

CITY OF VENTURA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

**Supplemental
Information
Packet**

**Public Communications Received by 4 p.m.,
February 1, 2021**

Meeting of February 1, 2021

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available in the City Clerk's Office, 501 Poli Street, Room 204, Ventura, during normal business hours as well as on the City's Website – www.cityofventura.ca.gov
<https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1236/City-Council-Public-Hearing-NoticesSuppl>

AGENDA ITEM 13A

**CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS AND PROCESS TO FILL
VACANCY FOR DISTRICT 4 CITY COUNCIL OFFICE DUE TO
RESIGNATION OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER NASARENKO
UPON BEING APPOINTED
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Anita Mair

13A

From: Danny Coultas
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Council
Subject: -EXT- District 4 candidate

Dear honorable council members,

The council voted to go to district elections to ensure that residents of each district had a say in who their councilmember would be, someone who truly knew the district and would fight for their issues. If the council decides to take that voice away from the residents of District 4 by appointing their own chosen candidate, it would not only be a blatantly political move but it would completely contradict the whole point of going to district elections. Only a special election will ensure that residents of District 4 maintain their much needed voice on the Ventura City Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and hope we can all see the importance of this issue.

Daniel coultas

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Tracy Oehler

From: noreply@cityofventura.ca.gov
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 2:17 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Form

Public Comment Form

Disclosure:

Providing your name/contact information is optional to participate in a Public Meeting. However by providing, it will allow staff to follow-up with you on your item. All emails submitted to any Legislative Body are Public Records. Copies of forms submitted are posted online, with name and contact information redacted. You may only submit one comment form per agenda item. You may submit more than one form per agenda to address additional topics.

Submission Deadlines:

Submit your Comment Form at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled/posted start time of the meeting, as stated on the posted Agenda. If submitting a comment during a meeting, please submit before the Agenda Item concludes, during a Live Meeting, to be considered part of the record. Select the Legislative/Hearing Body below to ensure your comment is emailed to the correct body.

Name	Laurie Rutledge
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Select Legislative/Hearing Body	City Council
Meeting Date	2/1/2021
Select a Topic:	Agenda Item Number/Topic
Agenda Item Number/Topic	13A
Recommendation	Support Recommendation
Written Comments	I support the appointment of a qualified District 4 registered voter and resident to fill the seat vacated by Erik Nasarenko. After an interview process this individual can be appointed. City knowledge, educational and professional background is essential. The cost of a special election is wasteful anytime and especially during the COVID pandemic when so many of our

citizens need additional services. Ashely Bautista would be an excellent choice!

Upload Files

Field not completed.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Rick Messock
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:03 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- City Council Meeting on February 1, 2021, Item 13A

I am writing to express my opinion regarding the selection of a replacement for departing District 4 Council member Eric Nasarenko. I do not endorse or approve or the remaining council members selecting a representative for district 4. I ask that you leave the District 4 council seat vacant and determine to hold a special election for the voters of District 4.

Voting by the people to elect a representative is fundamental to our government. Ventura's at-large elections were discarded a few years ago, so the current council members were not elected by the people of District 4 and do not represent District 4. Consequently, it is inappropriate for the council members who do not represent District 4 to appoint a candidate to represent District 4.

Additionally, the act of appointing a council member confers a significant advantage to that person who may run as incumbent in the next election. This advantage is unearned and goes against our principles of democracy and voting rights.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard K. Messock

Ventura 93004.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Tracy Oehler

From: noreply@cityofventura.ca.gov
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:14 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Online Form Submittal: Public Comment Form

Public Comment Form

Disclosure:

Providing your name/contact information is optional to participate in a Public Meeting. However by providing, it will allow staff to follow-up with you on your item. All emails submitted to any Legislative Body are Public Records. Copies of forms submitted are posted online, with name and contact information redacted. You may only submit one comment form per agenda item. You may submit more than one form per agenda to address additional topics.

Submission Deadlines:

Submit your Comment Form at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled/posted start time of the meeting, as stated on the posted Agenda. If submitting a comment during a meeting, please submit before the Agenda Item concludes, during a Live Meeting, to be considered part of the record. Select the Legislative/Hearing Body below to ensure your comment is emailed to the correct body.

