

From: **Robert Whitehair** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, Apr 26, 2023 at 11:58 AM
Subject: Mayor Lee
To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Michelle Hudson <[REDACTED]>, City Council (San Mateo)
<citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We write in strong support of Mayor Amourence Lee, who is facing unceasing, unnecessary criticism even though she has conscientiously and properly fulfilled the duties of her position. She is a staunch supporter of all San Mateo residents and businesses, working diligently to amplify the voices of every one of us.

The City of San Mateo is facing significant challenges: the need for a detailed local response to significant threats to the environment, completion of a housing element acceptable to The California Department of Housing and Community Development, and fair and equitable allocation of scarce resources. It makes little sense to waste valuable time and significant amounts of money on an unnecessary recall, while a strong response to the climate would be such a better use.

Mayor Lee is using hope to create a vibrant, livable community.

Let's support her.

Robert Whitehair and Michelle Hudson
On behalf of San Mateo Climate Action Team

From: LOUISE BEKINS [REDACTED]
Sent on: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:37:46 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re Mayor Lee - DA's investigation - My comments for Council Meeting on April 17, 2023

Dear Councilmen.

As a resident of San Mateo, I am concerned about the negative direction of some of the politics and policies in our City. And very concerned about the fact that the DA's findings regarding Ms. Lee have not been acted upon.

I submit/request that Ms. Lee resign immediately (best solution), and if not, then she be removed from her position and the Council.

We deserve better. A City without integrity cannot function properly, with morals and values, serving, caring for and inspiring it's residents.

Thank you for all you do.

Louise Bekins

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Martin McTaggart

From: Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:45 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo); Drew Corbett; Prasanna Rasiah
Cc: Patrice Olds
Subject: Investigation into Council and Commissioner Code of Conduct

Greetings Council, City Manager, and City Attorney -

I'm writing to a.) thank the 3 of you that voted in favor of investigating Council and Commissioner Codes of Conduct, and to b.) outline what I hope will be included and what actions might be taken. The fact that this wasn't taken up at Blue Sky, and wasn't unanimous in its support last week is deeply disappointing, and speaks volumes about current council makeup and values.

This investigation needs to be both broad and thorough and must result in specific, concrete, and powerful actions if faith in our city government is to be restored. We have six former San Mateo Mayors who are now calling for Mayor Lee's resignation over her false allegations and other violations. We have planning commissioners actively trying to undermine the Housing Element carefully wrought by our own residents, city staff, council, and consultants because they personally disagree with the outcome. This investigation should look into the actions and behaviors of council and problematic commissioners.

Specifically:

- Fill in the gaps in the DA's report regarding Mayor Amourence Lee's Allegations of Brown Act violations. Given Councilmembers' Diaz-Nash and Newsom were implicated by Lee - why weren't they interviewed? They should be now. Councilmember Loraine claimed in the 12/5 meeting he had also received emails with offers in return for certain appointments, and yet he wasn't interviewed. He should be now, and he should be publicly sharing any and all allegedly illegal communications he received (we have PRA'd this info btw). Was he working with Mayor Lee to disqualify whomever the leading compromise candidate was? Would Lee have pulled Maureen Freschet's name out of that envelope if she hadn't dropped out of the race? Mayor Lee should be fully deposed with follow-up questions such as: if she were confused about the Brown Act, why did she never once bring it up with the City Attorney before making the allegations? And how after 4+ years on council she doesn't seem to understand perhaps the most important law applicable to legislators? These and other questions should be asked so a determination can be made as to whether Mayor Lee was merely confused as she claims, or if she in fact fabricated everything in "EnvelopeGate", which given the intent of those actions, would be a criminal, impeachable offense.

- Planning Commissioner Adam Nugent - we still don't have the DA's report back on his sign stealing in an attempt to tip the D3 council election to Councilmember Newsom's opponent. Nugent should be fully deposed to uncover the truth about exactly what happened and why. Nugent should also be investigated for his direct contact of the HCD along with a lengthy presentation in an attempt to have our housing element rejected, thereby subjecting San Mateo to the Builders Remedy, the YIMBY fever dream of late - a cause he is known to vociferously support.

- Planning Commissioner Seema Patel - similarly she has made direct contact to the HCD, which ran her afoul of commissioner regulations and guidelines. She is also a known YIMBY - did she act in an attempt to derail our housing element as well, because she desires that outcome? In addition to calling the entire neighborhood of Baywood racists during a lengthy tirade, does she really represent all San Mateans or just her small circle of like-minded individuals? And are these the kind of people who should be serving in very important roles with no consequences for their actions?

- There should be a very strong message sent in the form of expulsion, censure, loss of title, loss of committee assignments, etc based upon severity of infractions. If all we accomplish from this are finger-wagging and slaps on the

wrist, we've set ourselves back by enabled and encouraging some of the highly corrupt behavior we've evidently witnessed recently.

You have a rare opportunity to establish a code of conduct with actual teeth - real consequences for behavior unbecoming or dereliction of duty or conduct detrimental to the City of San Mateo. Please take full advantage of it. and join the growing ranks of CA cities who have such codes in place. The residents deserve leaders who serve with honesty, integrity, and accountability, and represent ALL San Mateans.

Thank you for your consideration, and for doing right by San Mateans.

