

CORRESPONDENCE

Jomsky, Mark

From: Richard McDonald <rmcdonald@hrbc.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 5:45 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill; district1; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; McAustin, Margaret; Masuda, Gene; Tornek, Terry
Cc: Beck, Michael; Bagneris, Michele; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Governance Issues

Dear Mayor Bogaard, Vice-Mayor Robinson, and Honorable Members of the City Council --

Given the large amount of work you have before you tonight, I thought it best simply to write, rather than appear, to offer a suggestion that I hope will make your lives easier.

In particular, towards the end of the 20th Century, the then City Council decided to establish a Charter Reform Task Force to discuss in an open forum how best to govern the City. The answers they divined have worked well.

Since then, however, there have been many changes in the City, most of which have resulted in more demands on your time. For example, the formation of the property based improvement districts, the development of the Gold Line and its impact on development, the use of electronic media, the growth of the Central Business District, the cost of campaigning, legal changes to campaign finance reform laws, etc., have all resulted in a City where its Councilmembers must devote much more time to governing than previously imagined or believed by many of us. So much so, that many people believe that anyone interested in running for Council must be retired.

Therefore, as we approach the second half of the second decade in the 21st Century, out of fairness to you and the residents of our City, I wanted to suggest that you form another task force to consider some of these questions:

1. Should Councilmembers continue to be part-time? If so, is seven the correct number and is the balance between the demands of the job and the compensation and resources provided for it appropriate?
2. Should the Mayor continue to be part-time? Or, does it make sense to have a full-time Mayor?
3. Should elections continue to be every two years with rotating districts or all at once to minimize the amount of time spent campaigning?
4. Should some Councilmembers have to give up their seat to run for Mayor while others do not? Or, should the timing of the Mayor's election be adjusted?
5. Should there be a limit on the number of terms that a person can serve?
6. Does the current commission structure help the Council implements the City's policies in the most efficient and open manner?

I do not know the answers to any of these questions. But, in watching all of you work so hard for so long, I do believe that it is time to ask them.

Thank you. I hope you do not have a late evening.

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Jomsky, Mark

From: Patrick Cahalan <cahalan.patrick@pusd.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Cc: Elizabeth Pomeroy
Subject: Charter Reform Task Force

Mr. Jomsky:

I am writing to express support for the City Council's decision to empower you to form a Charter Reform Task Force, as reported here (http://www.pasadenaweekly.com/cms/story/detail/balancing_the_books/14637/).

As a member of the Board of Education, I thought it was important to weigh in on the affects of the charter on non-Pasadena residents, as the Board of Education is chartered via the Pasadena City Charter, but PUSD boundaries as you know extend to include Altadena, Sierra Madre, and unincorporated areas of the County.

I encourage the City Clerk's office to seek representation from the communities of Sierra Madre and Altadena in the Charter Reform Task Force, particularly as its decisions pertain to PUSD.

Sincerely,

--

Patrick Cahalan
Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education
Trustee Area 4