

February 18, 2018

Members of: Santa Rosa City Council

Kevin McCallum's detailed article in today's Press Democrat was a real eye opener. I try to pay attention to City Council actions, yet missed this!

We have thousands of displaced residents in Sonoma County and our City Council has to deal with, in my opinion, these misplaced accusations from a Malibu based attorney?

If this Mr. Shenkman lived in Santa Rosa he would know that Mr. Olivares and Ms. Bafieulo ran well funded and well organized campaigns. They demonstrated their commitment in debates and mailers. I would like to suggest that Ms. Bafieulo lost because she was in elections with too many qualified candidates and not enough available seats.

The City Attorney might be right. Perhaps things need to change, but not now. Our county is in the middle of a major crisis.

Since the fires, thousands of our county residents are trying to piece together their future, while living day to day. Students have had to relocate, parents adapt to changing living conditions, on a perhaps daily basis! I am not sure how many have the time to provide the City Council with viable options to develop boundaries to "ensure fair elections." Seems like voter turnout has more impact on election outcome.

Our city focus needs to be on helping people displaced by the fires. Apparently some insurance companies will pay some people to be in a hotel or rental, for two years. Then what? According to the paper many people are trying to decide whether to rebuild. Zones might change. How can we proceed with electoral maps without knowing what burnt areas will look like and whom will live there?

Emotionally, everyone needs time to continue to process the emotional trauma caused by the fires. We need to focus on helping one another, not creating boundaries. Our community needs our currently elected and experienced School Board members and City Council members to represent us at this time. We should be in charge of our own timeline, not bowing to external pressures.

Listening to our candidates for County Sheriff supports my belief that the strength of a person's character is not defined by where they live, but in their thoughts, words and deeds.

I would like the City Council to rescind the current electoral map timeline. Allow City Staff to meet the needs of our fire victims both residential/ businesses and our homeless, while trying to balance budgets! That is enough!

Set the goal of boundaries for later.

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