Sincerely - Michael Weinbauer

Martin McTaggart

From: Robin Wall [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:14 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayor Ammorence Lee - Resignation request

To the City Council Members of San Mateo,

As a resident and tax payer of San Mateo, I am shocked and dismayed at the local governments requests by the people to take action against Ammorence Lee. I am respectfully requesting that Mayor Lee apologize to her constituents for her tampering in our elections, and for her resignation. The city is tired of watching corrupt bureaucrats use and abuse our system of governance without proper representation. Enough. I look forward to attending the May 1, 2023 ,meeting, and hearing your action plan to REMOVE MAYOR LEE.

respectfully,
Robin Wall
San Mateo Resident

Martin McTaggart

From: Lisa Vande Voorde [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:34 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Amourence Lee, Resign Now

Dear Mayor Lee, and San Mateo City Council Members,

Mayor Lee's claims of Brown Act violations and quid pro quo vote trading have been found to be unsubstantiated by the San Mateo County District Attorney. Why should residents even care? Because she lied to her colleagues, she lied to her fellow City Council members, she lied to City staff, and most importantly, she lied to the people of San Mateo. In the process she smeared the reputation of others, including herself, in a dramatic, theatrical farce to get what she wanted. San Mateans deserve and demand more.

Mayor Lee, do the right thing, and resign. Otherwise, expect to see the recall movement continue with a vengeance, with more residents, like myself, jumping on the bandwagon to get enough signatures to place a Recall Amourence Lee measure on the ballot this November. After months of sitting on the sidelines, you have finally pushed me into full-throttle support of your recall. Your actions in December were a travesty. You have compromised the integrity of both the office of Mayor and the City Council. It's time for you to go.

Lisa Vande Voorde
San Mateo

Martin McTaggart

From: Lisa Taner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:52 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Cc: Drew Corbett; Prasanna Rasiah
Subject: Residents Want a Code of Conduct & More

Councilmembers,

Even our smaller neighbor, Belmont, has the foresight to have a Code of Conduct for their council. How far behind are we?

Amourence Lee just published a statement which included these words: "...the public can see that I will never hesitate to train the light of scrutiny on myself or any public official - friend or foe. As your elected representative and Mayor, I will always demand truth and transparency to build a strong, more resilient democracy in service to every San Matean."

If these are Lee's true feelings, certainly she will staunchly agree that a Code of Conduct, not only for Council, but for appointed positions, too, should happen immediately. Perhaps she can then persuade Councilmember Loraine, whose "I'm not interested" comment at the last Council meeting perplexed San Mateans. Many have since asked, "WHO would not want San Mateo's decision-makers to have a Code of Conduct?" What earthly reason could there be *not* to?

The public's faith in City Hall is in tatters - put through a wringer again and again - with blatant failures to do as they ask, or shocking surprises that are then swept under a rug when examination and consequences are demanded. Why does the public feel the need to remind its Council (and commissioners) that *YOU SERVE US*? We're regularly asked for good decorum at meetings, yet it seems this ask does not apply to everyone on the other side of the dais, whether it be a Council or Commission meeting. Something has seriously run amok, and I cannot think that this is the legacy you all hope to perpetuate. and retain.

What a very jaundiced eye your public levels at the current state of affairs. What a very opportune moment in time for you all to strongly and swiftly correct this sinking ship. No namby-pamby, wishy-washy thoughts and words - but ACTION. Something with real backbone to make a real difference - including removals, censures, loss of assignments and decision-making. Something so we can all proudly say down the road, "What a positive difference Councilmembers *fill-in-the-blank* made! Thank goodness they did the right thing!"

Here's to hoping you all do the right thing on May 1st. Among the many San Mateans who will be paying close attention that evening, I know Jerry Hill, Carole Groom, Jack Matthews, Maureen Freschet, Eric Rodriguez and Claire Mack will also be watching. They, in their respective turns, left you a great city. This is your chance to make it even better.

Sincerely,

Lisa Taner

Martin McTaggart

From: Francie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Prasanna Rasiah
Cc: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayoral accusations

Dear Attorney Prasiah,

I read the article summarizing the review of comments made by Mayor Lee during the election of city council members. Ms Lee stated that she was promised the mayoral seat if a certain candidate for supervisor was elected. Based on these accusations, this potential council member, Cliff Robbins, was removed from the race. My understanding from the article is that the review found that no such quid pro quo comments were made to Mayor Lee and the case was closed.

I'm hoping that San Mateo City leadership will not allow this to end here. If accusations made were found to be untrue, and this caused a candidate for city council to be removed, how can this be ignored?

I am hoping that there is further follow-up by the city with Mayor Lee after it's been shown she made these false claims and basically destroyed another city council candidate's chances for the election.

Frances Souza
Resident of San Mateo

Sent from my iPhone

Martin McTaggart

From: Karen S [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 10:29 PM
To: Prasanna Rasiah; City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Outcome of DA investigation

Dear City Attorney and City Council,

I was very glad to see vindication on the part of Cliff Robbins, council members, and others accused of back-room deals regarding the 5th city council seat. It was as I expected - that there was no evidence to the allegations and that Robbins was defamed and denied a seat wrongfully without any evidence. Not only was Cliff Robbins violated, but all San Mateo residents/voters were impacted by being denied the chance to have Cliff Robbins join the council.

I believe there should be strong repercussions for Amourence Lee for her unsubstantiated allegations and unwarranted removal of Robbins as candidate for that seat. I believe removal from the city council is warranted in this circumstance.