Name	Field not completed.
Address	Field not completed.
Phone Number	Field not completed.
Email Address	Field not completed.
Select Legislative/Hearing Body	City Council
Meeting Date	2/1/2021
Select a Topic:	Agenda Item Number/Topic
Agenda Item Number/Topic	13A
Recommendation	Field not completed.
Written Comments	Please vote to have a special election in November of this year. If you do choose to appoint someone in the interim, please reject any obvious partisans from being appointed. Someone who has non-partisan experience in local government would be ideal for a temporary appointment. Ultimately, the voters of District 4 should have the final say.

From: Penny Pappas
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:18 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Filling the vacant city council seat - I prefer to choose vs. appointing someone.

I do not want this position filled without voter input. In fact, I would like Spencer Noren to fill the position. I would also like to point out that due to lack of integrity in the preceding election, I don't think you actually have "standing". I would like to have the vote audited - 2 of your newly elected members are in fact Social Democrats, a fact which was covered up by saying they were "bipartisan". We the people are not stupid and we are fed up with corruption. I want a new election without Dominion which is fairly overseen by both political parties. Until that happens, we are lost as a democratic republic...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Christine Weidenheimer
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:21 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Item 8A

I don't live in District 4, but I want to voice my opinion that the current vacancy should be filled with an interim appointment. I would feel the same way if the vacancy were in my District. It takes time and money to hold a special election, and the District would be without representation at all until after the election. The City Council should carefully consider the residents' input regarding that appointment. If the decision is made to hold a special election instead of an interim appointment, the residents of District 4 should bear the costs of holding the special election. It would not be right for all City residents to pay for an election when only District 4 voters can participate.

Thank you for looking out for me best interests of the City.

Christine Weidenheimer

Ventura, CA 93094

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Lori Steinhauer
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:41 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Comments for Tonight's meeting - items 13A and 13C

Honorable Mayor Ruhalcava and Honorable City Council Members,

I have the following comments re. tonight's meeting:

13A

I know it is costly to hold an election; however, one of the most important rights we have in our country is our right to vote. While I do not live in District 4, this question before you tonight is both a question for District 4 and a question for citywide democracy. I believe the only way to move forward with choosing a City Council representative for any seat in our city is to let the voters in the district decide. Whether intended or not, I strongly believe that to do otherwise is to avert the purpose for going to districts in our city in the first place and to avert our democracy. I would support cuts in other services if necessary temporarily to assure democracy is protected. Also, perhaps there is a way that an all mail-in ballot election could save money.

13C

I request that you postpone this item other than to grant an extension, so the public and the new Council has time to become familiar with these matters. This includes in-depth discussion on the streamlining framework in the report, such as making the DRC and HPC only recommending bodies. This is a complex and important issue and deserves more review and discussion than time has allowed. There are many issues included in the new Emergency Streamlining Ordinance that will need a great deal of input from all parties including the PC, DRC, HPC and public and a more extensive review is warranted.

Also, when we were first presented this item as a COVID response initiative, it was presented to help small businesses deal with the Covid emergency. The word was that it would streamline simple changes to properties such as changing the color of a door. However, significant sized construction projects - large multi-unit developments - have been included in the streamlined approval process that this ordinance affords. Implementing a far-reaching changes to our planning process and approvals of significant developments - changes that include elements of the Matrix report - should be handled separately and not as part of the emergency ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration tonight and your service day-in and day-out.

Very Gratefully and Respectfully,

Lori

Lori Steinhauer

Ventura, CA 93001

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Morgan Andrew <
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:45 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Tonights meeting

Hello, I would like the zoom info for tonights meeting. I would also like the option to vote for the district 4 chair person and not automatically have the decision made for district 4.

Thank you Morgan Hebert

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Rosie Ornelas <
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Sofia Rubalcava; jschroeder@cityofventura.ca.gov; Lorrie Brown; Jim Friedman; Doug Halter; Mike Johnson
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- District 4 Election

Dear Mayor Rubalcava and Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to ask that you appoint a councilmember to represent District 4. Ventura is not in a financial position to spend money on a special election. The amount of money that it would cost to run a special election for such a short term is money that would be better spent on our streets or paying the salary of a full-time employee. You closed an \$11 million deficit and have already heard that next year will be another difficult year financially. City employees were furloughed for a week. Clearly this is not a time where we can afford to pay for "extras". This is not a necessity. The six of you were voted in to represent the City and whoever is appointed will represent, not just District 4, but all of the residents of the City.

