

**From:** Gloria Mattson-Huerta [mailto:fnphuerta@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 09, 2017 11:26 AM

**To:** Bailey, Rusty <RBailey@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>; Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>; Geuss, Gary <GGeuss@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Melendrez, Andy <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; Hansen, Robert <RHansen@riversideca.gov>

**Cc:** Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>; Russo, John A. <jrusso@riversideca.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Ward 7 Vacancy - Item 39 on City Council Agenda for August 8 - Kudos, Concerns and Criticisms

Dear City Leaders:

I am a resident of Ward 7 and while I was not able to attend the City Council meeting in person last night (August 8), I was able to listen to the robust discussion on Item 39. I have attached my comments and concerns to this email and have also shared them below.

I want to thank you for taking the expeditious action to open the position for applications and consideration of appointment of a qualified candidate if one is identified at the end of the transparent interview process. Compliance with the City Charter that was approved by the voters of the City of Riverside is very important. Leaving the Ward 7 seat open for months is not the right option and I appreciate the plan to move forward with a process of interviewing applicants. We need a representative and we need the City Council to make an appointment by following the Charter.

My concern is that City Council members who are not residents of Ward 7 appear to have made a decision that they know better what is best for our Ward than the residents do when it comes to elections and the democratic process. Several of you expressed concerns about outside influences contacting you about our Ward and that your desire was that outside pressure would not determine who was selected. Yet each one of you are “outsiders” of Ward 7 and you made a decision that significantly impacts and influences the future leadership of our Ward and the possible outcome of the 2019 election.

Section 2.78.050 B of the Riverside Municipal Code lists the core value of striving “to make decisions that are unbiased, fair and honest “while Section 2.78.050 C emphasizes “that everyone is treated with respect and in a just, fair manner.” Further Section 2.78.050 E reminds us that our Council will “strive to ensure that all public decisions are well informed, independent, and in the best interests of the City of Riverside.” I believe that a portion of your action last night conforms with these core values 100%. However, how can City Council members believe or support the decision to prohibit a successful appointee from running for election and state that this is in the best interest of the City or even partially complies with these Core Values that are the ethical underpinning for City government? The addition of the prohibition is certainly not in the best interest of Ward 7.

The amendment of the motion to include this provision said to me, and possibly to other residents of Ward 7, that the current sitting City Council members do not believe that the voters in Ward 7 are intelligent enough or perceptive enough to research candidates and vote for the best Council person to represent our Ward in 2019. Shame on you.

With this action, the City Council has ensured that Ward 7 will not have consistency in our representation. Your actions will mean that Ward 7 has been represented by four different individuals in four years (2015 to 2019). How is that good for the City or good for Ward 7? The incumbent appointee will need months (if not the entire remaining time of the term) to become proficient in the role of a council person and the diverse needs of our ward. It takes time for an individual to become educated on processes, practices and needs, not to mention to begin to understand financial statements, build liaisons and become skilled in the art of negotiation for a greater good.

The action of the City Council in prohibiting a potentially qualified candidate appointed by the Council to seek the elected office means that this incumbent will have been relegated to the role a lame duck with little power or clout to lead and direct changes that are important for the Ward or the City. The important influence and respect that an individual would gain on the Council and in the committees that do some of the work of the City would most likely be negated by the knowledge that they are just an “interim” member – serving as a placeholder.

My criticism includes concern that the decision to not permit a qualified candidate to run for the City Council seat in Ward 7 simply based upon your actions is not democratic and may not serve the residents of Ward 7 and by inference, the City of Riverside. Your intentions to not “influence” the election for Ward 7 by prohibiting a successful appointment from running may be admirable. However, we all know where good intentions can take one. Each City Council member who voted to include that provision in the original motion has already impacted and influenced the outcome of an election for Ward 7. Treating the residents of Ward 7 as second-class citizens and making it seem that we are not wise enough, astute enough, bright enough to know if someone is doing a great job is not an appropriate path to walk and is not in anyone’s best interest.

I would encourage you to rethink, re-debate and re-vote this action soon. Please use the Council’s power delegated to you in the Charter by me and other residents of the City of Riverside to appoint a successor. However, please do not over reach and attempt to tell the residents of Ward 7 that we are not smart enough to see through a smoke screen to elect the best candidate in 2019 to serve the needs of our Ward.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns. Thank you also, for what you do for us in Riverside.

Sincerely,

Gloria Mattson Huerta, DNP, FNP-C, CNS, RN  
Nurse Practitioner  
Clinical Nurse Specialist

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs

4326 Countrydale Road  
Riverside, CA 92505-3469  
August 9, 2017

Riverside City Council and Management  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: Vacancy in Ward 7  
Kudos, Concern and Criticism

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Sincerely,

*Gloria Huerta*

Gloria Mattson Huerta

GMH/gh

**From:** Juno <[lesliec@juno.com](mailto:lesliec@juno.com)>

**Date:** August 25, 2017 at 12:29:06 PM PDT

**To:** <[msoubirous@riversideca.gov](mailto:msoubirous@riversideca.gov)>, <[mgardner@riversideca.gov](mailto:mgardner@riversideca.gov)>, <[ccondor@riversideca.gov](mailto:ccondor@riversideca.gov)>, <[cmacarthur@riversideca.gov](mailto:cmacarthur@riversideca.gov)>, <[jperry@riversideca.gov](mailto:jperry@riversideca.gov)>, <[amelendrez@riversideca.gov](mailto:amelendrez@riversideca.gov)>, <[cnicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:cnicol@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Ward 7 Applicant

Dear All,

My name is Leslie Chandler; I'm a Ward 7 resident and my address is 5384 College Avenue Riverside CA 92505. I attended the meeting Wednesday evening where six of the applicants for Ward 7 were introduced. I feel Dr William Pearce is the best candidate for the position.

Thank you,  
Leslie

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs