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Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 11:39 AM

To: SmHousing Mailbox <SmHousing.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>

Subject: public comment item 1 – 5/19/22 meeting of Housing Commission

EXTERNAL

I urge the Commission to delay the selection of Chair until July 2022.

There is no point in selecting a Chair for **ONE** meeting (June) when a new selection of Chair must take place in July after the annual appointments anyway.

The Housing Commission's work has been severely impaired this fiscal year due to multiple political and personal power plays by Mayor Himmelrich and Councilmember Davis, in an attempt to hold on to the control of the Housing Commission by the special interests (SMRR and Santa Monica Forward, respectively).

Last year the Mayor's husband overstayed his welcome on the Commission by about a half a year after the Council made it clear it did not want for immediate family members of Councilmembers to serve on city boards and commissions. The annual Housing commission appointments were delayed for political reasons by a half a year as well. The Council unlawfully "reappointed" to the Commission a lackey for special interests, and upon public outrage the appointment had to be redone. Ms. Marasco was originally appointed to a seat on the Commission she had not applied for.

Recently the Housing Commission's work has been disrupted by a member who is unfit to serve, let alone to be Chair, due to health issues and ethical transgressions. The dysfunction and drama caused by the Commission member in question, aided by the unprofessional and unethical conduct by the staff, was escalated to the Council where time was wasted on discussing an issue that is not even within the purview of the Council. The positive outcome of the City Council meeting was that eventually it was acknowledged and confirmed that the member in question had resigned his position as Chair, and the Vice Chair would run the current meeting where the Commission could decide if it wanted to conduct a selection of the new Chair.

Again, I urge the Commission to put the drama behind today and postpone the selection of the new Chair until July when it must take place anyway following the new annual appointments.

The Commission must get back on track with its important work.

Regards,

Olga Zurawska