Furthermore, it makes no sense to spend the money on a special election when the term would end in one year.

I am confident that you can hold a fair process and select the candidate who has the most skills and experience to lead our City as a councilmember representing District 4. Do not cave in to special interests that will pour thousands of dollars to get their candidate elected in November to give them the incumbent edge in 2022.

District 4 residents deserve to have a seat at the table and be represented by a councilmember when important issues are being decided between now and November. With the timeline proposed by staff, the appointed person would be in place by the end of this month. An appointment is the preferred method in the Charter, is the fiscally prudent choice, and is the best way to give District 4 residents a voice on the Council as quickly as possible. Please vote to follow the Charter and appoint the most qualified and experienced candidate from District 4.

Thank you,
Rosie Ornelas
26 year Ventura resident

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

AGENDA ITEM 13B

RECEIVE UPDATE ON MATRIX REPORT IMPLEMENTATION

From: Kathy Bremer <
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:42 PM
To: City Clerk; Erik Nasarenko; Alex McIntyre; Sofia Rubalcava; Lorrie Brown; Jim Friedman; Mike Johnson; Joe Schroeder; Doug Halter
Subject: -EXT- February 1, 2021 Agenda items 13A and 13B
Attachments: 2021 02 01 Matrix & Emergency.pdf

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council members,
Sorry to be long-winded, but I am concerned that we are skipping the most important step in implementing Matrix recommendations and the Emergency ordinance.

Sincerely,
Kathy Bremer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

February 1, 2021

Re: Matrix 13B and Emergency ordinance 13C

Dear Mayor Rubalcava, Deputy Mayor Schroeder and Council members,

Although I do not agree with all of the Matrix Report recommendations since some are not responsive to our community in the ways we have some to expect, there are many that do need our attention

All Council members appear to agree that we need to implement the recommendations that were proposed in this report. These recommendations are not however all equal.

Only ONE was given an EXTREMELY HIGH priority rating with a target implementation date of Summer 2020. And yes, COVID upended our plans, but that doesn't change the PRIORITY assigned to this recommendation.

This **EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY** recommendation is for the city to:
(#4) Develop and adopt new objective guidelines that specifically define the design elements that the City desires to regulate.

Unfortunately since this recommendation requires time (250-300 staff hours), it has been relegated to last place. Since it is the **ONLY** recommendation that was flagged **EXTREMELY HIGH priority**, it logically should be among the **FIRST** issues addressed, **NOT** the last one.

Sadly we appear to be in some sort of a race to put projects on the ground without these guidelines in place. Anything worthwhile takes time and this one is critically important to prevent approval of inferior projects.

This recommendation is the foundation of what we approve and build going forward. Without these guidelines to inform development projects, we will get more inappropriate and undesirable projects on the ground that we will be stuck with for the next two generations.

There were a lot of loud voices complaining about the sometimes-arbitrary decisions made by the DRC. This is a problem with a solution in recommendation #4. Rather than remove decision-making authority from the DRC, develop the necessary guidelines to demand quality materials and remove subjectivity.

That said, one size does not fit all and objective guidelines should be responsive to unique areas of our city.

No more than you would build a house without first building a foundation, we should not be approving development projects without having guidelines in place to

ensure that we get compatible, quality projects in our community. We will be looking at them, our children will be looking at them and perhaps our grandchildren will be looking at them. Yes, we've built unsightly or fad-inspired structures in the past, but there is no logical reason to continue to do so.

Let's not sell our community short. We keep hearing how hard it is to build in Ventura, but all that difficulty certainly hasn't always gotten us better projects. Often our lack of guidelines or fluctuating priorities caused just the opposite to occur. A project would get final approval not because it was improved, but because City Council felt sorry for the developer who had been fussing around for years chasing a moving target. Let's develop guidelines and demand the best for our community.