I also believe Adam Loraine should be questioned and asked to furnish evidence of emails that he claimed suggested a quid pro quo regarding Robbins. Please ask him to furnish these.

Sincerely,
Karen Sid

Martin McTaggart

From: Dave Santos [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:44 AM
To: Prasanna Rasiah; City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: I District Attorney Investigation Results and the City Council

On the front page of the San Jose Mercury News Friday, there was an article about an investigation that the District Attorney conducted in regard to accusations made by Mayor Amourence Lee.

The results of the report are the impetus to remove her from office to ensure the integrity of the City Council.

It now appears the mayor was not truthful to the residents of San Mateo and the City Council as to the events that transpired. My request is based on the District Attorney ruling after their investigation that her accusations were not substantiated by factual evidence. The mayor tampered with the vote on the fifth city council member in the selection process.

I am writing to request the mayor's resignation or that the council vote to remove her from office.

I feel that our city officials should be ethical role models to inspire confidence from their residents. The mayor has breached this trust.

It is time to do the right thing.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely.

Dave Santos



Martin McTaggart

From: Martha Park [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:36 PM
To: Lisa Diaz Nash; Adam Loraine; Rob Newsom; rhehges@cityofsanmateo.org; Patrice Olds
Subject: Consequences for vote-trading allegations

Dear Deputy Mayor Diaz-Nash and Council Members Loraine, NewsomJr., and Hedges,

The San Mateo Daily Journal ran a recent article about the recent investigation into allegations of vote trading and potential Brown Act violations during the City Council transition. The fact that no criminal activity was found makes the allegations by the mayor more suspicious considering she slandered Cliff Robbins's name in the process, and took away the viability of his candidacy.

I am writing to voice support for some consequences to the mayor as a result of this. Her assertion was at best poor judgement and at worst purposeful slander to keep Cliff Robbins off the City Council.

Thank you for your consideration,
Martha Park

Martin McTaggart

From: Richard Neve [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:03 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo); Prasanna Rasiah
Subject: Investigation into Mayor Lee's actions

Dear Council Members and City attorney,

The recent findings of the San Mateo District Attorney, related to the accusations that then council member Amourence Lee made about alleged vote trading, clearly show that now Mayor Lee was untruthful to her fellow council members, city staff and the residents of San mateo.

Her actions are not without consequence- they directly affected the selection of the fifth council member, cost tax-payers money to investigate and have undermined everyone's confidence in her integrity as a public official. Her actions should not go without some consequence.

I believe we need to hold our publicly elected officials to the highest standards. The city staff and council should hold a transparent investigation into this matter and the motives behind her actions. Any and all necessary actions should be taken to review the ethical code of conduct for our council members and if found to have acted inappropriately, Mayor Lee should be sanctioned accordingly.

sincerely

Rich Neve

Martin McTaggart

From: Jesus Nazereth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 10:00 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Remove hedges

Now that amorance lee has been proven to have installed rich hedges under false and probably illegal circumstances he should be removed and cliff robbins should be placed on city council.

-San Mateo voter

Martin McTaggart

From: Virginia McIsaac [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 2:11 PM
To: Prasanna Rasiah; City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Censure

We deserve better leadership than what we have with Mayor Lee. Her "truth" does not resemble the definition provided by Webster's Dictionary.

Cliff Robbins deserved better treatment after years of city service.

At the least Mayor Lee should be Censured formally in the next council meeting.
Virginia McIsaac

Martin McTaggart

From: Donnita McDevitt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 2:51 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Code of Conduct

City Council Members~

I must admit I've lost ALL faith in the City Council of San Mateo. I'm actually embarrassed with all the lies and deceit of Mayor Lee. She needs to be stopped now and held accountable for all her actions. We the people of San Mateo deserve better than her! She's suppose to be working for us not against us. She has her own agenda! Which isn't the peoples of San Mateo. Let us get her out of office and get someone in that we can be proud of and trust. That certainly is not Lee! I and so many other San Mateo residents don't believe a single word that comes out of her mouth. What's that saying...if her lips are moving it's a lie.

Thank you~ Donnita McDevitt

Sent from my iPad

Martin McTaggart

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:00 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Cc: Patrice Olds
Subject: Record for May 1 City Council

Mayor and Councilmembers:

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Nash and the two councilmembers who voted to investigate the breach of civil conduct by Mayor Lee. And to Councilman Loraine who now has taken an interest in this matter.

For too long San Mateo has had to tolerate unacceptable behavior by councilmembers and commissioners and now is the time to address the concerns of constituents, restore trust and integrity. We should follow our neighboring cities in ridding our city of those who cannot conduct themselves transparently and respectfully in the interest of the public.

The conduct of Mayor Lee in the December 12, 2022, meeting was completely unacceptable and after the findings of the DA her misconduct rises to an even greater level of concern.

Lee claimed at this meeting that there were “egregious Brown Act violations,” yes, multiple violations, yet she claims to the DA that she was illiterate about the Brown Act. How does Lee make outrageous public accusations when she does not know the law? This is one topic that needs more exploration and clarification. What was Councilmember Loraine’s involvement and position?

