

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

**From:** [Libby Traubman](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Future of San Mateo  
**Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 6:57:13 PM

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Dear Community Leaders,

I cannot attend the meeting Monday, May 1 to express my thoughts about Mayor Lee and the future of San Mateo County due to attending a conference with a focus on the future generations. It causes me to give a lot of thought about what is really important, especially as we look well into the future, generations from now. What are we being called to do?

My life experience tells me that the best approach to working through different opinions is to sit face-to-face and talk about the big picture and how working together for the good of all is the best and only approach to solving problems. Threats, name calling, blaming the other is a huge waste of time and especially energy that could be used to be creative and solve problems that work for the good of ALL. What does being a good leader mean to you?

The climate crisis tells us now is NOT the time to fight over small differences but it is the time to work as hard as we can to face the challenges that are going to force us all to think new and detach from what is no longer serving our best interests. Both water and the temperature are rising and need thoughtful and serious attention, if it isn't already too late.

Respond to Life! Stop wasting your time and energy on things that will not solve what really needs our and your fullest attention. Step up and model what it means to be thoughtful, capable adults who care deeply about the future, not just of San Mateo but for the entire living system..

It is time for every voice to be heard, every person to be represented.

In support,  
Libby Traubman

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Libby Traubman



**\*\*\* One Earth One Humanity One Future \*\*\***

Dave Clark

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Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>

Re: City Council Meeting 5/1/2023

We've lived in San Mateo for 35 years. I've never seen such vitriol and distain between factions in the council. Frankly, it's embarrassing.

I side with Mayor Lee. MAGA-style tactics are being used by one group as a smoke screen for the real issue: Nash/Newsom conspired to change the outcome of the seating of the 5<sup>th</sup> council person in possible violation of Brown. Most of the people in council chambers in the days following the election felt this way.

Mayor Lee's approach to divulging a possible infraction employed some theatrics, but following protocol and the advice of the city attorney was the proper course of action.

Recall that someone threw a brick and broke Amo's window. This was applauded by some. Recall that original (pre-election) recall effort led by Nash / Taner / Zografos / Weinhardt was light on specifics and the Amo had rebutted the accusations as the words of others. There was no case for recall.

The issue boils down to the property rights advocacy espoused by Mimi Steel, and is a libertarian construct. If the promotors of the recall had a modicum of grace, they would have admitted that the true issue is Amo's positions on housing. The recall smoke screen to cover up the truth. One of their team attempted to do a back door deal. This after the likely Brown violation by Nash and Newsom.

The Nash /Zografos Taner/Weinhardt movement is known city wide by their juvenile behavior on social media. Some people say that Zografos created ghost accounts such as "Stella Mitchell". For a month we were pummeled with "Bonilla -- 30 days 30 lies"; character assassination of Amo and Adam; and crude attacks on Building Commissioners. Someone created a "Dave Clark" account and made statements on my behalf. Their reporting of lawn sign theft (allegedly by carpet bagger Adam Lorraine) was just plain weird.

Whining, whataboutism, victimization, homophobia, claims of assault on democracy, deflection, hypocrisy, all by mostly white neighbors. Folks – we have found MAGA and it is time to scrape it off of our shoe.

Item 7 on the agenda only fuels the fire and creates more smoke. It's time to get to work for the people of San Mateo and put these childish antics behind.

**From:** [Karen S](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Accountability for Amourence Lee  
**Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 12:00:58 PM

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Dear City Council,

I'm writing to express concern that there has not been any accountability so far for Amourence Lee's actions and words that have caused damage to individuals' reputations and pushed forward an agenda against the will of the people and that of fellow councilmembers. These actions and words have shown blatant disregard for propriety and respect for others.

It is imperative that our councilmembers and especially our mayor be held to account when their actions and words are in violation of the integrity of their role on the council.

I respectfully ask that you hold Amourence Lee to account - she needs to resign, be censured, or be disciplined so that she cannot continue to cause harm unrestrained and so that she and others get the message loud and clear that the roles of mayor and council are built on integrity and honor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Karen Sid

**From:** [William Cendak](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Amourence Lee  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 1:04:02 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

We agree with former mayors Hill, Mack, and Mathews. Mayor Lee is an embarrassment to the City of San Mateo and as a city official.

Her actions demand a recall.

As council members you should have the courage to discipline Mayor Lee or press her to do the right thing and resign.

Sincerely,

William and Barbara Cendak

**From:** [Wendy Chou](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Amourence Lee's right to lead  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:59:16 AM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am appalled that Mayor Amourence Lee is being coerced into defending herself and her record despite having conscientiously and properly served the City of San Mateo. She is a staunch supporter of all San Mateo residents and businesses and deserves to spend her time and energy doing her job well, not responding to threats of recall or calls for resignation. I am writing to you today as I am unable to attend the Monday 5/1 meeting and provide my comments orally.

As a Chinese American, I am all too aware that anti-Asian discrimination has surfaced time and time again in our country's history and that it has never truly gone away. It is difficult not to view some of the unfortunate negativity directed toward Mayor Lee in this light.

My view of the situation is that the City of San Mateo has too much on its plate to allow the current undermining of its government to continue. Local challenges include: the need for a detailed local response to significant threats to the environment, completion of a housing element acceptable to the CA Department of Housing and Community Development, and fair and equitable allocation of scarce resources. In the interests of working together to create a healthy and sustainable city, for the benefit of all, it simply makes little sense to waste valuable time and funds on a costly recall.

More importantly, council members must develop a sense of decorum, and publicly disavow themselves from any attempts to mangle the process. For example, it is not acceptable for any San Mateo resident to call the Mayor a liar. Such behavior flies in the face of good decorum and professionalism. If Council Members do not disavow themselves, we will consider their silence as approval for shrill tactics.

We call on all council members to act in good faith and put a stop to the discord.

We are aware that the District Attorney did not find evidence of criminality by the Mayor's detractors nor anyone else. We believe that now is the time to close this chapter of San Mateo history and listen to all voices.

Let's all follow Mayor Lee's leadership, celebrating these accomplishments:

- A workable gas leaf blower approach proposed by Mayor Lee
- A flood relief program created
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing
- Active leadership for developing new revenue sources

- Introducing a socially responsible investing option for the City
- working directly with youth to promote leadership and engage them more in civic life
- facilitating community events and initiatives (including founding the San Mateo County Asian American Pacific Islander Task Force) that celebrate the values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and respect for all cultures

In addition, during her term greenhouse gases have been significantly reduced. Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Chou  
resident of San Mateo

**From:** [Val Armento](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Code of Conduct for Council  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:18:22 PM

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The City Council needs to adopt (and adhere to once adopted) a meaningful Code of Conduct.

Every City I have worked for has had one.

What has been happening at the City Council in San Mateo embarrasses all of us.

V Armento

**From:** [Dave Santos](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Code of Conduct May 1st meeting  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 2:57:14 PM

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San Mateo City Council members:

It is imperative that after the San Mateo County District Attorney's investigation found no evidence of the allegations by Mayor Lee to be true, that the Council adopt a Code of Conduct.

This matter needs to be considered and acted upon at your May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting before discussion of any further business.

Mayor Lee needs to be held accountable for her actions.

If she does not resign, the Council needs to take steps to censure her and figure out an appropriate course of disciplinary action.

The mayor's divisive behavior cannot be tolerated.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Santos

**From:** [Toni Perazzo](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Code of Conduct  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:46:06 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I look forward to a robust discussion of a code of conduct at your meeting on May 1st especially given how allegations of vote extortion were handled in the meeting earlier this year. I was both astonished and disappointed in the unnecessary drama.

Sincerely,

Toni Perazzo

**From:** [Caroline](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation, Validation and Implementation of Agreed Standards of Ethics of San Mateo elected Leaders  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 2:49:56 PM

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Please accept my support for all members elected or who volunteer to represent the City of San Mateo with ethical standards by which can serve as a model for California cities and State as "the best example to live."

Thank you.  
Caroline Brownstone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jan Prisco](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Council code of conduct  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:06:37 PM

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Hello San Mateo Council members.

I have been tracking what has transpired regarding the claims made by our Mayor, the San Mateo County District Attorney Office's investigation of those claims, and the DA's decision that no proof existed to substantiate the Mayor's claims.

The claims themselves concerned me at the beginning. The evidence that the Mayor's claims are in all probability false, and the lack of action regarding her probable misrepresentation concern me more.

I think the code of conduct is important and should be immediately enforced AND retroactively applied to cover the above situation and other issues that seem to be arising since the Mayor was appointed. I

Thank you,  
Jan Prisco

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Rick Moody](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Don't Pay Attention to Campaigns against the Mayor  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:18:31 PM

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I would respectfully request that the City Council pay attention to the task of taking care of San Mateo City business and not waste time or money on attacking the Mayor Amourence Lee, who is also a Council Member.

Our system of government is based on elections which take place every two or four years. We had an election in 2022 and we will have one again in 2024. People who are unhappy with office-holders, whether the Mayor or other Council members, will have an opportunity to vote against those they dislike.

In the meantime, those who are unhappy can write letters to the editor, can speak at City Council meetings, can communicate with you and others in authority. What you should NOT do is waste time listening to people who are disrupting City business because they don't like the results of the last election.

I probably won't be able to attend the City Council meeting on May 1 because I have another event at exactly the same time. But I'm taking this opportunity to write to make sure you understand my point.

I'm very happy living in San Mateo (at [REDACTED]) and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. But I am not happy to see our government battered by people who waste your time in ways that don't help our City remain as good as it should be.

Respectfully,

Harry R. Moody, Ph.D.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Leo Burns](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Adam Loraine](#); [Amourence Lee](#); [rnewsome@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:rnewsome@cityofsanmateo.org); [Richard Hedges](#); [Lisa Diaz Nash](#); [Patrice Olds](#)  
**Subject:** Ethical Conduct  
**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 9:46:54 PM

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Dear San Mateo City Council Members and all other San Mateo City Employees and Representatives: As concerned San Mateo City residents and voters, we are most worried about the apparent lack of ethics and evasions of the truth by some people in office. Honesty and integrity, respect for others and the willingness to listen to all points of view are definite requirements for everyone—especially those who represent the voters and residents of this city. City Council Members, there has been way too much hiding of facts and circumventing the truth. Please work to bring ethical behavior back to our City of San Mateo.

Sincerely, Leo and Joyce Burns

**From:** [Jesus Nazereth](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ethics  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 12:14:37 AM

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Time's up for amo Lee.

**From:** [Ricki McGlashan](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Goals for our council  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:21:43 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

We write in strong support of Mayor Amourence Lee, who is an effective advocate for all San Mateo residents and businesses and is working diligently to amplify the voices of every one of us. We were impressed with her “State of the City” program last week and her clear grasp of what is good for the city as a whole.

The City of San Mateo is facing significant challenges: the need for a detailed local response to significant threats presented by climate change, 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 a recall, when a strong response to actual problems is needed.

Council members must privately and publicly develop a sense of decorum. For example, it is not acceptable for any San Mateo resident to call the Mayor a liar. Such behavior makes it harder for all Council Members to work together and increases rancor among residents. Turn the heat down!

We call on all council members to focus specifically and broadly on the current and future needs of our city.

Let’s celebrate our city’s accomplishments:  
<!--[endif]-->

- GreenHouse Gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- Creation of a flood relief program
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing
- Working toward developing new revenue sources

Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Thank you

Ricki and Doug McGlashan

**From:** [MICHAEL/ JACQUELINE Grubb](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Lee must resign  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:09:41 PM

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The City Council must insist upon the resignation of Lee. She does not have the knowledge or skills to be the Mayor.  
She is dishonest, divisive, incompetent and an embarrassment to the resident of San Mateo.

Since she has been elected Mayor the Council has accomplished nothing, as she exhibits no qualities of leadership.

Stop wasting time and get her out. You must show leadership and meet your obligations to the taxpayers of San Mateo by telling her to resign immediately.

Michael and Jacqueline Grubb  
San Mateo

**From:** [Melania Maldonado](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Lee resign!  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:43:15 PM

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The behavior from the current city council is atrocious. Trump based???? Unbelievable they feel that there is nothing wrong with their antics and do not feel they need to follow a code of conduct. Get real. Lee needs to resign  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Cynthia Prien](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Patrice Olds](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to City Council  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:04:20 PM

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San Mateo Council Members,

Thank you to Council Members Diaz Nash, Newsome and Hedges who voted in favor of reviewing the Code of Conduct for council members and commissioners. I appreciate that councilmember Loraine restated his position of “not interested” after some reflection. The Council has a critical opportunity to establish a strong Code of Conduct with real consequences for unbecoming and unethical behavior, lying, and dereliction of duty. We have witnessed many instances of extremely poor, malicious and detrimental behavior demonstrated by Mayor Lee with no consequence. This is unacceptable.

For the reasons noted above and, specifically, but not all inclusive:

• Mayor Lee should be removed by Council or resign and publicly apologize to those she smeared, in particular Cliff Robins. To be clear, Mayor Lee is not being attacked for speaking up. She is being exposed for election manipulation by fabricating the “back door dealing” scheme which was found to be baseless by the DA. While no criminal actions were identified, Ms. Lee’s actions require more substantial investigation. Much of what Mayor Lee stated in the DA “interview” was refuted by others.

• Why did Ms. Lee allege Brown Act violations when she was ignorant about the Acts provisions? She could have discussed with the City Attorney before making such inflammatory allegations against Cliff Robbins. And, why did Ms. Lee publicly “expose” only Cliff’s name and not the other three individuals who were the “messengers”? We all know the answer to that question; disqualify Cliff Robbins. And, it was wholly inappropriate for Ms. Lee to summarily remove Cliff’s application from the PROCESS and according to the DA, there was no legal reason to do so.

• We are not reassured by, nor do we believe Mayor Lee’s sanctimonious assessment of her duty to oath and public trust. Why did she attend the HLC Post Election Decompression meeting with developer Bohannon to commiserate the loss of Measure R, stating, “. . . we are going to beat down the past” and “I’m in this with you, the fight is not over”. Ms. Lee colludes in efforts to undermine the will of the voters.

• Mayor Lee is responsible for causing divisiveness by name calling and pitting groups against one another. It is offensive and intellectually dishonest to conflate a racist statement made by one individual

to those who disagree with her and to accuse those citizens of “ugly MAGA-style extremism”. Ms. Lee accuses the “Old Guard” of undermining “our new generation of leaders”. Who is the old guard? Anyone over 45? Ms. Lee insults a large demographic with her ageist perspective. Citizens are sick and tired of Lee controversy brought on by her behavior and actions. We want to work together to problem solve via polite discourse (regardless of age) and not engage in name calling

Mayor Lee is personally responsible for “the stain on our city’s history” and the ensuing dysfunction and divisiveness. Her failure to accept responsibility, lack of ethics, self-serving behavior is inconsistent with San Mateo values. She is unfit to serve as mayor; Council must do something about it now.

And lastly, please provide an update on the status of the alleged sign stealing by Commissioner Nugent and pursue an investigation of planning commissioners Nugent and Patel regarding their direct contact with HCD in an attempt to derail the housing element.

Thank you.

**From:** [JANE JAMES](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** May 1 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 12:56:17 PM

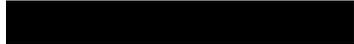
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Dear City Council Members,  
Mayor Lee has wasted a lot of people's time with her allegations of vote trading. Since the DA could not verify her allegations, and after her unrepentent column in The Daily Journal, please consider asking her to resign the post of mayor or censure her or do something to show that her allegations came to nothing.

Thank you,

Jane James

San Mateo resident and home owner



**From:** [Kitty Van Beckum](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 4:46:37 PM

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City Council,

I'm writing to ask Mayor Lee to resign, if she won't step down then the city council should vote to censure her.

Regards,

Kitty Van Beckum

**From:** [Dennis Murphy](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee Action  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 1:06:56 PM

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Dear San Mateo City Council, I call on you to take action against Mayor Lee for her behavior that is dividing the community and City of San Mateo. It starts with her “My Agenda or the Highway” mentality, moves into making baseless accusations in public against well-known community members, having her supporters move to other districts to run for Council to move her own agenda forward, bringing up national issues that have nothing to do in local politics, and not listening to the voters that approved Measure Y. Mayor Lee needs to be recalled, and at the very least censured for her divisive behavior. You must take action. The future of our city depends on it.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Murphy  
San Mateo Glendale Village

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**From:** [HELEN EVANS](#)  
**To:** [Amourence Lee](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#); [Lisa Diaz Nash](#); [Rob Newsom](#); [Adam Loraine](#); [Richard Hedges](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee and City Council re Smart City Technology and San Mateo  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 6:25:54 PM

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Dear Mayor Amourence Lee:

I am greatly concerned about the current trajectory San Mateo elected and non-elected officials are pursuing to make San Mateo a Smart City. Although Smart Cities are being touted as “Sustainability” and “Equitable” and “Convenience,” Smart Cities are not being accurately described for what they really are - they are mass surveillance cities, which remove any sense of individual privacy. In fact, a euphemism for “smart cities” could be called “surveillance.” This means that San Mateo will deploy surveillance technologies powered by automatic data mining, facial recognition, and other forms of artificial intelligence at a scale never seen before. As you know urban surveillance is a multibillion-dollar industry, with San Mateo readily handing out money to contractors and nonprofits and creating new divisions in the city government to build the smart city industry and maintain it. While “smart cities” have been described by proponents with soothing promises of greener energy solutions, lower-friction mobility, and safer streets, the honest fact is these cities will be supercharged surveillance that encroach on free speech, privacy, and data protection. And, the facial recognition and related technologies at the scale that smart cities will employ are extremely worrisome. Moreover, the deployment and integration of surveillance technologies, such as sensors and biometric data collection systems - electronic, infrared, thermal, and LIDAR sensors form the basis of the smart grid. They do everything from operating streetlights to optimizing parking and traffic flow to detect crime. Therefore, these cities will become a veritable thicket of video surveillance. Identity collection devices will become commonplace, exploding across public and private spaces.

Can you imagine a world where you’re watched every second? Is that what you want for San Mateo? While we do have these technologies now, we don’t have them at the scale that Smart Cities employ. I am asking that you rethink the Smart City plan for San Mateo. I am asking that you remember a time when privacy was valued. I am including an article that I ask you to read. I know that many of the council members are approving everything with a rubber stamp that has to do with Smart Cities, but I wonder if they are really considering the future that they are creating for us residents?

I am expressing my extreme concern about San Mateo and am asking that you and the council members reevaluate making San Mateo a Smart City. I know I’m just a regular person, but I needed to express myself to you. You appear to be very reasonable and “Holistic.” Surely, it cannot be your dream to bring this massive surveillance state to San Mateo. Smart Cities are the “shiny new button” that are being touted as the best thing around. However, there appears little thought for the implications smart cities bring and nobody would vote for digital prisons if they understood how vast the surveillance will be in smart cities. As previously stated, I know that money is being handed out like water and many of those who represent us are caught up in the euphoria of being on this new trend, but I can’t help but think this Pandora’s Box is going to bring great regrets in the future. I’ve done considerable research on this, using my own free time because I care about the future of San Mateo. I don’t have any lobbyists or campaign donations to rush after - I’m just a concerned person.

Thanks for listening and for your service. May you have a very successful term. I’ve cc’d the City Council Members on this email.

Best wishes,

Helen Gallegos Evans

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/17/smart-cities-surveillance-privacy-digital-threats-internet-of-things-5g/>

**From:** [Catherine Hart](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee and her contempt for San Mateo Church members  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 1:42:33 PM

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The Mayor went directly for Mr Linhares Faith and that of all San Mateo Catholic residents. She implied a Catholic should never sit in public office.

This is unacceptable and in no way reflects our community values.

Catherine Hart

**From:** [Elaine Salinger](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee deserves our respect and support  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:35:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Honorable Mayor Amourence Lee  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash  
Council Members Adam Loraine, Robert Newsom, and Rich Hedges  
[clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org)  
[citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I 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.