I suspect that developers would be happy to know requirements up front. That would save them time of going back and forth to hearings to finally get their project approved. The Top Hat (Anacapa) project is a classic example of delay, most of which was not the city's fault, but it took all of 15 years to get a better project. I suspect that if the city had established criteria, the first project presented 15 years ago would have been closer to what was presented in 2020. This would have saved the developer and the city a lot of time, aggravation and money.

Let's tackle #4, **Develop and adopt new objective guidelines that specifically define the design elements that the City desires to regulate** and do it NOW before we get more unsightly projects built in Ventura.

On the Emergency Ordinance (13B) -

If you decide to go ahead to extend this ordinance, remember that we have no guidelines (#4 Matrix) in place, so please include the ability to cancel/revoke the ordinance at any time within the extension period IF pandemic circumstances improve to the point that the city can resume somewhat normal activity.

I also urge you to consider the value of leaving appropriate decision-making in the hands of capable members of the DRC once guidelines are in place to define the body's authority, i.e. we have completed Matrix recommendation #4.

Thank you for listening,
Kathy Bremer

AGENDA ITEM 13C

**EMERGENCY STREAMLINING ORDINANCE STATUS REPORT
AND REQUEST FOR
CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION ON AN EXTENSION**

From: Sandy Smith <
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 2:06 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Tonight's Council Meeting - Comment on Agenda Item 13C

Honorable Mayor Rubalcava and Members of the Ventura City Council:

Re: Item 13C. Emergency Streamlining Ordinance Status Report and Request for City Council Direction on an Extension

The Streamlining Ordinance has succeeded as a policy and vehicle for implementing the recommendations of the Matrix Report. Contrary to the initial concerns voiced by some, and as the data shows, this policy has not limited nor decreased the ability of the public to be engaged in the entitlement or permitting process. In fact, the ordinance has resulted in even more community engagement.

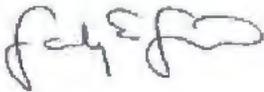
The extension of this ordinance for one year will allow staff to gather more data and conduct a more robust analysis. A more complete study will allow this Council – particularly the new members, as well as a new Planning Commission, time to develop a more informed position and decision on which elements might be considered to formally adopt as a long-term policy.

Extending the ordinance also allows staff to have more experience with the process, and this experience will assist staff in crafting clear standards and guidelines on what type of projects can best be managed at the staff level, and what projects need a more comprehensive entitlement process.

I would respectfully request and support a Council action to extend this ordinance, and request that staff return in one year with a more detailed analysis of the streamlining process.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely



Sandy Smith

Sandy E. Smith
Sespe Consulting, Inc.

Ventura, CA 93001

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Lori Steinhauer
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:41 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: -EXT- Comments for Tonight's meeting - items 13A and 13C

Honorable Mayor Rubalcava and Honorable City Council Members,

I have the following comments re. tonight's meeting:

13A

I know it is costly to hold an election; however, one of the most important rights we have in our country is our right to vote. While I do not live in District 4, this question before you tonight is both a question for District 4 and a question for citywide democracy. I believe the only way to move forward with choosing a City Council representative for any seat in our city is to let the voters in the district decide. Whether intended or not, I strongly believe that to do otherwise is to avert the purpose for going to districts in our city in the first place and to avert our democracy. I would support cuts in other services if necessary temporarily to assure democracy is protected. Also, perhaps there is a way that an all mail-in ballot election could save money.

13C

I request that you postpone this item other than to grant an extension, so the public and the new Council has time to become familiar with these matters. This includes in-depth discussion on the streamlining framework in the report, such as making the DRC and HPC only recommending bodies. This is a complex and important issue and deserves more review and discussion than time has allowed. There are many issues included in the new Emergency Streamlining Ordinance that will need a great deal of input from all parties including the PC, DRC, HPC and public and a more extensive review is warranted.

Also, when we were first presented this item as a COVID response initiative, it was presented to help small businesses deal with the Covid emergency. The word was that it would streamline simple changes to properties such as changing the color of a door. However, significant sized construction projects - large multi-unit developments - have been included in the streamlined approval process that this ordinance affords. Implementing a far-reaching changes to our planning process and approvals of significant developments - changes that include elements of the Matrix report - should be handled separately and not as part of the emergency ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration tonight and your service day-in and day-out.

