

**Maricela Hernandez**

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**From:** Richard Sherman <drrichardsherman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 6, 2023 5:19 PM  
**To:** David Shapiro; Alicia Weintraub; James Bozajian - External; Edward Albrecht; Peter Kraut; Kindon Meik; Maricela Hernandez  
**Subject:** Proposed New Protocol

Dear City Council members,

We read with interest your proposed new protocols for Council members and the Mayor which is to be discussed at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We respect the importance of codifying certain points such as making sure that future agenda items are not “lost” and thus will be brought back in a timely manner.

However, there is an adage that is commonly stated in some form or another, “if it is not broken, don’t fix it”. The residents who watch the Council in action appreciate the seriousness and commitment of the Mayor, the Council members, the City Manager, the staff as well as the spontaneity of their dialogue. The clause that states, “Council members avoid surprising their colleagues or staff” seems unnecessary given the experienced nature of the Council. Residents do not want to watch a pre-rehearsed program. A little spontaneity seems of great value. The questions asked by various Council members from time to time, even if the staff cannot answer them at that moment, may be the same questions that residents are wondering.

These proposed policies could appear to also want to limit the role of the City’s Mayor. Why? Clearly the Mayor is the leader of the City and serves as the primary spokesperson. This should be true whether or not the Mayoral term falls on an election year.

We are part of an Engagement subcommittee for the Communications and Technology Commission. We have been tasked this year to get more residents involved and knowledgeable on what goes on in the City. Since not every resident follows the City on X (formerly Twitter), we are always looking for additional ways for the City to communicate with our residents. We have repeatedly heard from the residents that the Mayor's Weekly Newsletter provides such a vehicle. Some even read it through "Nexdoor". Hopefully there will not be any upcoming emergencies such as the Woolsey Fire or the Pandemic.

Still residents like to know what our Council and especially our Mayor are doing on behalf of the City. In addition to the general issues and accomplishments of the City, each Mayor has specific items and activities that he/she wants to share with the residents. We hope that this format will be able to continue in the future as it currently is. Based on anecdotal comments made by several residents, they read the Newsletter because it is "The Mayor's Newsletter" and would skip it if it were just another email sent out by the City. We believe that the Mayor's Newsletter humanizes and personalizes the City. We want to get more information out, not less.

Please be judicious in making any significant changes to the current protocol. There are many serious issues facing our City such as increased crime and the impact of seriously disturbed transients who congregate near the City Hall/Library complex. Let's focus on issues that truly impact our residents on a daily basis!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brockman and Richard Sherman  
Longtime residents of Calabasas

## Maricela Hernandez

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**From:** CAREY MELCHER <cmpinc@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Maricela Hernandez  
**Subject:** CC Meeting - October 11th - Agenda

Maricela, good afternoon. Please forward this note along to all the CC members as well as to Kindon and Michael R.

I won't be able to make it to the meeting on Wednesday evening. I noticed in the agenda that there would be a discussion regarding the Mayor's Weekly email to all Calabasas residents.

Frankly, I've found the Mayor's Weekly email to be one of the most effective means of communication we have in this City. A summary and summation of current events and issues as well as upcoming events and critical and specific information regarding potential security issues that most of our Calabasas residents will never know if not for this email blast.

I believe that this weekly summation is even more effective than our City Website because it's 'specific' - you don't have to go searching for it. In fact, if anything, the Mayor's Weekly email most likely drives more people to our Website for the more detailed information they glean from the weekly Mayor's email that is of particular interest to them.

As it's developed over these past three years or so, this weekly communication from the Mayor's office is now more important than ever in these uncertain times. It's direct - and it's simple. An inexpensive and elegant form of information communication.

The weekly email may have started during COVID-19 as a way to keep in touch with all of our residents who were housebound and looking for a more direct line of communication with the outside world.

You cannot put a price tag on this informative summation of weekly and future events here in Calabasas. I for one hope that all of our future Mayors take advantage of this weekly email to our Calabasas neighbors.

In advance, thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Carey Melcher