I thought that the days when a few elected officials could make deals to appoint their friends to council and commission positions, citing “experience” were long gone. Unfortunately, we have now learned that even past San Mateo Mayors can scream “foul ball” when their friends are prevented from assuming positions inappropriately thought to be theirs. Don’t waste our time and money on a recall.

You were not elected to fight and bicker. You were elected to do make important decisions for San Mateo. Let’s stop attacking Mayor Lee. Council Members Nash and Newsom, I am asking you to publicly disavow every attempt to sow hatred and discord. And please, call off the old mayors from their good old boys smear campaign. Let’s start working together and govern.

Elaine Salinger, Group Co-Leader  
San Mateo County Chapter



**From:** [winreis@gmail.com](mailto:winreis@gmail.com)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:49:47 AM

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Dear San Mateo City Council,

I am writing as a resident of San Mateo for the last 25 years to express my complete and utter disgust at Mayor Lee's conduct both before and after the most recent city elections. Her conduct reflects horribly both on the city and on the residents she purports to represent.

I implore upon you to unite and send a clear and unequivocal message to Mayor Lee. At a minimum she needs to be censured. I'm not sure what other consequences the City Council can enforce upon Mayor Lee, but any and all options must be considered.

Mayor Lee owes you and the people of San Mateo a sincere apology for her conduct and a pledge to materially change her behavior. Absent that, all legal measures need to be taken to remove her from office.

Sincerely,

Win Reis



**From:** [Maureen Galindo](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ms Lee's Resignation  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 8:27:06 PM

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This is a request for the resignation of Ms. Lee, as she has not served the citizens of San Mateo respectfully.

Maureen Galindo

**From:** [Daniel Schonberg](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please cease debating housing policy via other means  
**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 6:57:22 PM

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The current city council has spent significant time debating how council vacancies should be filled and whether the mayor's report of influence was improper or not. As a 10 year resident of San Mateo and a home owner, I find this disgusting. These read to me as proxy fights around housing policy. Each side is so worried about winning st the ballot box that they seek procedural approaches to meet their goals. Stop. This is a waste of time and a distraction.

And it's worth noting, the driver of the recall attempt has engaged in highly toxic behavior. They have escalated several fights, in a manner unbecoming for local politics. Empowering them can only make San Mateo poorer in the short, medium, and long terms.

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Sincerely,  
Daniel Schonberg

**From:** [Frances Boscacci](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#); [Adam Loraine](#); [Amourance Lee](#); [mewesone@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:mewesone@cityofsanmateo.org); [Richard Hedges](#); [Lisa Diaz Nash](#); [Distr. of Olds](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Ethical Conduct  
**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023 9:55:07 PM

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Dear San Mateo Council Members, and all other San Mateo City Employees and Representatives

As our dear neighbor has so well expressed below, for the reasons stated, we also ask that you please work to bring ethical behavior back to our city of San Mateo.

Frances Boscacci



On Apr 30, 2023, at 9 46 PM, Leo Burns <[bjoybird@att.net](mailto:bjoybird@att.net)> wrote

Dear San Mateo City Council Members and all other San Mateo City Employees and Representatives As concerned San Mateo City residents and voters, we are most worried about the apparent lack of ethics and evasions of the truth by some people in office. Honesty and integrity, respect for others and the willingness to listen to all points of view are definite requirements for everyone—especially those who represent the voters and residents of this city. City Council Members, there has been way too much hiding of facts and circumventing the truth. Please work to bring ethical behavior back to our City of San Mateo.

Sincerely, Leo and Joyce Burns

**From:** [Carole Lozito](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recall Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:34:59 PM

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Hello City Council of San Mateo,

I am so embarrassed and angry about the lies and defamation our recent Mayor Amourance Lee has created. She does not remotely deserve to hold the mantle of Mayor of San Mateo since she gained it untruthful and illicit means.

Recall Amourance Lee and set our path straight. I realize that those of us that don't support her are classified as old, rich, white people according to a recent quote in the the San Mateo Daily Journal. This is not the case for most of us. We are concerned neighbors seeing this unprincipled and unethical person sabotage the San Mateo that we love. I am of hispanic origins and grew up economically disadvantaged but know a fraud when I see one.

This person has lied repeatedly, has sown dissent, character assassinated our neighbors, and discriminated against catholics. As a pro-choice woman I am sick about how our neighbor Rod Linhares was treated by this corrupt person.

We have enough corrupt politicians. Just look at Fox News and the craziness that pervades the political ecosystem. Amourance Lee is no better! Just another liar looking for power. When someone tells who they are believe them.

Adam Loraine, stop being her minion! We all know you conveniently moved to district 5 just to run for this city council spot, but at least have the decency to represent this neighborhood. We have given you the chance, but you continue to disappoint us. You represent District 5, not Amourance Lee! You couldn't even have the decency to communicate about a 5-7 story building on 25th at Hacienda that you supported.

Shame, shame, shame on Amourance Lee and Adam Loraine!

Carole Lozito

**From:** [John Evers](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recall of Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:51:11 PM

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I agree with San Mateo residents' call for Mayor Lee to resign or at a minimum be censured by the council for her unethical behavior. Thank you and I'll be interested in the results of Monday's City Council meeting.  
John Evers

**From:** [Diana King](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recall of Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 6:55:21 AM  
**Importance:** High

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To Mayor Lee and Members of the City Council:

All members of government – elected or otherwise, as in the case of Mayor Lee – are to represent the interests of their constituents. However, with respect to certain members of the San Mateo City Council and Mayor Lee, somewhere along the way it became apparent that this has been thrown by the wayside and it has now become a self-serving platform for re-election or placating those who hold higher office, presumably “greasing the wheels” for their own future gain on the bigger political stage.

We all have, and are entitled to, opinions and input whether our government agrees with it or not. You all serve at our will and pleasure, and we pay your salaries. YOU WORK FOR US, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND. Mayor Lee’s actions clearly indicate she remembers none of this, and the same can be said for her crony, Adam Lorraine. As a city, we are now facing one of the most significant issues in my 14 years in San Mateo: state housing mandates. These mandates are designed to deprive homeowners of their piece of suburbia in a primarily suburban San Mateo. This Mayor and City Council should be fighting tooth and nail to preserve quality of life for all of us as we have known it in San Mateo, or at the very least fighting to harmoniously integrate these ridiculous policies without significant disruption. Take a cue from Huntington Beach as to what it’s like to fight for a community.

In closing, you may accept this as confirmation of my full support of the recall of Amourence Lee.

Sincerely,

Diana King



**From:** [elalva](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recall San Mateo Council member Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:12:22 PM

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Dear San Mateo City Council:

I am a resident of San Mateo and I understand you will be discussing plans to create a Code of Conduct on May 1st. I am writing to demand Lee resign or council vote to censure or otherwise discipline her.

Thank you.  
Eddylee Alvarado

**From:** [Virginia McIsaac](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Resignation Demand  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:53:24 PM

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Dear council members

As I have said before, but needs to be said once again, the mayor of San Mateo needs to resign.

