

From: [Serge Bonte](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: re: Agenda Item 4.7 Consent Calendar Potential Transient Occupancy Tax Revenue Ballot Measure for 2022 Election
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 8:41:45 PM

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

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

I noticed a trend in having more and more consequential items on the Consent Calendar.

While I appreciate none of you wants council meetings going past your bedtime (even if run from the comfort of your home), putting items on the consent calendar deprives the community from a healthy public discussion and from knowing where you stand on a given policy.

This is particularly true for this item, I can't imagine one instance where Council would commit up to 120,000 to flesh out a tax measure WITHOUT public discussion on the needs, parameters and timing of a potential tax measure.

Reading the staff report, the main reason for the tax increase seems to be : because the City can and because it could provide more money -someday, maybe-. Notwithstanding the fact that the City coffers are flush, that the City has been the beneficiary of many waves of federal funds, that the State has a record surplus that it will be forced to spend and that the City is still not fully collecting TOT on short term rentals (airbnb, corporate stay buildings like homewood...

Regardless, this item should not be on the Consent Calendar but be a new business item to allow for a robust public discussion of the needs , merits and demerits of that tax increase.

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte
[REDACTED] Mountain View