Secondly, Lee claims she unveiled Cliff Robbins’s name to “realign the process.” So first she is willing to disgrace a community leader, in contrast to treating him with the dignity, courtesy and respect demanded by the Council Code of Conduct. And secondly, she disqualifies him because he did not align with her process; she knew Robbins preferred to seat the fifth councilmember prior to selecting the mayor. Eliminating Robbins appears more like a retaliatory act than a realignment. Why does the process need realigning when the City Charter states the Council “shall consist of five persons” not four, but five. I am very eager to understand the thinking behind Lee’s realignment process, especially after the City Attorney stated there was no legal reason to disqualify Robbins.

Lee’s constant inflammatory rhetoric and name calling is contrary to the character of a community leader. How many times have we heard “peaceful transition of power” or there was no “peaceful transition on power.” There was no violence or threat of violence. Mayorship is not an entitlement or a transition of power; according to the City Charter the Mayor holds that office subject to the pleasure of the Council. Sounds like the Council has the authority to remove Lee as Mayor. A step in the right direction.

Lee’s failure to accept any responsibility or changing the narrative regarding her unscrupulous behavior has left a stain on our City. The Mayor’s latest fiasco is not her first; we have not forgotten her willingness to accept Adam Nugent’s sign stealing affair without investigating any issues of trust, ethics, or judgment. Nor her email excusing Nugent’s behavior which Diane Papan stated, “it didn’t have accurate things in it about the law or anything else.”

Rather than engaging in productive dialogue or agreeing to disagree, Lee uses name calling like “maga-extremists” and “anti-abortionists” to quell any dissent to her opinion. Hardly a respectable or suitable means to encourage diverse viewpoints but remarkably effective in creating divisiveness.

It is time for the City Council to take action to prevent further erosion of public trust. We have waited too long already. Clean house, remove Lee as mayor, make rules with consequences or any meaningful changes that will make our City proud again.

Thank you,

Lisa Maley

Martin McTaggart

From: oscar lopez-guerra [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:38 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayor Lee

Respectfully request your resignation.

Oscar *López-Guerra*

US

Martin McTaggart

From: Anna Kuhre [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 8:32 PM
To: Patrice Olds
Subject: San Mateo Mayor's vote-buying scheme allegations hold no water, DA says

Hi Patrice,
DA Wagstaffe effectively calls Mayor Lee a liar. What a mess at city hall.
Regards, Anna Kuhre

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/04/06/san-mateo-mayors-vote-buying-scheme-allegations-hold-no-water-da-says>

Sent from my iPhone

Martin McTaggart

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:18 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Cc: Patrice Olds; Prasanna Rasiah; Drew Corbett
Subject: Fwd: Please Do Something! corrected address.

Corrected address and text.

Begin forwarded message:

Mayor Lee and Council Members,



1. Mayor Lee used Joe McCathy tactics to smear the reputation of good people by waving a letter at the dais.
2. U.S. Rep Kevin Mullen and State Sen. Josh Becker have asked to be removed from her Stop the Recall web site. (she has not)
3. The San Mateo Labor Council does not "stand with (Mayor Lee) in the fire on the side of justice".
4. She has besmirched the reputation of Cliff Robbins, Joe Goethals, Dave Barruto and Nicole Fernandez, who were her supporters.
5. Mayor Lee has called her detractors "anti-abortionists", maga-extremists" and racists.
6. Mayor Lee's false allegations triggered an investigation by the District Attorney, wasting tax payer dollars in the process.
7. Six Mayors have called for her resignation.
8. Mayor Lee uses misrepresentation, exaggeration, specious language to deflect from her own irresponsible behavior.

Her egregious behavior must be addressed by her fellow members on Council. She lacks the dignity necessary to claim the public trust.

She is a rotten example of a city representative in any capacity. Is this the type of behavior we want from our Mayor?

Sincerely, Anna Kuhre

This is a real photo of Mayor Lee on the night she was appointed to Mayor, by one of her dear friends Seema Patel.



Martin McTaggart

From: Deborah Kohn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:36 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayor Lee

I write to you to underscore the previous demand I have made that Mayor Lee resign or the council vote to censure or otherwise discipline her.

--

Deborah Kohn
[REDACTED]

Martin McTaggart

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:47 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: FIFTH COUNCILMEMBER FIASCO

**RECKLESS DECISION MAKING AND A LACK OF ETHICS -
MS LEE, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?**

Regarding the 5th council member appointment fiasco, San Mateo deserves better from its elected officials. The end does not justify the means here. Look at the example you have set, especially for the youth of this city and other potential council members of the future - "Fake it until you make it".

Another example: last year with a previous council you rushed to judgement and pushed for a rapid gas to electric conversion of new and existing appliances by 2025 with no outreach or public input, no gathering of the cost data to convert and the economic impact/hardship on people. This will effect homeowners, businesses, rental property owners and renters. Rental property owners will not absorb all the costs and will likely pass some on to tenants in higher rents. I am all for moving in that direction, but in a "step by step" thoughtful approach with all the facts at hand and not causing significant economic hardship.

I do not know who you are representing Ms Lee, but it's certainly not me or the people of San Mateo.

PLEASE RESIGN !

Gary Isoardi
San Mateo Resident

Martin McTaggart

From: HOLLY HEWITT [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:52 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Amorence Lee - Resign or at least apologize

It's still hard to believe you don't feel it necessary to apologize for the theatrics you used to smear Cliff Robbins. Many of your previous supporters have fallen away and rightly so. Your article in the Daily Journal does not excuse you. APOLOGIZE or QUIT.
Holly Hewitt

Sent from my iPad

Martin McTaggart

From: robgib [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:08 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Lee

I respectfully call for mayor Lee to step down.