She has been impervious to her constituents wishes, she has besmirched a loyal city volunteer with a lie, and has and continues to try and undo a voter mandate on building heights. She has been a problem on the previous council and continues her disparaging attitude toward other council members and San Mateo residents. It's time for her to go.

Sincerely

Virginia Mcisaac

**From:** [Teri Whitehair](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Mayor Amourence Lee  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 6:57:14 AM

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May 1, 2023

Honorable Mayor Amourence Lee  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash  
Council Members Adam Loraine, Robert Newsom, and Rich Hedges

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I 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 everyone 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 a recall, when a strong response to the climate would be such a better use.

Let's all follow Mayor Lee's leadership, celebrating these accomplishments:

- GreenHouse Gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- She has proposed a workable gas leaf blower approach
- Created a flood relief program
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing
- Provided leadership for developing new revenue sources

Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Thank you

Teri Whitehair

Be The Change  
[Vegan Cooking with Purpose 1 - YouTube](#)



**From:** [Gary Trott 2](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Mayor Lee and the future beyond  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:39:28 AM

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Honorable Mayor Amourence Lee

April 27, 2023

Deputy Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash

Council Members Adam Loraine, Robert Newsom, and Rich Hedges

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I 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.

I strongly recommend everyone stop the interpersonal discussions and get on with the business of running San Mateo city now and for the future.

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 a recall, when a strong response to the climate would be such a better use of resources.

And most importantly, council members must privately and publicly develop a sense of decorum, and publicly disavow themselves from any attempts to mangle the process. For example, it is not acceptable for any San Mateo resident to call the Mayor a liar. Such behavior flies in the face of good decorum and professionalism. If Council Members do not disavow themselves, we will consider their silence as approval for shrill tactics. I must point out: if some members of the Council cannot act responsibly in making appointments, what hope do we have of ending the climate crisis?

I call on all the council members, especially Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash, or anyone in associated districts, to put a stop to the manufactured bickering.

I am aware that the District Attorney did not find evidence of criminality by the Mayor's detractors nor anyone else. I believe that now is the time to close this chapter of San Mateo history and listen to all voices.

Let's all follow Mayor Lee's leadership, celebrating these accomplishments:

- GreenHouse Gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- She has proposed a workable gas leaf blower approach
- Created a flood relief program

225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing

- Provided leadership for developing new revenue sources

Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Thank you

Dr. Gary Trott  
San Mateo Resident

**From:** [Mary Rose LeBaron](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 10:40:37 AM

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April 29, 2023

Honorable Mayor Amourance Lee  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash  
Council Members Adam Loraine, Robert Newsom, and Rich Hedges  
[clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org)  
[citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I write in strong support of Mayor Amourance 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 everyone 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 a recall, when a strong response to the climate would be such a better use.

And most importantly, council members must privately and publicly develop a sense of decorum, and publicly disavow themselves from any attempts to mangle the process. For example, it is not acceptable for any San Mateo resident to call the Mayor a liar. Such behavior flies in the face of good decorum and professionalism. If Council Members do not disavow themselves, we will consider their silence as approval for shrill tactics. I must point out: if some members of the Council cannot act responsibly in making appointments, what hope do we have of ending the climate crisis?

We call on all the council members, especially Council Members Newsom and Diaz Nash to put a stop to the manufactured bickering.

We are aware that the District Attorney did not find evidence of criminality by the Mayor's detractors nor anyone else. We believe that now is the time to close this chapter of San Mateo history and listen to all voices.

Let's all follow Mayor Lee's leadership, celebrating these accomplishments:

- GreenHouse Gases have been significantly reduced
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- She has proposed a workable gas leaf blower approach
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- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing
- Provided leadership for developing new revenue sources

Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Sincerely,  
Mary Rose LeBaron

**From:** [James Higbie](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 10:01:36 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to support Mayor Amourence Lee, and to urge all San Mateo's elected officials to unite behind her, giving the people of San Mateo the strong progressive leadership they voted for, not the divisive, reactionary, and obstructionist behavior that Mayor Lee's opponents have displayed recently. Mayor Lee has been cleared of any wrongdoing, and frankly the nasty attacks against her look like plain old-fashioned racism and sexism.

Members of city government should behave with decorum and decency. There's more than enough MAGA insanity elsewhere in our country--we don't need it here in San Mateo. The fires, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and heat waves are getting steadily worse, and San Mateo is on the front lines for many of these--we need Mayor Lee's strong leadership on climate, and everyone else to help or get out of the way.

In conclusion, I believe Mayor Lee has got off to an excellent start representing the people of San Mateo, and I call on her city council colleagues to support her in getting things done for the current and future inhabitants of San Mateo.

Sincerely,  
James Higbie

**From:** [L. Eberhart](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Mayor Lee  
**Date:** Saturday, April 29, 2023 4:47:18 PM

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April 29, 2023

Honorable Mayor Amourence Lee  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Diaz Nash  
Council Members Adam Loraine, Robert Newsom, and Rich Hedges  
[clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org)  
[citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I 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.

I thought that the days when a few elected officials could make deals to appoint their friends to council and commission positions, citing "experience" were long gone. Unfortunately, we have now learned that even past San Mateo Mayors can scream "foul ball" when their friends are prevented from assuming positions inappropriately thought to be theirs. What kind of "ethics" is that?

Let us instead, get past the school yard mentality and focus on the significant challenges that the City of San Mateo is facing: 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 the council's valuable time and taxpayers money on what is essentially a power squabble. Grow up.

Let's move beyond the name calling San Mateo. Such behavior flies in the face of decency and professionalism. Council Members need to buck up and address the City's issues at hand instead of bickering over power. We, the people of San Mateo, expect nothing less.

Let's all focus on celebrating San Mateo's accomplishments that wouldn't have happened without Mayor Lee:

- GreenHouse Gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- A proposed workable gas leaf blower approach
- A flood relief program
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing
- New revenue sources

If council members wish to earn the respect of the San Mateo community, maybe they could focus on adding to this list with their own accomplishments rather than stalling the City Council with bickering. We need bi-partisan efforts not finger pointing. Get to work please.

Mayor Lee is using hope and inclusivity to create a vibrant, livable community. Let us all do the same.

Thank you

Leane Eberhart

San Mateo, District 2 resident

**From:** [Gina Vallee](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: STOP THE RECALL  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 1:44:34 PM

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City Council,

Yesterday I found a flier on our doorstep asking for signatures to recall Amourence Lee. There were faces of former City officials on this flier, but no reason for the recall. It astonishes me that 5 months into the term, they are STILL going after her. I later found out that a good part of the 5/1/23 meeting will be taken to “discuss” this absurd request. Searching even more, it appears that they want a recall because she asked for an investigation of an email that she received. Asking for an investigation seems the logical thing to do—when a threatening email comes in your in box, one would ask for an investigation. While the investigation turned out to be something that was not illegal, they took it upon themselves to believe that THAT request should be conditions for a recall. This makes no sense to us, certainly not a reason for a recall.