Very Gratefully and Respectfully,

Lori

Lori Steinhauer

Ventura, CA 93001

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

From: Kathy Bremer
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:42 PM
To: City Clerk; Erik Nasarenko; Alex McIntyre; Sofia Rubalcava; Lorrie Brown; Jim Friedman; Mike Johnson; Joe Schroeder; Doug Halter
Subject: -EXT- February 1, 2021 Agenda items 13A and 13B
Attachments: 2021 02 01 Matrix & Emergency.pdf

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council members,
Sorry to be long-winded, but I am concerned that we are skipping the most important step in implementing Matrix recommendations and the Emergency ordinance.

Sincerely,
Kathy Bremer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Ventura. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

February 1, 2021

Re: Matrix 13B and Emergency ordinance 13C

Dear Mayor Rubalcava, Deputy Mayor Schroeder and Council members,

Although I do not agree with all of the Matrix Report recommendations since some are not responsive to our community in the ways we have some to expect, there are many that do need our attention

All Council members appear to agree that we need to implement the recommendations that were proposed in this report. These recommendations are not however all equal.

Only ONE was given an EXTREMELY HIGH priority rating with a target implementation date of Summer 2020. And yes, COVID upended our plans, but that doesn't change the PRIORITY assigned to this recommendation.

This **EXTREMELY HIGH PRIORITY** recommendation is for the city to:
(#4) Develop and adopt new objective guidelines that specifically define the design elements that the City desires to regulate.

Unfortunately since this recommendation requires time (250-300 staff hours), it has been relegated to last place. Since it is the **ONLY** recommendation that was flagged **EXTREMELY HIGH priority**, it logically should be among the **FIRST** issues addressed, **NOT** the last one.

Sadly we appear to be in some sort of a race to put projects on the ground without these guidelines in place. Anything worthwhile takes time and this one is critically important to prevent approval of inferior projects.

This recommendation is the foundation of what we approve and build going forward. Without these guidelines to inform development projects, we will get more inappropriate and undesirable projects on the ground that we will be stuck with for the next two generations.

There were a lot of loud voices complaining about the sometimes-arbitrary decisions made by the DRC. This is a problem with a solution in recommendation #4. Rather than remove decision-making authority from the DRC, develop the necessary guidelines to demand quality materials and remove subjectivity.

That said, one size does not fit all and objective guidelines should be responsive to unique areas of our city.

No more than you would build a house without first building a foundation, we should not be approving development projects without having guidelines in place to

ensure that we get compatible, quality projects in our community. We will be looking at them, our children will be looking at them and perhaps our grandchildren will be looking at them. Yes, we've built unsightly or fad-inspired structures in the past, but there is no logical reason to continue to do so.

Let's not sell our community short. We keep hearing how hard it is to build in Ventura, but all that difficulty certainly hasn't always gotten us better projects. Often our lack of guidelines or fluctuating priorities caused just the opposite to occur. A project would get final approval not because it was improved, but because City Council felt sorry for the developer who had been fussing around for years chasing a moving target. Let's develop guidelines and demand the best for our community.

I suspect that developers would be happy to know requirements up front. That would save them time of going back and forth to hearings to finally get their project approved. The Top Hat (Anacapa) project is a classic example of delay, most of which was not the city's fault, but it took all of 15 years to get a better project. I suspect that if the city had established criteria, the first project presented 15 years ago would have been closer to what was presented in 2020. This would have saved the developer and the city a lot of time, aggravation and money.

Let's tackle #4, **Develop and adopt new objective guidelines that specifically define the design elements that the City desires to regulate** and do it NOW before we get more unsightly projects built in Ventura.

On the Emergency Ordinance (13B) -

If you decide to go ahead to extend this ordinance, remember that we have no guidelines (#4 Matrix) in place, so please include the ability to cancel/revoke the ordinance at any time within the extension period IF pandemic circumstances improve to the point that the city can resume somewhat normal activity.

I also urge you to consider the value of leaving appropriate decision-making in the hands of capable members of the DRC once guidelines are in place to define the body's authority, i.e. we have completed Matrix recommendation #4.

Thank you for listening,
Kathy Bremer