

CC Mtg 3/7/2017

Robert Dickerson

[REDACTED]
Santa Maria, CA 93454

March 7, 2016

2017

Re: City Council – March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting
Agenda Item 5. Formation of Districts for District-Based Elections

Madame Mayor Patino and Councilmembers,

With the February 21, 2017 3-2 vote by the City Council to begin the process of dividing the City into districts in anticipation of district-based elections in 2018, numerous decisions will need to be contemplated and considered. In that regard, I wish to express my strong view on one particular element of those considerations.

It is my belief that while the City divides the City Council seats into districts, the office of Mayor should remain an at-large seat voted on by the entirety of the City electorate.

I do understand that there are numerous alternate possible permutations for the Mayor's seat. However, my wish to see an at-large seat stems from the concerns that I, and many other, have that this division of the City into districts has the possible unintended consequence of creating an overly parochial set of views by individual Council members for their specific districts. I believe an at-large elected Mayor may be able to mitigate those views to some extent by having one City Council seat that is beholden to the entirety of the City electorate.

The time for discussion of the forced imposition of districting is over. As a community we must now do what we can to ensure that we will maintain good and well thought out governance in the future. I believe that an at-large Mayoral seat by the entirety of the electorate is a necessary part of that good governance.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Robert Dickerson