This is the most ridiculous and embarrassing thing that is being done. In fact, the act more horrific, and could really warrant a recall, is when Lisa Diaz Nash & Robert Newsome held San Mateo hostage, and without a Mayor for over a week. They alone refused to complete the simple task and first order of business – voting in a Mayor. I was at that meeting and it was a horrible show from the 2 newest City Counsel Members. Their arguments were not solid, they could not come up with anything other than “I’m not voting for her”. And like their display at that meeting, having “nothing/no reason not to vote her in”...they still have “nothing” to recall her...yet they continue to waste everyone’s time.

Is anyone asking for their recall? NO—because like the recall of Amourence, recalls only waste tax payor money, time, and effort.

***If you are going to recall anyone—it should be LISA & Robert for their horrific acts in allowing San Mateo without a Mayor for over a week.***

Stop this nonsense of recall of Amourence Lee, and DO YOUR JOB

LISA & ROBERT!

Gina & Michael Vallee—District 5

**From:** [United San Mateo](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Violation of the Code of Ethics for Officers  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 9:51:26 AM

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San Mateo City Council Members:

I strongly feel Mayor Lee has violated multiple Code of Ethics for Officers. Her actions have been immensely divisive, punitive, unethical, and detrimental to the City of San Mateo. She must be held accountable for her behavior and accepting of the consequences. The following are the Code of Ethics for Officers from the City San Mateo Municipal Code and my reflections on Mayor Lee.

### **[Chapter 2.12 CODE OF ETHICS FOR OFFICERS](#)**

#### **2.12.020 PURPOSE OF CHAPTER.**

**The proper operation of democratic government requires that officers of this city be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people; that public office not be used for personal gain, and that the public have confidence in the integrity of its government.**

Time after time, Mayor Lee has displayed in her actions and words her partiality to developers in this city. She has been steadfastly against the will of the voters on Measure Y.

During the 2022 City Council elections she displayed partiality for a candidate to a point where she targeted and tarnished a well meaning resident looking to serve this city as a council member. She targeted and eliminated another well meaning candidate based on false accusations during the search for a 5th council member. This was all done in her quest for personal gain to seat her preferred candidates. An investigation should be launched into Mayor Lee's communications to all City Council candidates both through official and personal channels to determine the severity of partiality.

Mayor Lee launched a supporter and media campaign against her city council colleague in her attempt to obtain the title of mayor and the personal gain of a tie breaking vote for the 5th council member. She supported the campaign messaging that falsely labeled another city council member as racist. Her claim of an automatic mayoral title based on a 128 year precedent is unsubstantiated without deep research into city records.

With a recall effort underway along with calls from residents and former mayors for Mayor Lee to resign, it is more than evident the public no longer has confidence in the integrity of its top city government.

### **2.12.030 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY.**

**The officers of this city are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the people; they are bound to observe in their official acts, the highest standards of morality and to discharge, faithfully, the duties of their office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be their primary concern.**

Mayor Lee has displayed low standards of morality by targeting residents, city council candidates, and city council colleagues whenever they offered a broader or opposing point of view. If she truly held herself to a high standard of morality, she would not have allowed baseless accusations of racism against her city council colleague nor would she have had her followers crowd the council chambers entrance in an effort to intimidate or sway attendees. If Mayor Lee truly believed in being faithful to her duties regardless of personal considerations, she would not have assumed the entitlement of mayorship. Rather, she would have advocated for the equality of the fifth member vote before being named mayor.

If Mayor Lee truly believed in public interest as her primary concern, she would not have created a false narrative of crisis when she was not immediately named mayor. She would have assured the public to have confidence in the democratic process and recognize the competency of the city manager and employees to maintain a smooth running city. In the event of an actual crisis, we are served by the city's finest police and public works departments, San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department as well as community organizations such as CERT.

### **2.12.040 FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT.**

**(b) Special Consideration. No officer shall grant special consideration, treatment or advantage to any citizen beyond that which is available to every other citizen.**

Mayor Lee has granted special treatment to Planning Commissioners such as when they violated the reporting structure by directly distributing a document to the state and when they were not held accountable for unethical conduct.

Absolutely no resident should be intimidated by a city official or dissuaded from serving the city. There should be an investigation into Mayor Lee's unfair and unequal treatment of City Council candidate Rod Linhares. The formal investigation by the San Mateo District Attorney's office has already proved Mayor Lee's unfair and unequal treatment of Cliff Robbins.

As a sworn San Mateo City Council member, Mayor Lee is obligated to the highest level of ethics as defined by the city Code of Ethics for Officers. No official should be granted special treatment even if they hold the added title of mayor. She is a public servant

entrusted by residents to represent their values and visions for the City of San Mateo.

Residents have called upon you, council members, to hold Mayor Lee accountable for her breach of the Code of Ethics that have been a detriment to individual residents, colleagues, and the community as well as a serious liability to the city. The actions you take will reveal your quality of leadership and set the precedence for future city officials.

Respectfully,  
Marlene Tam

**From:** [Megan Strain](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** I Support Our Mayor!  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 1:35:43 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to show my support for Mayor Amourance Lee. I believe she is a champion for our city, working and supporting all San Mateo residents and businesses.

It's no secret that our community is facing many challenges: the climate crisis hitting us closer and closer to home, the continuing housing crisis, and many questions of how to improve equity in our community. I believe Mayor Lee has worked to help with many of these issues, and I would like to see the City Council focus more on these real problems rather than allowing the unfair attack on or even recall of Mayor Lee.

I wish to celebrate some of Mayor Lee's accomplishments as a leader in our city:

- Greenhouse gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- Proposed a workable gas leaf blower approach
- Created a flood relief program
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing

Let's focus on the real work at hand in our community.

Thank you for your continued leadership,

Megan Strain  
Resident of San Mateo

**From:** [Carolina Nugent](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** 5/1/23 City Council Public Feedback - Agenda Item #7 - C Nugent  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 1:42:15 PM

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Dear Mayor Lee and San Mateo City Council,

I am writing today to ask that our City move back to governing. It has been months since the election and it is time to get down to the business of running the city. Looking back at all the hours this new council has spent on the dias, I have seen a great decrease in time spent moving positive policies forward for the benefit of our city and a dramatic increase in time spent filibustering and in power struggles.

We have five city council members. You will not all agree, nor must you, but a well-run body has the capacity to make decisions and move forward without retreading subjects. In my own work I use the approach of “listen, challenge, and commit”. That means not holding things up when they don’t go your way. For tonight’s city council meeting, I hope you prioritize aligning on how you want to work together going forward with the goal of getting to well-informed votes faster.

