank you,
Fiona Hsu
District 5

From: Doris Nishimoto <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:48 PM

To: Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Noel Nish <>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; ldnash@cityofsanmateo.org; lnash@cityofsanmateo.org

Subject: Council IS able to change Charter protocol by adopting new policies

Hi City Manager, Councilwoman Lee,

In San Mateo, the City Charter states that the City Council is to select among its members a mayor and a vice mayor, setting up a rotation mayor system similar to most jurisdictions on the Peninsula.

The Council *later* adopted a policy that determines the order of the rotation...

Looks like council needs to adopt another policy to address this unprecedented event due to the redistricting process.

Doris Nishimoto, D.D.S.

From: Robin Gage < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:23 PM

To: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Re: Speaking Tonight

Hi Patrice -

You just announced that comments are closed. Please find my comments below. Thanks for entering into the record. And when you get a moment later this week, please let me know how to get on the list next time around.

My comments:

Congratulations and thank you to the new Councilmembers and Councilmember Amo Lee for your service.

I support the motion to delay the vote for mayor until after the 5th councilmember is chosen. I think it is a fantastic opportunity for this council to work together, expand the council and through compromise, represent all citizens of San Mateo.

Councilmembers Diaz-Nash and Newsom, I appreciate your intention, convictions, integrity and experience and bringing a fair, more democratic appointment process to our city.

Councilmembers Lee and Lorraine, I urge you to work with Councilmembers Diaz-Nash and Newsom to appoint our next councilmember and to find the compromise our city deserves.

Thank you,

Robin Gage
District 3 Resident

From: Nina B. Potsiadlo < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 10:56 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Sharing 1 document from the City of San Mateo Law Library

[https://sanmateo.ca.us.open.law/us/ca/cities/san-mateo/charter/2.01#\(a\)](https://sanmateo.ca.us.open.law/us/ca/cities/san-mateo/charter/2.01#(a))

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

2.01 Composition, Eligibility, Election and Terms.

(a) There shall be a city council of five members elected by the voters of the city at large.

This is one of the first articles in the city charter. Please help the public understand why you keep overlooking it.

From: Kai Cassel < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:00 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please end the inaction

Hello City Councilors,

I am a citizen of District 1, and Co-President of a local High-School student government. I am deeply ashamed by the City Council meeting this Wednesday. Our High-School meetings are run with much more efficiency, respect for our colleagues, and respect for those who elected us.

The effort to delay the Appointment of a mayor has only divided our city and our city council, left important business unfinished, and has the danger to hurt this council's ability to conduct business for the remainder of the term.

All four councilmembers have stated they have confidence in the ability to elect a councilmember on Monday, without need for a tiebreaker, and that they will vote for councilmember Amourence Lee to serve as mayor. Therefore, the delay in appointing a mayor is nothing but that, a delay, which would change no outcome, only hurting trust in our council, and, again, leaving important work unfinished.

If everyone involved has been truthful about their motives so far, the delay is nothing but a pointless delay, causing bad blood that would be embarrassing and detrimental to the function of even a high school student government.

You were elected to get things done, and should this gridlock continue, god forbid, the people of this city will take legal action to remove the parties causing this unnecessary gridlock from office.

Thank you for reading,

Kai Cassel, District 1

From: John Love < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:57 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Mayoral Appointment

City Council Members,

Please respect the process laid out in the City Council Charter and appoint Ms. Amourence Lee the next Mayor of San Mateo.

Regards,

John H. Love II

From: Ivan Echevarria < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:13 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Public comment on 2022-12-07 meeting

My name is Ivan Echevarria, and I have been a resident of San Mateo for more than 20 years. I currently reside in District 1. I support the appointment of Council Member Lee to mayor, and I would prefer that she holds the tie-breaking vote because of her record on housing. Also, I fear that this stunt will make brinksmanship, obstruction, and over-long meetings the norm.

From: Joe Totah < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:10 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: False Racism Claims

Council Members,

I am disgusted with the false racism claims, I think every knows that this is not a race issue, but an issue to elect the 5th member before appointing a mayor (which I still believe is going to be Ms. Lee). I am Mideastern, I am not the most white guy out there, so I despise it when these false racism claims are being inappropriately used for political manipulation. This is very wrong and unethical. The San Mateo County GOP chairwoman is an Asian woman, so enough of this nonsense and this is not even a GOP issue since there are no Republicans on this council.
Joe Totah

From: Joe Totah <>

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:55 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: City Council Meeting

Dear Council Members:

The big issue here is who is going to appoint the 5th member, I believe the council intentions are to appoint Amourance Lee as Mayor, however they want to first appoint a 5th council member so that 5th council member is not a double vote for Councilwoman Lee. Why not all agree on a 5th council member before appointment Ms. Lee is appointment mayor so she doesn't have that double vote. I see a lot of intimidations, I hope that Rob Newsom and Lisa Nash not cave to this loud intimidation, this is so wrong. Amourance Lee is not automatically mayor unless she gets the votes, that is what the charter has. Otherwise she would already be Mayor if it was stated that way in the charter. So please stop this sick politics, let these two elected officials have the vote they are most comfortable. Many speakers on the phone call are probably not from San Mateo, I have seen this kind of organized intimidation before where organized groups of people are involved to try to bully certain elected officials. This is very wrong and its not properly representing the people.

Thank you,
Joe Totah

From: JL < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:51 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Please elect council member Lee as mayor

Dear city clerk, I am writing to you that I am extremely disappointed at councilmember Newsom and Nash who are blocking the appointment of councilmember Lee as the next mayor.

We should follow the city charter process. This is an embarrassment to the city of San Mateo and is undemocratic. We cannot allow the political BS that happens in congress to creep into San Mateo city council.

Appoint Amourence Lee as mayor now!

Thank you

Jimmy La

From: Stephen Floor < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:04 PM
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Comment on council meeting 12/7

Hello,

I would like to submit a public comment regarding the council meeting on 12/7.

I am in District 1 in San Mateo represented by Councilmember Nash. I am extremely disappointed by the hostage taking actions by Councilmembers Nash and Newsom who have upended protocol by attempting to block the appointment of Councilmember Lee as Mayor - the most experienced member on council and in fact the only Councilmember with experience at all.

Democracy relies on respect for protocol - it is not written in stone. Holding the Mayors office hostage by refusing to appoint Councilmember Lee defiles democratic protocol. It is transparent that this hostage taking effort is to attempt to force to install a favorable Councilmember and this brinksmanship puts the governance of the city at risk. It is irresponsible, unethical, transparently to disempower Councilmember Lee (who is the only Councilmember who was elected by the entire city), and leaves me extremely disappointed to be represented by Councilmember Nash.

-Stephen Floor

--

Stephen N. Floor
(Sent from handheld)

From: Virginia Mclsaac < >

Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:05 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Stay your course

A council member is bullying the meeting which we have seen before. If it's all about being mayor then give up your tie breaking vote

For our voters

Virginia Mclsaac

From: Virginia Mclsaac <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:17 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Let it go

Amourence, you have to wait for 5th seat to be appointed. Do not prolong this as it will not change. We learned that creating a cabal with a mayoral two vote appointment is detrimental to the city. The past sessions with you, Goethals, and Bonilla have shown us we need a consensus and not a mayoral choice!

Virginia Mclsaac

From: Virginia Mclsaac <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:45 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: You are responsible for making council balanced

No to the mayor being able to choose a cabal

V Mclsaac

From: Virginia Mclsaac <>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 11:53 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: The 5th chair

This shows how corrupt this we have become. The mayor should be a elected leader via a vote. So hold on to putting the 5th chair in place.

Virginia Mclsaac