

July 14, 2020

Dear Mayor Salas and Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of South Bay People Power (SBPP) in **SUPPORT of Agenda Item #14**. We request that you vote in favor of placing the proposed city charter changes, in particular Sec. 602, Part D of “Appointments; Terms and Vacancies”, on the November 2020 ballot. Expanding participation on City boards and commissions to all Chula Vista residents reflects our goals of increased community engagement and will be another step toward realization of our vision as a Welcoming City.

Over the past six months, several SBPP members spoke and submitted comments to the Charter Review Commission in support of this charter amendment. We would like to reiterate some of the key reasons to support this important charter revision. Expanding participation on City boards and commissions will:

BUILD A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

- Move Chula Vista toward its important Welcoming City goal of **increased civic engagement**;
- Expand and **diversify representation** in local problem-solving and planning efforts;
- Further **democratize local governance and public service opportunities**;
- Allow disenfranchised tax-payers an official **voice in local decision-making**;

BUILD ON OUR DIVERSITY

- Give all residents the **opportunity to give back to the community** by serving on boards and commissions;
- **Remove barriers to talented individuals** who wish to participate in local government;
- Attract participation by individuals with **special knowledge and diverse perspectives**;

BUILD PATHWAYS AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

- Promote **integration pathways for immigrants** as well as US-born residents of diverse cultural heritage;
- Embrace Chula Vista’s **core community value of inclusiveness**;
- **Build on long-standing Chula Vista policies and investments to support local immigrant communities and family members.**

The State of California recently expanded eligibility for state appointments to any California resident over the age of 18. We feel our city would benefit from the active participation of ALL residents who can bring to the table their special talents, knowledge and diverse perspectives based in lived experience. The proposed charter amendment would encourage all Chula Vistans to work together to build a more representative government, a more vibrant economy, and a more welcoming and inclusive community.

We ask you to take this important action tonight to help achieve Chula Vista governance for all its residents.

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Baker, DrPH
Convener, South Bay People Power

South Bay People Power promotes social justice by nonpartisan civic engagement.