

Resources:

Agenda: <https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/6323/135>

Proposed changes:

<https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/29379/638379837394572297>

Agenda Report:

<https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/29373/638379837383477060>

Hi,

My name is Moran Nachum and I am a Calabasas resident.

I wanted to reach out because I was a bit concerned about some of the changes proposed by the Protocol Committee that are being voted on during the City Council meeting on Dec 15, 2023.

The first thing that alarmed me is that the Protocol Committee is recommending that the weekly Mayor's Letter be suspended. I only recently subscribed to the letter, but have found it invaluable in terms of keeping up with what's going on around the community. I first read about the opening of LaLa Land Cafe and Hank's Deli via the Mayor's Letter. I also learned of the menorah lighting at the Civic Center and the Calabasas Swim and Tennis Club pool renovations via the Mayor's Letter. If the mayor is not permitted to send out a letter, then I hope that our dedicated City Manager Kindon Meik or one of the other councilmembers can fill in the gap, because it is very much appreciated by me.

As a result of the agenda report, I chose to dive deeper into the contents of the recommendations proposed by the Protocol Committee. The more I read through them, the more I felt that the Protocol Committee is overstepping in some areas. I agree with most of the changes as they relate to the management of city meetings, but some of the new rules appear to be too restrictive on the office of the Mayor to the point where they interfere with the Mayor's duties.

1. One thing that stuck out was the prohibition on the Mayor from delivering the State of the City address during a campaign period. Elsewhere in the protocols, there are already fairly restrictive conditions on what the Mayor can and cannot discuss during the address. To prevent a Mayor from providing the community with a summary of projects, initiatives, and events that transpired over a year just because it overlaps with a campaign period seems too far.
2. Another thing that stuck out to me was the amended language of Item 3 under the Mayor Role section of the document. I understand the need for the Mayor "to faithfully communicate the will of the Council majority in matters of policy", but I worry that the policy may stifle the Mayor's individual voice. Perhaps I'm misreading the item, and please correct me if I am, but my interpretation is that if the Mayor's opinion on a city

matter differs from the Council majority, he/she would not be able to express that opinion. I hope that's not the case because I think it's valuable to have different voices represented and heard as part of our community.

Please consider my comments during your deliberation and provide clarifications if there was any misinterpretation on my part of the recommendations by the Protocol Committee.

Thank you,  
Moran