Rob Gibson
[REDACTED]

Martin McTaggart

From: Larry Garnick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 4:51 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Amourence Lee

Members of the city council:

I witnessed Ms Lee's unethical and embarrassing behavior at the city council meetings where she lied to our entire community.

Ms Lee has no place here and she should be removed from office. Please take serious disciplinary action to remove her.

Larry Garnick

Martin McTaggart

From: Doug D'Anna [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 1:52 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: I'm joining five former San Mateo mayors in demanding Mayor Lee's resignation

To the City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern about Mayor Lee's actions and failures as the leader of San Mateo.

Mayor Lee's allegations of voter extortion were found to be unsubstantiated, yet she used them to seat her preferred candidate on the council. This is an abuse of power and a waste of taxpayers' money.

Making matters worse, her refusal to acknowledge calls for apologies and resignations from many residents and esteemed officials is a clear indication of her disregard for the community.

Specifically, her continued actions against Measure Y and her unwillingness to listen to the demands of the community are unacceptable.

At the April 17th City Council meeting, many residents demanded Mayor Lee's resignation or the council's vote to censure or otherwise discipline her.

Councilmember Nash proposed to discuss the DA's report, potential actions, and a code of conduct for Council, boards, and commissions on the May 1st agenda.

However, Councilmember Loraine dissented and stated that he was "not interested." This is concerning as it suggests that Mayor Lee's behavior is infecting the council.

Therefore, I join five former San Mateo mayors in demanding that the council take immediate action against Mayor Lee's actions and failures by demanding her resignation.

As Jerry Hill, Claire Mack and Jack Matthews wrote in the the The Daily Journal, the council must hold her accountable for her misconduct. The residents of San Mateo deserve to be represented by someone who will listen to their voices and act in their best interest—an not in their own.

The May 1st council meeting presents an opportunity for the council to do the right thing. To step up and demonstrate its commitment to the community by taking decisive action against Mayor Lee.

It is time for the council to put the people of San Mateo first and demand the resignation of Mayor Lee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respefully,

Doug D'Anna

Martin McTaggart

From: Chris Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:19 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: DA Findings/ Agenda

I was happy to see at the end of the last council meeting, my district representative, Lisa Diaz-Nash, listened to us and acted accordingly based on what the people of San Mateo wanted.

There is no explaining away what happened Dec. 12, 2022 and there is no explaining away the findings by the District Attorney of San Mateo County.

As one who follows City Hall carefully over the last several decades, I have never seen my city so divided and turned upside down as I have since Ms. Lee was appointed to city council.

It has only gotten worse since that terrible day.

This issue will be put on the council's agenda and it is important to let the public know what the date and time of this is going to be.

As for Mr. Lorraine, you are an embarrassment to San Mateo and just know we see right through you and what you are all about and how you got elected. You should be ashamed.

Whether it is members of our city council or our planning department, we will not rest until those who ignore our calls and concerns are shown the door.

Just count me in as another San Matean whose main objective is to eliminate the rot and cancer that has infected our city government.

If you care about San Mateo, this should be your objective as well.

Christopher P. Conway

District 1 – San Mateo

Martin McTaggart

From: Chris Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:21 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: County DA findings

As an applicant for the vacant city council seat last December, I was intimately involved in the selection of the 5th council member to fill the vacated at-large seat relinquished by Diane Papan. What the city of San Mateo suffered through last December was in my estimation, the worst political crisis the city has ever faced. At the crescendo of the selection process, Amourence Lee deliberately made a salacious acquisition about a quid pro quo that was offered to her in the selection of the vacant council seat. This accusation was met with complete surprise and shock by those sitting in the audience and by those running for the open seat. It instantly put into question the character and reputation of one of the candidates.

This was so extraordinary, and so out of character for San Mateo, our city attorney referred the matter to the county DA.

After an in-depth investigation by the county district attorney, we learn that Ms. Lee was lying to all present in the audience that night. I would not have believed it if I had not been there to see and hear it with my own eyes and ears. The investigation now opens our city government to a slew of new questions and possible litigation. You may be in the camp that wants this to just go away so that we can move on. If that is the case, let me be first to tell you that this is not going away and we will not be moving on. These were serious allegations by Mayor Lee that resulted in an investigation by the county district attorney, impinged on the reputation of an outstanding member in our community and damaged the reputation of San Mateo as a city.

Through the investigation's release, we are learning more about who allegedly made the backdoor deal to Mayor Lee per Mrs. Lee's sworn testimony; Joe Goethels, Josh Becker, David Burruto and Nicole Fernandez.

This is where the investigation into the ordeal now sits with your constituents. We will only follow up from here and dig further into the sworn testimonies of those who were called to testify under oath.

The district attorney says "no-evidence for mayor's claims of vote-buying during tense December power struggle". With that laid to rest, San Mateans want an answer from our mayor on why she lied to the public about such an illegal quid pro quo and at such a critical and pivotal moment in our city's democracy?

This letter is to put the council on notice that you will either agree with us that this issue needs further clarifications and accountability, or that you will be a hindrance to good governance and transparency. Working on "other matters" and the "business of the city" pale in comparison to the cancer that now has infected City Hall.

