

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Serving 12,000 coastal residents

Post Office Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

<http://mcc.sanmateo.org>

Council Members

Chair

Leonard Woren
726-9647

Vice-Chair

Kathryn Slater-Carter
728-5449

Secretary

Neil Merrilees
728-3813

Treasurer

Deborah Lardle
415-864-0770

Gael Erickson
726-4416

(vacancy)

(vacancy)

January 17, 2009

Honorable Supervisors,

We are writing to express our disappointment and concern that the two highly qualified applicants for the vacant seats on the Midcoast Community Council have not been seated four months after they were referred for approval. We request that the Board appoint both applicants. We oppose the proposed resolution that would limit the opportunity of elected directors of other agencies to serve on the MCC. Our request and opposition is based on the following, which we hope the Supervisors will carefully consider in making their decisions.

Compliance and enforcement of such a resolution could be complicated. Does someone become eligible if the board no longer includes elected members? Does the board no longer include elected members if one resigns and the seat is open for appointment? Would this inherently discourage community members from becoming involved in self-government?

Service on the MCC is frequently the initial experience by members of the community in local government. The concurrent service by experienced members of the community, sometimes those who serve on other boards, is invaluable. To deny the MCC the wisdom and knowledge of these individuals would hamper the effectiveness of the MCC in communicating and advising within a complicated governmental agency.

The MCC was pleased to have two such qualified applicants come forward. Numerous members of the community spoke on behalf of Ric Lohman at the January 14th meeting, recalling his many years of public service, his successful election to the Council in the past, and integrity. Many requested that he be allowed to serve on the Council. Mr. Lohman has stated that it is his intention to fill the seat until the next election, at which time he does not intend to run for office. The MCC has a need for the leadership his presence would provide, even for a few months. There is no substantive reason to decline to appoint him and to do so would be a disservice to the community.

The staff report on this matter refers to vision alignment and a goal of civic engagement in the form of public service and volunteerism. It also refers to a goal of effective government. To pursue a resolution that would inhibit community involvement, when it is needed the most, is contrary to this goal. To deny appointing a dedicated public servant to a position the community elected him to in the past, which he is obviously well qualified for, is also contrary to this goal.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors appoint both applicants to the temporary seats on the MCC. We also request that the Supervisors decline to pursue a resolution that would limit community participation and effective government in our coastside community.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

On behalf of the Council,

Sincerely,



redacted for website

Leonard Woren
Chair, Midcoast Community Council

(via email and fax)