

**From:** <[REDACTED]>

**Sent on:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 7:34:18 PM

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

**Subject:** Appointment of 5th Council Member

Council members Newsom, Loraine, Diaz-Nash and Lee.

Tomorrow evening you will be selecting a fifth member to our City Council. I would like to remind you of what one of you stated during the Wednesday, Dec 7 meeting: "This is about ensuring, for me, that we give equal voice to each one of the representatives."

The same applies to the residents of our city when selecting who that fifth person should be. In short, the City Council should represent and provide equal voice for ALL districts. District 4 has had no representation on the City Council for 20 years, and should you decide to select someone outside of District 4, it will continue to be without representation until the Nov 2024 election. Two more years. This is blatantly and grossly inequitable. District 4 has unique issues affecting us: flood control, dredging, and traffic control. But equally important, District 4 produces an extraordinary amount of revenue for our city:

1. Transfer tax revenue from the multiple sales of office buildings and the shopping center.
2. Three hotels which produce high levels of Transit Occupancy Tax.
3. High levels of sales tax from Bridgepointe and the Parkside Center.

So let me---a 20-year resident and property owner of District 4---make an adjustment to the above-referenced council member's statement: This is about ensuring, for me, that you provide equal voice and representation to each San Mateo district when selecting the fifth representative. Do the right thing. Give residents of District 4 representation on the City Council.

Valerie Oblath

**From:** Ken A red [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Sunday, December 11, 2022 3:43:53 AM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Selection of new mayor and 5th council member

Dear Council members Diaz Nash and Newsom,

The city needs a City Council who's members trust and respect each other. Only in this way can the council work effectively to meet the major challenges our city faces. The prior Council was able to do this, even though members often had major differences.

Your actions over the last two meeting have greatly damaged the opportunity to create the needed trust and respect. If you continue in this manner the next two years may be a dysfunctional failure for our beautiful city.

Establishing trust and respect for this new council means honoring well established procedures like the selection of the new mayor as the first action of business and having the mayor be the person who's turn in the rotation it is. That would be Council Member Lee.

These actions were also strongly recommended by the city manager and city attorney. They rarely make strong recommendations. When they do they should be followed, unless there is a very clear reason not too. Otherwise you are also damaging the trust and respect that is needed with the city staff. You have presented no sound reason to justify dismissing their strong recommendation.

Please bring about peaceful and proper outcome at Monday's city council meetings.

You should strive to select a 5th member that will be agreeable to all four members. But if you can't agree then you should defer to Council member Lee, since she should be the mayor and would select the 5th member if you can't agree.

Any properly functioning legislative body should have a simple way to break a deadlock, so that necessary work will not be delayed. (Richard Hedges would be one good compromise choice and as a resident of District 4 he would fill in the one missing district that does not house a Council member).

The selection of Council member Lee as the Mayor and the selection of the 5th member need to both be done on Monday, so that the council can get on with its work and healing can begin. Also, the selection of the mayor needs to be done first so as to eliminate any risk that doing these steps out of order could expose the City to possible future litigation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ken and Lynn Abreu

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Justin Alley

**Sent on:** Monday, December 12, 2022 11:08:00 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:** The appointment of a fifth councilmember

Dear San Mateo City Councilmembers and Staff,

I am writing today regarding the selection of a person to fill the currently vacant fifth council seat.

Under normal times, I would write extolling the virtues of this or that person and perhaps pointing at important policy work that needs to be addressed. However, we are sadly starting from a much lower bar at this stage of the process.

So, in selecting a fifth person, I would emphasize several overriding principles:

1. Firstly, a fifth councilmember must be solemnly committed to their oath of office, to abiding by the letter and the spirit of all officially governing covenants, and to steadfastly and energetically doing their job of fulfilling the people's business in a timely manner.
2. Secondly, a fifth councilmember must be committed to the transparent exercise of public reason. Such a person must resist accepting obstruction as an end-state, and they can never throw up their hands and merely agree to disagree. Moreover, they must constantly continue to publicly deliberate, clearly and logically laying out their reasons and subjecting them to the circumspection of their peers.
3. Finally, a fifth councilmember must uphold fairness and equity as guiding lights. They must not espouse or ensconce double standards. The rights and responsibilities of all must be treated equitably.

With these basic qualifications met to the fullest, we can look forward to effectively advancing the city's work. In particular, the update of the city's Housing Element in compliance with state law will be a testing ground for all of the aforementioned qualities of a fifth councilperson.

In short, it is imperative that the scorched-earth power plays of one half of the council be held in check. Only in this way will all reasonable and responsible parties be permitted to carry forth the urgent work of the city unobstructed, in good faith, and in a way which respects the time of the hardworking people of San Mateo.

I thank you for your diligent consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

Justin Alley

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

**From:** [Ivan Echevarria](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on 2022-12-12 meeting  
**Date:** Monday, December 12, 2022 9:30:43 PM

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My name is Ivan Echevarria, and I have been a resident of San Mateo for more than 20 years. I have resided in District 1 for 4 years. I would like Rich Hedges to be appointed to the open city council position. I like what he had to say about housing, particularly that he thinks taller buildings near transit make sense. In addition, I have confidence in him because of all of the anecdotes other members of the public have shared.

Brandt Grotte  
708 Rand Street  
San Mateo, CA 94401

San Mateo City Council  
220 West 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94403

10-December 2022

Dear Councilmembers,

I write to you to respectfully request that you appoint Mr. Richard Hedges to the balance of the term that was recently vacated by Diane Papan as she joins the State Legislature.

I have known and worked with Rich Hedges in many different capacities over the years. In neighborhood associations (his is Harbortown) and mine (the currently inactive Shoreview Parkside Neighborhood Association). Rich has also been active in San Mateo United Homeowners Association (SMUHA) over the years. Rich is knowledgeable about the history and desires of our neighborhoods and the area east of 101 that he would represent if appointed.

As a long time resident of the neighborhoods on the east side of Highway 101, Rich has intimate and valuable knowledge of the needs of our portion of town. Some of these include the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) flood maps; helping to pass the self-taxation measure that allowed many of us to "exit" the flood zone; working to ensure adequate parks and recreation attention to our area, etc.

In a more widely considered view, Rich has both participated and frequently chaired several committees that worked on measures that applied all the way across the City to support measures that were beneficial to all the citizens of San Mateo, regardless of neighborhood or area of the City. One of these of note is Rich's participation, with me and many others in the revisions and upgrades to the City's R-1 Design Guidelines. These are very important to EVERY neighborhood in San Mateo as they help to preserve the very nature of this fine City we live in. At the same time, Rich is sensitive to the other residents of the City, those that rent or live in higher density areas and even including the businesses in San Mateo that provide employment for our residents and also people from outside our fine City.

Taken together these represent both a very local approach to a currently unrepresented neighborhood as well as a broad approach to the entire City.

Please support this area of San Mateo by appointing Rich Hedges to the San Mateo City Council. I believe he would make a good colleague and has a skill set that would be valuable to the City Council.

Best Regards,



Brandt Grotte  
Resident and former Councilmember