You can bet your bottom dollar that we will not let this dark day in our history be swept under the carpet for one second. You can start by telling San Mateans what the city council plans on doing about this. Your response and attention to this matter should reflect the damage this incident did to my city. We are very angry and we will not let this go until we get the satisfaction that what happened in December 2022, will never be repeated in our city again. A clear message must be given that those who perpetuated this hoax are disciplined and suffer the consequences of their actions.

Sincerely,

Christopher P Conway

Martin McTaggart

From: Chris Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:21 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: County DA findings

As an applicant for the vacant city council seat last December, I was intimately involved in the selection of the 5th council member to fill the vacated at-large seat relinquished by Diane Papan. What the city of San Mateo suffered through last December was in my estimation, the worst political crisis the city has ever faced. At the crescendo of the selection process, Amourence Lee deliberately made a salacious acquisition about a quid pro quo that was offered to her in the selection of the vacant council seat. This accusation was met with complete surprise and shock by those sitting in the audience and by those running for the open seat. It instantly put into question the character and reputation of one of the candidates.

This was so extraordinary, and so out of character for San Mateo, our city attorney referred the matter to the county DA.

After an in-depth investigation by the county district attorney, we learn that Ms. Lee was lying to all present in the audience that night. I would not have believed it if I had not been there to see and hear it with my own eyes and ears. The investigation now opens our city government to a slew of new questions and possible litigation. You may be in the camp that wants this to just go away so that we can move on. If that is the case, let me be first to tell you that this is not going away and we will not be moving on. These were serious allegations by Mayor Lee that resulted in an investigation by the county district attorney, impinged on the reputation of an outstanding member in our community and damaged the reputation of San Mateo as a city.

Through the investigation's release, we are learning more about who allegedly made the backdoor deal to Mayor Lee per Mrs. Lee's sworn testimony; Joe Goethels, Josh Becker, David Burruto and Nicole Fernandez.

This is where the investigation into the ordeal now sits with your constituents. We will only follow up from here and dig further into the sworn testimonies of those who were called to testify under oath.

The district attorney says "no-evidence for mayor's claims of vote-buying during tense December power struggle". With that laid to rest, San Mateans want an answer from our mayor on why she lied to the public about such an illegal quid pro quo and at such a critical and pivotal moment in our city's democracy?

This letter is to put the council on notice that you will either agree with us that this issue needs further clarifications and accountability, or that you will be a hindrance to good governance and transparency. Working on "other matters" and the "business of the city" pale in comparison to the cancer that now has infected City Hall.

You can bet your bottom dollar that we will not let this dark day in our history be swept under the carpet for one second. You can start by telling San Mateans what the city council plans on doing about this. Your response and attention to this matter should reflect the damage this incident did to my city. We are very angry and we will not let this go until we get the satisfaction that what happened in December 2022, will never be repeated in our city again. A clear message must be given that those who perpetuated this hoax are disciplined and suffer the consequences of their actions.

Sincerely,

Christopher P Conway

Martin McTaggart

From: Michelle Byron [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 1:36 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Accountability

There needs to be accountability for Mayor Lee's behaviors.
Thank you,
Michelle, Byron, District 5.

Martin McTaggart

From: Donald Bildeau [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:37 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: A. Lee Resignation

Members of the City Council,

Having observed Mayor Lee's behavior for six months now I must say I find it extremely distasteful.

Because I detest her behavior it does not make me, or others who don't agree with her,

"racists", "sexists", "anti-abortionists" or "Maga extremists" (Mayor Lee's words, not mine).

As a lifelong registered Democrat I am deeply offended by her hateful name calling and

unsubstantiated generalizations of San Mateans who don't agree with her, or disapprove of her behavior.

Understanding who the parties involved were, a reading of the District Attorney's investigation,

no matter how hard Lee tries to defend it, makes it clear, there was nothing approaching a Brown Act Violation.

I call on Amourance Lee to resign now.

Thank you,
Don Bildeau
San Mateo, Ca

Martin McTaggart

From: LOUISE BEKINS [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:38 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Re Mayor Lee - DA's investigation - My comments for Council Meeting on April 17, 2023

Dear Councilmen.

As a resident of San Mateo, I am concerned about the negative direction of some of the politics and policies in our City. And very concerned about the fact that the DA's findings regarding Ms. Lee have not been acted upon.

I submit/request that Ms. Lee resign immediately (best solution), and if not, then she be removed from her position and the Council.

We deserve better. A City without integrity cannot function properly, with morals and values, serving, caring for and inspiring it's residents.

Thank you for all you do.

Louise Bekins
[REDACTED]

Martin McTaggart

From: elalva [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:59 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayor Lee has got to GO!

Hello,

I am asking that Mayor Lee be recalled because: FIRST: After the DA findings that Mayor Lee's allegations of voter extortion could not be substantiated, what has been the consequence for Lee? NOTHING. She used the allegation to seat her preferred choice on the Council. So far, the whole situation is a WIN for Lee. Our tax dollars paid for that investigation and now we have her hand-chosen candidate making decisions right alongside Lee, both of whom are moving forward with BUSINESS AS USUAL.

Recall Mayor Lee immediately!

Eddylee Alvarado
[REDACTED]

ETHICS SAN MATEO

DEDICATED TO TRUTH, TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT IN CITY GOVERNMENT

April 12, 2023

Statement of Position

Regarding the District Attorney's Findings – Accusations of Brown Act Violation

Ethics San Mateo has been closely monitoring the events and activities that were initiated by Mayor Amourance Lee's accusations of unlawful acts on December 5, 2022.