I stand by Amo in raising the concern that potential quid pro quo maneuvering may have occurred. The City could be in a much worse place if she hadn’t asked the question. We now have an answer from the DA and it is time to move forward. I am supportive of re-reviewing the Code of Conduct to ensure that meetings focus on making timely, informed decisions on city business.

Best,  
Carolina Nugent

**From:** [Rustard Mustard](#)  
**To:** [Amourence Lee](#); [Lisa Diaz Nash](#); [Adam Loraine](#); [Rob Newsom](#); [Richard Hedges](#)  
**Cc:** [Patrice Olds](#)  
**Subject:** Item 7-Comment for May 1, 2023 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 8:35:15 AM

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Dear Honorable Mayor Lee and City Council,

San Mateo has a number of pressing problems that need to be resolved without distraction.

The Council should stop responding to diversion and return to its primary purpose-good governance.

I respectfully ask that we get back to civility and move on to the issues at hand.

Kind regards,  
Suzanne Bonilla

**From:** [elalva](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recall San Mateo Council member Lee  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 9:12:22 PM

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Dear San Mateo City Council:

I am a resident of San Mateo and I understand you will be discussing plans to create a Code of Conduct on May 1st. I am writing to demand Lee resign or council vote to censure or otherwise discipline her.

Thank you.  
Eddylee Alvarado

**From:** [Val Armento](#)  
**To:** [City Council \(San Mateo\)](#)  
**Subject:** Code of Conduct for Council  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:18:22 PM

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The City Council needs to adopt (and adhere to once adopted) a meaningful Code of Conduct.

Every City I have worked for has had one.

What has been happening at the City Council in San Mateo embarrasses all of us.

V Armento

**From:** Rick Ballard [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, May 1, 2023 10:57:52 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**CC:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Public comment for May 1st city council meeting

Dear San Mateo City Council,

I am deeply concerned about the continued attempts to undermine Mayor Lee, and see tonight's council agenda item on a code of conduct as a politically-motivated distraction. The implication that Mayor Lee has committed a breach of appropriate conduct is appalling; on the contrary, the DA's investigation confirmed that Mayor Lee acted with integrity and courage.

Council members Newsom and Diaz-Nash, I urge you to cease attacks on Mayor Lee and focus on the business of the city, which is the role you were elected to serve. The fact that your friends and allies are organizing a recall of Mayor Lee casts your council actions as a political tactic to further that recall. Such a recall would deprive the residents of my district from representation on the council; while Mayor Lee was elected at-large, her home is district 5 and she is popular and respected here. The organizers of this recall are based in districts which had their own elections this past year. They have their representation; do not further fuel their attempts to interfere with mine.

Council members Hedges and Loraine, I urge you to steer the council away from this political theatre and demonstrate collegiality and respect for your fellow council-member Mayor Lee. Do not participate in undermining your Mayor and drawing out this distraction.

It is time for you all to work together on the business of governing San Mateo. Corrosive politics should have no home here. Please refocus and get back to work.

Respectfully,  
- Richard Ballard  
District 5 resident and homeowner

**From:** Carolina Nugent [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, May 1, 2023 8:41:59 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**CC:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** 5/1/23 City Council Public Feedback - Agenda Item #7 - C Nugent

Dear Mayor Lee and San Mateo City Council,

I am writing today to ask that our City move back to governing. It has been months since the election and it is time to get down to the business of running the city. Looking back at all the hours this new council has spent on the dias, I have seen a great decrease in time spent moving positive policies forward for the benefit of our city and a dramatic increase in time spent filibustering and in power struggles.

We have five city council members. You will not all agree, nor must you, but a well-run body has the capacity to make decisions and move forward without retreading subjects. In my own work I use the approach of “listen, challenge, and commit”. That means not holding things up when they don’t go your way. For tonight’s city council meeting, I hope you prioritize aligning on how you want to work together going forward with the goal of getting to well-informed votes faster.

I stand by Amo in raising the concern that potential quid pro quo maneuvering may have occurred. The City could be in a much worse place if she hadn’t asked the question. We now have an answer from the DA and it is time to move forward. I am supportive of re-reviewing the Code of Conduct to ensure that meetings focus on making timely, informed decisions on city business.

Best,  
Carolina Nugent

**From:** Genel Morgan [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, May 1, 2023 10:53:45 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**CC:** Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Code of conduct and Mayor Lee held accountable

Dear City Council,

Trust is a valuable asset in today's politics. Lack of trust in city officials creates an adversarial relationship with the public. It is certainly not productive for the city.

For months, I have had a ring side seat of the unethical behavior of Amourence Lee. It all culminated in her unsubstantiated (according to the DA) accusations of back room deals. As a result of her accusations, she damaged the reputation of someone who has served San Mateo in many volunteer capacities over the years and prevented him from being considered for the open council seat.

Are there no repercussions for someone who wages false accusations, especially if they are mayor?

A Code of Conduct with enforceable consequences is needed in San Mateo since it seems some city officials can't police themselves.

I urge you, my representatives, to adopt a Code of Conduct so everyone acts in an ethical way in representing ALL San Mateo residents. Anyone who opposes some standard that monitors city official behavior is suspect in my mind of not wanting to be monitored because of their own lack of ethics!

Sincerely,  
Genel Morgan  
San Mateo

**From:** Megan Strain [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, May 1, 2023 8:35:27 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** I Support Our Mayor!

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to show my support for Mayor Amourence Lee. I believe she is a champion for our city, working and supporting all San Mateo residents and businesses.

It's no secret that our community is facing many challenges: the climate crisis hitting us closer and closer to home, the continuing housing crisis, and many questions of how to improve equity in our community. I believe Mayor Lee has worked to help with many of these issues, and I would like to see the City Council focus more on these real problems rather than allowing the unfair attack on or even recall of Mayor Lee.

I wish to celebrate some of Mayor Lee's accomplishments as a leader in our city:

- Greenhouse gases have been significantly reduced
- Socially responsible investing is now an option for the City
- Proposed a workable gas leaf blower approach
- Created a flood relief program
- 225 units of housing are under construction for low income residents, city workers, and the developmentally disabled - Kiku Crossing

Let's focus on the real work at hand in our community.

Thank you for your continued leadership,

Megan Strain  
Resident of San Mateo

**From:** Gina Vallee [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Monday, May 1, 2023 8:44:13 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: STOP THE RECALL

City Council,

Yesterday I found a flier on our doorstep asking for signatures to recall Amourence Lee. There were faces of former City officials on this flier, but no reason for the recall. It astonishes me that 5 months into the term, they are STILL going after her. I later found out that a good part of the 5/1/23 meeting will be taken to “discuss” this absurd request. Searching even more, it appears that they want a recall because she asked for an investigation of an email that she received. Asking for an investigation seems the logical thing to do—when a threatening email comes in your in box, one would ask for an investigation. While the investigation turned out to be something that was not illegal, they took it upon themselves to believe that THAT request should be conditions for a recall. This makes no sense to us, certainly not a reason for a recall.

