



## MP Clerk

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**From:** Jack <shawdidi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:17 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Jose; Wong, Thomas; Ngo, Vinh T.; Yiu, Yvonne; Lo, Henry  
**Cc:** MP Clerk; Alvarez, Inez  
**Subject:** General comments for July 19, 2023, City Council meeting on relinquish responsibilities back to various City Commissions and Boards.

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Honorable Mayor Sanchez, Mayor Pro Tem Wong, and Members of City Council:

I am Jack Chiang, currently serving as the Chair on the City's Planning Commission. Although I am speaking for myself, my fellow members on the Planning Commission all share the same sentiment.

I am requesting the City Council to consider the repeal of the Covid Emergency Ordinance that was created in the Covid period allowing development projects to bypass City Commission and Boards and obtain fastrack determinations directly from the City Council.

City's Commissions and Boards were created for the reason to encourage citizen participation, and most importantly, to provide opportunities for projects to improve under reviews by a group of professionals with working experience in the related fields. Since the effectuation of the Emergency Ordinance, many development projects in the City bypass the professional review of the Commissions and Boards and obtained approvals from the City Council. Projects that lack a layer of professional review can impact the City's public safety and aesthetics, and can result in nuisance.

This fastrack process is understandable and necessary during the peak of the Covid Pandemic, however, State and County wide Covid emergency orders were already lifted earlier this year. Our City staff are back to work in offices, thus it is the time for the City Council to consider repealing the Covid Emergency Ordinance and relinquish assigned responsibilities back to various City Commissions and Boards.

Many City Commissions and Boards have little or no items to review, the Board such as Design Review Board has not had a meeting to review projects for at least 18 month. The Planning Commission also experienced very little projects to review for the past 18 month. Commissioners and Board members are watching many significant projects in the City that should have been given professional review at the Commission and Board level become entitled, or even constructed. This has become a disservice to the Citizens of Monterey Park and a waste of resources of not fully utilizing the City's Commission and Board structure and its professional knowledge.

I urge the City Council to consider the repeal of the Covid Emergency Order and relinquish all responsibilities that were once assigned to Commissions and Boards back to the citizens' voluntary groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jack Chiang

PC

## MP Clerk

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**From:** Deborah Takahashi <deborah.takahashi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** MP Clerk  
**Subject:** Written Communications for City Council Meeting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Good afternoon Mayor Sanchez and City Council members.

My name is Deborah Takahashi and I am a Reference Librarian at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library. I am a proud member of SEIU 721 and I am asking you to support what our bargaining team is asking for in negotiations.

We are the lowest paid of any unit of city workers and the same small increases we had in the past are no longer sustainable. Based on cost of living, price of gas and food, our salaries can no longer provide our members with the ability to purchase essentials without sacrifices. We are losing people left and right to higher paying positions across the County and the ones who stand to lose the most are the residents of Monterey Park. As a librarian and youth advocate, it's imperative that our youth see that our City is willing to do what's necessary to invest in their community which is to provide quality services and opportunities to grow and thrive. More importantly, as an employee of the City, I want to brag to my patrons that the City truly cares for its employees and is willing to meet us halfway.

In order to keep providing quality services to residents, we need to be able to afford to live and work here. We are asking the City to invest in us so we can hire, train, and keep good staff here in Monterey Park. Please consider our bargaining team's proposals seriously and give us what we deserve. Thank you for your consideration.

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Deborah Takahashi

Learn more about me and my book *Serving Teens with Mental Illness in the Library: a Practical Guide* at [www.deborahktakahashi.com](http://www.deborahktakahashi.com).

A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up children without surrounding them with books.... Children learn to read being in the presence of books.

— Horace Mann (1796-1859)