We stated in our second SOP¹ on this matter, published on December 11, 2022, the following:

Ethics San Mateo will attempt to follow the progress of the investigations, as allowed by the City Attorney, City Manager and Police Department. At this time, we will not conduct any independent research into this; with the possibility that a felony has occurred in addition to a breach of ethical standards, we wish to avoid interfering with the formal Law Enforcement and City Attorney's investigations.

¹ Both the first and second SOPs are available on our website, www.EthicsSanMateo.com

On April 7, 2023, the *San Jose Mercury News* published an article, written by Aldo Toledo, reporting the results of the San Mateo County District Attorney's investigation. The San Mateo Daily Journal also published an article reporting the District Attorney's findings.

Both articles clearly stated that there had been no violation of the law as had been charged in impassioned statements by (then) Councilmember Lee during public City Council meetings. These accusations and highly charged comments are a matter of public record, available for viewing through the City's website. Our previous SOPs detail the events.

Ethics San Mateo has verified the facts reported in the newspaper articles regarding the District Attorney's investigation. We have read both the letter to the City Attorney, Prasanna Rasiah, and the detailed report prepared by the District Attorney's office.

The letter summarizes the findings:

"We have completed our review and find no basis to conclude there was any violation of the Brown Act nor evidence of an illegal attempt to corrupt the voting process."

The above are facts.

ETHICS SAN MATEO

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Now we have an official investigative finding from the District Attorney's office which confirms what many San Mateo residents believed; that the accusations were unfounded. Period.

Lee has stated numerous times that she is "the most experienced" member of the San Mateo City Council. The DA's report contains her statement that *"she had attended all of the required training with the City Attorney, City Clerk, and the State required ethics training"*. She either did, or should have, understood the Brown Act sufficiently to make her seek legal advice before creating a virtual political eruption. If Lee had simply talked with the City Attorney and City Manager prior to making her outlandish accusations in an official public forum, in front of a large audience both in chambers and on live video, and provided honest and complete details of the events, and had followed wise legal advice, none of this would have occurred. Cliff Robbins, a candidate for the remaining fifth Council seat, would not have had his reputation smeared, Lee would not have been able to remove Robbins summarily and independently from consideration, the time of so many people would not have been wasted, investigative costs avoided, and the confidence in our city leadership would not have been further eroded.

Mayor Lee's theatrics resulted in one of the best candidates being summarily dismissed, allowing her favored candidate to be elected. Lee had an agenda and was going to stop at nothing to get what she wanted. Her actions severely affected the fair and impartial City Councilmember selection process. Mayor Lee's statement responding to the District Attorney's report only defended her actions and minimized the chilling effects on local democracy her actions have had.

Ethics San Mateo condemns her actions in the strongest of terms. Mayor Lee holds a position of public trust. Along with the duties and responsibilities of any member of the City Council, her powers as mayor allow her to set the agenda for City Council meetings, thereby controlling Council activity. Rather than using her position for the public good, she instead has been using it as a bully pulpit to further her agenda. Her unsubstantiated claims of Brown Act violations is one of the strongest examples yet, and goes at the heart of what Ethics San Mateo is all about.

Her unfounded accusations and outrageous envelope-producing theatrics have caused her to lose credibility and the respect of the residents of San Mateo. In tampering with the City Council member selection process, she has stepped so far away from the ethical standards we demand from our city leadership that she cannot govern and must resign.

Martin McTaggart

From: Aimee WCrollerskate [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 4:11 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Support to Vote to censure/discipline Mayor Lee

Dear City Council,

Since my last email, I see that the antics of Mayor Lee have only escalated, deepening the breach of trust in our community.

To be clear, Mayor Lee's ongoing disregard for established protocols and the voters of San Mateo regarding city planning issues are **completely inappropriate**.

Our leaders MUST be held accountable when they fail to meet ethical standards and serve their community effectively. Mayor Lee can no longer be effective in her role without the trust of the community.

I ask that the City Council censure Mayor Lee or otherwise take significant disciplinary action regarding recent events.

--

Regards,
Aimee Stevland
Resident
[REDACTED]

On Sat, Apr 1, 2023 at 8:43 PM Aimee WCrollerskate [REDACTED] wrote:

As a constituent of San Mateo, I've had to write far too many letters - not about important community issues - but about the conduct of members of this council regarding their efforts to undermine the will of the people and the settled vote on Measure Y.

I will remind you all again that trust in our local government is critical, and a rejection of the measure that voters have already approved will certainly **shatter that trust**. Many are already furious with some in the Planning Council's previous back door meetings and other underhanded behavior.

Mayor Lee's ongoing disregard for established protocols and the voters of her city regarding this issue is **completely inappropriate**.

I ask once again that the City Council uphold the will of the voters/Measure Y and ACCEPT the current Housing Element including Building Heights as presented by City staff previously on January 24th.