This is the most ridiculous and embarrassing thing that is being done. In fact, the act more horrific, and could really warrant a recall, is when Lisa Diaz Nash & Robert Newsome held San Mateo hostage, and without a Mayor for over a week. They alone refused to complete the simple task and first order of business – voting in a Mayor. I was at that meeting and it was a horrible show from the 2 newest City Counsel Members. Their arguments were not solid, they could not come up with anything other than “I’m not voting for her”. And like their display at that meeting, having “nothing/no reason not to vote her in”...they still have “nothing” to recall her...yet they continue to waste everyone’s time.

Is anyone asking for their recall? NO—because like the recall of Amourence, recalls only waste tax payor money, time, and effort.

***If you are going to recall anyone—it should be LISA & Robert for their horrific acts in allowing San Mateo without a Mayor for over a week.***

Stop this nonsense of recall of Amourence Lee, and DO YOUR JOB LISA  
& ROBERT!

Gina & Michael Vallee—District 5

5/1/23 Item 7

Some people think that every little bit of life is some sort of a game, to be won, or to move a piece, incrementally, toward what they think is a win or success. Other people see life as a more collaborative experience, where we seek to bring good for all, to bring unity, good will, and to make sure that all are able to have what they need. Our city government needs to be engaged in good governance. Good governance does not include agreeing with every single voice that is heard. Because some voices are self-serving and seek exclusive privilege. Good governance means analyzing and acting on what will be the best for all. We have had a group of people here for some years who have sought to divide and demean and exclude for their own benefit. They have ~~recently benefited from~~ <sup>been encouraged by</sup> the examples that were set by a former president, the idea is that those who show up and yell loudest or appear more threatening will get what they want. That is NOT how good governance works.

This city has unmet, financial needs, and serious work for our elected and appointed leaders. There are almost \$300 million needed for capital improvement projects that will benefit all. The council and our committees must figure out how to do that. The creation of some committee to look into what may or may not have been an issue in the past does not benefit all. Only moving forward with the best intention will benefit all.

Our elected leaders have been elected, and they will not be displaced by a small group of people who have a difference of opinion. There will be another election in the future and that is

↳ with the majority

RECEIVED

MAY 01 REC'D

City Council Meeting  
Item # 7  
From: RICK BONILLA

everyone's opportunity.. I only hope that people who truly care  
will run and succeed. For the sake of San Mateo

Rick Bonille

# ETHICS STANDARDS

AN ISSUE OF PUBLIC TRUST

a presentation by Ethics San Mateo





# INTRODUCTION

- What is Ethics San Mateo

*Our mission is to lead and support efforts by the residents of San Mateo to ensure our city is served by our elected and appointed officials according to the highest level of ethics standards and behavior.*

- We are presenting the following in a collaborative spirit, with the goal of assisting our city leadership in establishing procedures to ensure integrity and truth at all levels of government.
- Regardless of the events that have brought us here, our goal going forward is to work together to reach a common standard of ethics that will form a roadmap to promote integrity in government for the future.



# Our Focus Tonight

To ask the City to establish clear and comprehensive standards for:

- Ethical behavior and conduct,
- Methods to support, monitor and enforce,
- For City Council, Commissions, and Boards.



# Recommendations for City Council and Staff

- Research and review the City's current rules and standards regarding ethical standards and behavior.
- Study what other cities in California have done to establish, monitor and enforce ethical standards and behavior.
- Determine which models are considered the most successful in standards setting, compliance monitoring and enforcement methods.
- Recommend which model would work most effectively for the City of San Mateo.
- Research and recommend an outside organization to assist in developing standards and enforcement methods.
- Meanwhile, resolve to enforce the current rules and conduct city business according to the highest level of ethical behavior.
- City Council approve recommended Ethical Standards for implementation across all levels of City Government, including City Council, Commissions, and Boards.



# Roadmap

- Designate a member of the City Staff to oversee and manage the efforts.
- Use the City's Internship Program to engage a graduate student or advanced undergraduate in a relevant field to do the work.
  - Study what other cities in California have done to establish, monitor and enforce ethical standards and behavior.
  - Research the history of the city's ordinances, rules and standards regarding ethical conduct.
  - Recommend which cities programs are considered successful, as well as the definition of success, in determining standards, monitoring and enforcement methods.
  - Research and recommend a consulting organization specializing in government ethics to assist in developing standards and enforcement methods.



# Resources

A brief search on the web results in some great starting points:

- California's Institute of Local Government ([www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org))

*“ILG empowers local government leaders and delivers real-world expertise to help them navigate complex issues, increase their capacity, and build trust in their communities.”*

- Markkula Center for Applied Ethics – Santa Clara University (<https://www.santaclaraca.gov/our-city/government/governance/ethics-values/code-of-ethics-values>)

*“The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics explores Government Ethics issues including campaign ethics, conflicts of interest, gifts to officials, transparency, budgeting, and other topics.”*

*NOTE: City of Santa Clara engaged this center to develop their comprehensive Ethics Program*



# Resources

## Examples of Ethics Codes across California:

- City of Carlsbad Code of Ethics
- Town of Los Gatos Code of Conduct
- City of Firebaugh: Personal Code of Conduct/Ethics
- City of Mountain View: Council Code of Conduct
- City of Santa Clara: Code of Ethics and Values
- City of Sunnyvale: Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials
- City of Belmont: Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials
- City of Brea: Code of Conduct for City Council
- City of Oceanside: Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials
- City of Alameda: City Council Handbook and Code of Conduct
- City of Huntington Beach: Code of Ethics
- City of West Hollywood: Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials
- City of El Cajon: Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials
- City of Bell: Personal Code of Conduct for Members of the City Council
- City of Saratoga: Code of Ethics and Values
- City of Irvine: Code of Ethics
- City of Riverside: Code of Ethics and Conduct

These are listed at [www.ca-ilg.org/post/sample-codes-ethics-and-conduct](http://www.ca-ilg.org/post/sample-codes-ethics-and-conduct)



# Suggested Timeline

- PHASE ONE: Initial Research – 3 Months
- PHASE TWO: Development of Ethics Standards and Codes – 6 Months
- PHASE THREE: Discussion and Adoption of Final Ethics Standards and Codes - 3 Months



# Next Steps

- Decide whether to initiate the project.
- Commit to moving forward with Staff recommendations if they are found to likely to succeed.
- Should this not go forward, enforce the current Code of Conduct, add enforceable consequences and commit to perform city business according to the highest levels of ethical behavior.



THANK YOU!

Now is the time to reassert your commitment to serving the  
residents of San Mateo in

**THE SAN MATEO WAY!**