

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS II
Office of the City Clerk

City Council of the City of Napa
Regular Meeting

April 7, 2020

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPA:

AFTERNOON SESSION:

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (all items were read into the record):

- Email received from Michael Sobelman on April 3, 2020.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (all items were read into the record):

5.A. Proclamation of Local Emergency to Respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Email received from Amy Martenson on April 7, 2020.

City Council Meeting
4/7/2020
Supplemental II - 3. Public Comment
From: Michael Sobelman

From: [Michael Sobelman](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: E-Mail to City Council to Be Read at the April 17, 2020 Meeting
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:28:11 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Please read and refer to my March 17th e-mail requesting where Mary Luross, Liz Alessio, and the five City Council Candidates live on the four maps that have been prepared for the Public Hearings.

In your e-mail on April 2nd, you still did not indicate where these seven people reside. I do not need to know the exact addresses, just a general flag or point where they reside will do.

Since I am a Candidate for City Council, I have a right to know if I will be on the Ballot or not based on where I live. To be on the Ballot, I obviously must not live in a District where Mary or Liz reside.

I have spoken at the Podium many times this year requesting that information to be placed on the Maps.

Please have these seven people listed on the four Maps in time for the April 17th Meeting. This gives you 14 days to accomplish this.

I will be anxiously watching the meeting on Channel 28 to see if my multiple requests have come to fruition.

Thank you.

*Mike "Sobe" Sobelman
FPPC ID #1424495*

From: [Michael Sobelman](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Hearings
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:48:24 PM

[EXTERNAL]

Thank you Esteemed City Council Members for cancelling the March 27th Public Hearings due to the threat of Coronavirus. I would urge you to cancel the remaining Public Hearings through April as well.

I say this to give you a legal out for proceeding with Districting versus At Large Elections for our City. I know you really did not want to pass the Resolution in the first place, but the law firm representing the Latino Community was holding the threat of a lawsuit over your heads like an "anvil" in the Roadrunner Cartoons.

If these Public Hearings for the purpose of "mapping" cannot continue through April, you will use up your "90 day window" to accomplish this. Now is the time to pass a "revised resolution" to go back to an At Large Election. No Judge would rule against you if the law firm representing the Latinos were to file suit, since you cannot meet the 90 day deadline due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Now is your chance to "right the ship".

Now let's talk about the four maps you posted you posted several days ago. When I spoke at the podium on March 4th, I specially asked you to plot where Councilwomen Alessio and Lueros live in addition to where the five City Council Candidates live. You did not do this. Every time I have spoken at the podium I have asked you to do this.

The two Latino candidates do not have to worry, nor speak at the podium because they are represented by the law firm just waiting to sue you if they are not on the ballot in a district without a current councilperson not up for re-election. Where are my rights and the rights of the other two Caucasians running for the Council?

I am thinking it is getting to the point where I should retain Legal Counsel which I really do not want to do. I love this down, and I love living here. That's why I am running for City Council in addition to my 50 years of Leadership Experience in the healthcare and business community; therefore, I am asking you one more time to place me in a District that Mary and Liz do not live in, or go ack to an election At Large.

I have a right to run for city office as an American Citizen, just as every Latino has the right to vote. In America, one person one vote.

Finally, I will leave you with one more piece of information. My FPPC Number is: 1424495.

I hope to here from you soon.

Thank you.

Mike "Sobe" Sobelman

Michael Sobelman



**City Council Meeting
4/7/2020
Supplemental II - 5.A.
From: Amy Martenson**

From: Amy Martenson

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 2:01 PM

To: Tiffany Carranza <tcarranza@cityofnapa.org>

Cc: Scott Rafferty [REDACTED] Gary Orton [REDACTED] Devra Dallman

<[REDACTED]> Chris Malan <[REDACTED]> Beth Nelsen

<ebethnelsen@gmail.com>; Val Wolf [REDACTED]

Subject: COMMENT TO COUNCIL- PLEASE READ (during item 5A today)-- Corrected

[EXTERNAL]

Good afternoon, Napa City Council.

I want to thank you for your commitment to finishing the process of shifting to district elections in time for the presidential election.

I also want to take a moment to thank city staff who have been conducting the organizational and outreach efforts— putting together the flyer with the dates of the various public hearings, packets of information for each meeting, and headsets for the simultaneous translation, organizing the community workshop, posting information online, and fielding emails. If anyone should have been upset by the compressed timeline it is city staff; yet in all of my interactions with them they have been positive, friendly, and gracious. They are true professionals, and I am sure you are very proud of them.

There is a concern, however, as Scott Rafferty mentioned at the last meeting, about the sequence proposed by city staff, as it clearly has the effect of benefitting incumbents over Latino voters. As he mentioned, it is important that the demographer review the sequence and propose a new one based on objective data and in line with the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act.

While I have appreciated the demographer's commitment to not knowing where incumbents live, city staff know where incumbents live, and they work for the city council. Asking them to create the sequence is a conflict of interest and puts them in an untenable position. Please take them out of the middle of this highly political process.

Finally, the issue of the sequence makes clear why a citizens' redistricting commission should be put in place with its members chosen by a neutral body or person, such as a retired judge, in time for redistricting after the decennial census. In the meantime, the demographer should act as that neutral person, again both in terms of a map recommendation as well as its corresponding election sequence.

Thank you.

Amy Martenson