

**From:** van der Ryn, Julia <julia.vanderryn@dominican.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 4, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>  
**Subject:** public comment for Oct 4 city council re: resident engagement

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Having overseen service-learning at Dominican for 17 years, I have seen and experienced the importance of centering community knowledge and of making the (ongoing) paradigm shift to co-design and co-production. Participating in the Voces of Canal two year project 2012-2014, taught me so many important lessons that continue to inform curriculum and program design on campus and the way we frame community engagement for faculty and students. People whose voices are not traditionally included in policy level decisions are crucial to making sustainable and authentic changes that increase well-being for everyone. I want to congratulate the City of San Rafael in taking these important steps to proactively engage more residents and create more pathways for inclusion and working together to create a better quality of life for all residents. I can testify to the many strengths and assets present in the local community, especially the canal community from whom we all have so much to learn. I have been privileged, especially in the past year and a half, to co-create programming with canal stakeholders. Many of our students also come from similar backgrounds and being able to engage, learn from and with, contribute to community interests continues to be a crucial aspect of their education. The From--To list in Appendix A really resonates with me and illustrates the important shift we have made at Dominican in the way that we engage and collaborate with our students, community partners, and residents.

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Julia van der Ryn (she, her hers)

Executive Director, [Center for Community Engagement](#) and [Service-Learning \(Service-Learning Google Site\)](#)

Assist. Prof. [Social Justice](#)/advisor for minor [Community Action and Social Change](#), Dept. of Public Affairs  
Dominican University of California

50 Acacia Avenue

San Rafael, California 94901

Office: Guzman 102

***"I tell my students . . . just remember that your real job is that if you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else."*** — Toni Morrison