

## Bonnie Bush

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**From:** Garrett <garrettphilipp@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 4:25 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** 1.24.23 Agenda Item # 21 Commission appointments

### 1.24.23 Agenda Item # 21 Commission appointments

Dear Council,

The Mayors comments about how commissioners will be appointed last meeting greatly alarmed me as well as this resulting agenda item.

He suggested that many commission vacancies would be appointed by mostly himself and just one or two district members if I heard right. While perhaps there will be 7 commissioners eventually to appoint for each commission, but for quite a while the other council members, AND ALL THEIR ENTIRE PUBLIC WHO VOTED FOR THEM will not have representation in this process, period, and that fact and others are not considered for no good reason.

The reasons given in the last meeting were as follows:

- 1) Commissioners and council get paid nothing or very little. Not exactly a reason by any stretch.
- 2) The county does it this way. I can't recall how many, many times I've explained that if some other authority does something, IT IS NEVER, EVER, NEVER , EVER a reason in itself do anything. Never. There may be factors that make it a good thing for them, and not for us, and you represent the people of Santa Cruz not the county (anymore).
- 3) You want commissions to represent "your team" to council members. Considering how long this takes and many council members will be gone and not aligned with commissions, this is a farce and a power grab. One commission appointment doesn't make any commission "your team" anyway.

The case is not made why the current system is inferior (it is not).

It ignores the reality that 7 minds are better than one, the entire reason for a council as regards nominations (many districts can't nominate for a very long time).

District elections are as close as we can be to a democratic republic that respects both majority opinion with equal population districts and different regional interests. District representation is therefore complete and the current process is one of a democratic republic.

This one is not for a very long time.

I suspect this is motivated by a desire to placate some in the Hispanic community who claims they are “under-represented and under-served”. In reality, they ARE represented by whoever is elected, but don’t like whoever that is and essentially have a problem with the government or process although they don’t exactly say what that is except representatives aren’t “like them”. In reality, we went to district elections which should have removed any concerns they have. It didn’t for any good reason. They are also not underserved. They receive huge amounts of privilege in CDBG grants, welfare and special attention. “under-represented and under-served” is a bogus phrase.

I would point this is like throwing an appeasement bone to a dog, but taking away the meal bowl for them but also for every single Santa Cruz resident in regards to commission appointments and representation for a very long time.

This is then a premature at best (better to wait until 2024, or really just an awful idea). If which district gets which appointment is at the Mayors discretion, **this is a power grab from the people by the Mayor.**

In the past, all council members were “equal” in that they were elected at large. They were then interchangeable also in regards to sub-committees and inter-governmental appointments, as the entire public elected them all.

This also will be a problem then with district elected council members appointments to committees and agencies, something you should think about addressing instead of this wrong way defective commission appointment idea.

Perhaps you could explain this to the Hispanic community our current system is a functional under American law.

I also don’t think the Hispanic community that has a long term problem. It’s the leftist political authority seeking parts of it that can’t accept defeat and like Trump want to blame someone or something else besides a failed campaign and are using race baiting tactics of the far left.

This idea is flaming do-do on a stick if I interpret it as presented.

I personally think the fortunes of the Hispanic community will continuously improve as the Hispanic community already has higher average incomes than some other minorities. I maintain this opinion because Hispanic culture has so many features easily assimilated into European Christian-Judeo culture such as faith, a hard work ethic, a strong family ethic, etc, and their cultures are widely accepted here. They are momentarily held back by a pervasive lack of skill mostly in English, and average incomes suffer from an endless onslaught of illegal immigration of those in poverty, but these will disappear in time after some residency even if it takes a generation.

I urge a NO VOTE.

Garrett Philipp - Westside

## Bonnie Bush

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**From:** eric grodberg <ericgrodberg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 11:01 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Commission Appointments - Item 21

Dear City Council Members,

I oppose the proposed changes to City Commission appointment system.

Though there's some merit in giving each Council Member his/her own Commissioner appointment, the current proposal gives the Mayor a greatly disproportionate number of Commission appointments.

City Commissions, though nominally advisory to Council, often make important decisions that determine City policy and development. Commission decisions have real on-the-ground effects on the community.

When the voters approved Council District Elections, we approved a **Weak Mayor / City Manager** form of government. We were repeatedly told that the **Mayor would have no greater power on Council than any other Council Member**. This proposal would give the Mayor significantly more power than other Council Members and goes against the expectations of the citizens when they voted for District Elections.

If Commissioner selection needs to go through a transition period while District Elections are fully implemented, those Commissioners should be voted on by the Council as a whole, not selected by the Mayor alone.

Please modify the current proposal to reflect the will of the voters and eliminate the disproportionate appointment power of the Mayor from the current proposal.

Regards,

-Eric Grodberg

## Bonnie Bush

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**From:** Bonnie Bush  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** Dillon Paige; City Council; fkeeley@ciyofsantacruz.com  
**Subject:** RE: Appointment to commissions - item 21

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email. I wanted to reach out to try and better explain the process.

This is a multi-year system as our Council won't be fully district-represented until after the November 2024 election. Between now and then, this process set forth by the Mayor will ensure that 1) no current Commissioner/Member's term will be terminated early and 2) there is no lapse in members on any board. By January 2025, all 7 members of the City Council will have directly nominated someone on each of the commissions that are listed below. Since Mayor Keeley will get first pick, yes, he will directly nominate 7 commissioners, as each of the below has at least one opening. For boards with 2 openings, Mayor Keeley will nominate someone first, then Councilmember Newsome will nominate someone. If Councilmember Newsome and Vice Mayor Golder aren't scheduled to nominate someone this year, they will get first and second pick next year. I hope that clears up any confusion.

Arts Commission  
Downtown Commission  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Planning Commission  
Transportation and Public Works Commission  
Water Commission

*Bonnie Bush, CMC*

City Clerk  
City of Santa Cruz  
831-420-5035

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**From:** Dillon Paige <dllnpaige@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 10:40 AM  
**To:** City Council <citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com>; fkeeley@ciyofsantacruz.com  
**Subject:** Appointment to commissions - item 21

Dear Mayor Keeley and City Council Members

I have read the proposed new procedures for transitioning city commission vacancies to districts. It makes sense to me (as was explained at the end of the previous city council meeting) given that council members do not have assigned staff, that district council members should be able to make appointments on a rotating basis in order to build a team and work more closely with their appointed commissioners. However, I don't feel the mayor should play a part in the appointment process.

When the switch to a 4-year mayor was proposed and campaigned for, it was stated repeatedly that this would be a weak mayor system, that other than setting the agenda, the mayor would have no more power than the other city council members. The district rationale applied to the appointment of commissioners does not apply to the mayor, as the mayor works with the whole city, and it would be preferable that the mayor remain neutral in this process.

As I look at the Table of Commissions, it would appear that under this newly proposed interim process, this year the mayor would get 7 appointments, district 4 would get 5, and district 6 would only get 1. How is this fair? Both district 4 and district 6 have newly-elected district council members.

I would like to suggest that a more fair system would be that the mayor not make any appointments, and that any appointments being made this year be evenly divided between district 4 and district 6. The mayor can vote with the rest of the council on any proposed appointments to the commissions, and the majority council vote would prevail. That way the mayor would not have an outsized influence on these commission appointments, which would more clearly represent district interests.

Sincerely,  
Dillon Paige