

From: Responsible Growth Marin <info@rgmarin.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:59 AM

To: Mayor Kate <kate.colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; Rachel Kertz <rachel.kertz@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maribeth Bushey <maribeth.bushey@cityofsanrafael.org>; Eli Hill <eli.hill@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maika Llorens Gulati <maika@cityofsanrafael.org>; Lindsay Lara <lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org>

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Subject: Proposed changes to City Boards, Committees & Commissions (BCCs)

For Public Record

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

I will not be able to attend tonight's City Council meeting therefore I am writing to share my questions and comments so hopefully there will be some discussion regarding the points raised and this email is entered into the public record.

The City Council on 6/6/22 changed the composition of the BPAC (bicycle & pedestrian advisory committee), reducing voting membership from 9 to 5, and the Parks & Recreation(P&R) Commission, reducing voting membership from 7 to 5 voting members. The rationale was "to have uniformity among City advisory committees, improve efficiencies in meetings, and have inclusivity of experiences in our members, while remaining manageable".

The City Council also deleted the P&R Commission's authority to review P&R budget and made several changes to the San Rafael Code regarding composition of the Planning Commission, set term limits, and allowed the City Council to set eligibility requirements, quorum, meeting frequency, and compensation.

At this week's meeting the Council will continue this process with the 5-member Library Board of Trustees (allows compensation, sets term limits, removes budget review authority), Design Review Board (deletes code provisions on membership, term of office, removal or vacancy of membership, meetings, quorum, and compensation and allow City Council to decide this by resolution; sets term limits), and Fire Commission (similar changes).

While I totally support consistency and efficiencies across San Rafael Boards, Committees & Commissions, I don't understand the rationale to decrease the autonomy and decision-making responsibility. One must wonder, isn't it dangerous and antidemocratic to consolidate almost all power in the hands of the City Council? Also, I question whether eliminating the quorum requirement would allow by-passing Brown Act regulations?

I plan to see the video so if you are unable to answer my questions in tonight's meeting, please send me a written response.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,
Grace Geraghty
Terra Linda Resident - 36 years