

**From:** [Serge Bonte](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** 1/5/2023 Meeting: Agenda Item 4.1  
**Date:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 3:09:29 PM

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Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

The staff report clearly shows which option to choose.

A special election is obscenely costly and would not provide a seventh council member until at best late August 2023 (for what would be only a one year (and change) term).

I am writing in support of the alternative choice, to appoint a seventh member following the process and timeline suggested in the staff report.

That process is similar to the many appointments the city council routinely makes. I trust that many competent candidates will apply and I trust your judgement to pick the best out of the pool.

I've heard rumors that a number of former council members are considering applying. Since all the ones rumored were opposed to Rent Stabilization, I would suggest adding a question for the candidates on whether they would respect the will of the voters (who voted not once by twice in support).

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte  
Mountain View

**From:** [Leslie-Anne Bain](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Agenda Item 4.1 for Jan 5 2023 - Options for Filling a Council Vacancy that respect the right of voters to choose their elected leaders  
**Date:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 4:12:26 PM

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**CAUTION:** EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear MV City Council Members,

Under a functioning democracy, leaders don't have to resign because they are confused about matters of CONFLICT OF INTEREST. We are in this position because of Sally Lieber. The actual details of what that conflict of interest actually is has not been reported. Why on earth not? Doesn't the public have the right to know?

“@LongResident, where did you learn that the telecom equipment in question is owned by Google? Do you have a link?

So now I'm starting to suss out what the conflict of interest might be ... since Google HQ is in MV, apparently City Council views them as an entity for whom they must "fight for", apparently including lowering their tax burdens?

But as a member of the SBE, Lieber has a responsibility to ensure that imposed taxes are fair for everyone. And since she can't do both at the same time, it creates a conflict ... Have City Council members been fighting to lower tax burdens for Google? Have all of them been doing it, or just Lieber?” - [Web Link](#)

Under a functioning democracy, the City Council would be fighting for what is best for RESIDENTS, not what is best for Google. Do I really have to say that out loud?

Under a functioning democracy, voters have the RIGHT to cast a vote for their preferred candidate.

To call Li Zhang's finish a "distant 4th" and a "rejection by voters" is nothing but subjective spin-meistering by those who object to her willingness to fight for "quality of life" issues that RESIDENTS care about. Clearly she earned more votes than ANY OTHER POTENTIAL candidate for the opening that now exists. Some call Zhang a "loser", yet they think that some candidate who received ZERO VOTES in November is more qualified than her? Talk about new math ... how does ZERO VOTES make someone a viable candidate, but Zhang's highly-respectable-for-a-newcomer 4th place finish make her a “loser”.

I cannot say this more strongly: If the Council chooses to appoint some candidate other than Zhang instead of choosing to hold a special election, they will be subverting democracy itself. She would be the favored candidate if an election was held. If you don't want to appoint the 4th place finisher from November, then clearly the only other alternative with any integrity would be to hold a special election, so that the RIGHT of voters to choose their elected leaders is not subverted. To those who say that the \$\$\$ required for a special election could be better spent elsewhere, I have to ask what project is more worthwhile than preserving the right of

voters to choose their leaders? A pedestrian mall?

If the Council appoints someone other than Zhang to fill the open City Council seat, crowing about how MV is a model democracy for others to follow is nothing but rank hypocrisy.

Sincerely,  
Leslie-Anne Bain  
Resident of MV since 1984