--

Regards,
Aimee Stevland
Resident
[REDACTED]

--

Aimee "White Chocolate" Stevland
[REDACTED]

Martin McTaggart

From: Nancy Presley [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 5:51 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: A call for Amourence Lee's resignation

Members of the City Council,

On 12/12/2022, after 4.5 long hours into the City Council Special Meeting to interview, vote and elect a new member for the vacant Council seat, Amourence Lee's exploitive performance at this point of the meeting brought her to a new level of demonstrated cunning, conniving and deceitful behavior. We were all witnesses to her shocking accusations of multiple attempts **"to extort her vote"** in exchange for the mayoral position (**proven that there were no attempts to extort her vote**), implicate people of wrongdoings (**proven that no wrongdoings existed**), accusations of "back room dealings and back door brokers" (**proven that none existed**), accusations of violations of the Brown Act (**proven that never happened**) and impugning the reputation of City Council candidate, Cliff Robbins. What is even equally as frightening is the seemingly well orchestrated timing of her craftily staged candidate vote manipulation by abstaining from voting to fill the vacant Council seat followed by her dramatic "big reveal" naming Cliff Robbins as the candidate that people were trying to extort her vote for. Why, I ask, if Amourence Lee was so concerned about the democratic process and her duty to her oath of office did she wait that 4.5 hours to initiate these concerns? Shouldn't this have been a "top priority" first order of business issue to address at the start of the meeting?? Both Lee and Lorraine sat at the dais for 4.5 hours conducting business as usual, following the meeting agenda to interview and select a candidate knowing all along that they both were going to abstain from voting to fill that vacant Council seat... with Amourence Lee then returning to her demands that she be appointed Mayor first before a 2nd vote for the 5th council member could take place... breaking the agreement that had been previously reached by all sitting Council Members at the 12/07/22 Adjourned City Council Regular Meeting.

There are more issues that I could address but I do believe that I have illustrated my points of this failed Mayor's cunning, conniving and deceitful behavior.

It's time for all of us to hit the refresh button to that 12/12/2022 City Council Special Meeting and remember Amourence Lee's egregious behavior that evening and what we residents of San Mateo might have to look forward to if she remains in office and doesn't get her way. In her recent post, The Test of Scrutiny, she expresses and believes that she has done nothing wrong. That being said, I beg to differ and I am extremely concerned as to what extent she might continue to go to in the future to **manipulate and violate the democratic process** in order to get her needs met and achieve HER agenda. Amourence Lee has broken any trust that the people of San Mateo need and deserve to have in their Mayor/Council Members. She needs to resign now so the city can heal and move forward.

<https://www.amourencelee.com/post/the-test-of-scrutiny>

Thank you,

Nancy Presley, resident of San Mateo

Martin McTaggart

From: Connie Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:03 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo); Patrice Olds
Subject: For Council Meeting 1 May 2023 - DA Report and Code of Conduct

Hello City Council Members,

I am encouraged that you will be discussing the results of the San Mateo County District Attorney's investigation into allegations of vote trading and potential Brown Act violations, and if and what actions you take as a result of it. I also support that you will be looking at the Code of Conduct for possible changes that could help bring accountability back to Council and Commissions. In addition to the "vote-trading" fiasco, there are other breaches of ethical conduct that would be good to look at in restoring respect and trust to City Council and Commissioners. Specifically, I ask:

- Let Adam Nugent know stealing campaign signs of his preferred candidate's challenger in District 3 is not acceptable behavior by a Planning Commissioner;
- Let Seema Patel and John Ebner know that sneering at residents and inferring they are racist is not acceptable behavior by a Planning Commissioner;
- Let Mayor Lee know that ratcheting up the hate and lies on her website insinuating that those who are looking to recall her are closely aligned with someone named Jeremy Hu (who is not known to the recall team AT ALL) does not help show respect and help heal the city. Her website states: It's shocking to see ugly MAGA-style extremism and misinformation campaigns here in our County, [spewing hate speech](#) calling me a "stupid n*gger lover" and inciting violence, "Let's use Ammo to get rid of Amo."

Lastly, it's important for the Council to focus on true infractions of the code of conduct and not be derailed by political rhetoric. An example is:

"...concerns about the two City Councilmembers who violated our City Charter by refusing to elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the first meeting, opening the door to the conflict of interest caused by Council candidates discussing whom they would vote for among the body of people who would decide which candidate to appoint."

This misinformation was written by Seema Patel in the SMDJ on April 17, in commenting on the Ethics in San Mateo LTE. The City Attorney said repeatedly a move to delay the vote for mayor was not a violation of the guidelines or the charter. Council should not entertain any discussion on this as it then ignores the true infractions that have occurred.

Thank you,

Connie Weiss
San Mateo Resident

Martin McTaggart

From: Linda Tribuzi [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:52 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Feedback to San Mateo City Council

Hello City Council,
I am sending this email to send my support for the following:

- (1) Request that Mayor Lee resign. In addition, the City Council and City of San Mateo should create a Code of Conduct for the San Mateo City Council to ensure the citizens of SM have confidence in the City Council.
- (2) The church parking lot at the location of 25th Avenue and Hacienda should remain zoned as R1. I am a resident of W 25th Avenue and support keeping this area as a residential area with single family homes.
- (3) I have great concern for the possibility of the increase in density in the area between Highway 92 and Hillsdale Blvd. These main roads already experience problems with traffic congestion with no option to modify them to address this. This would add residents when there appears to be no regard for parking, traffic, travel/commute time, increase of police, and crime. The general quality of life in this area would be severely impacted if density is increased.

Thank you,
Linda Tribuzi

Martin McTaggart

From: Cindy Harper [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 8:41 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo)
Subject: Mayor Lee

Will be at the May 1st meeting.
Our Baywood community is united!
Mayor Lee needs to resign!

Sent from my iPhone