

From: [Sadie Stern](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Sovereign land of the coastal First Nation
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 9:59:42 AM

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You are perpetuating fraud and land theft by not already having the land designated as sovereign in the map. This is coming out so please get in touch with us. We need you to understand that some of this land is sovereign and owned by the tribe even on the coast, it was never purchased by Hollister.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Garret Matsuura](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Lupe Alvarez
Date: Monday, May 31, 2021 3:37:49 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern-

I just wanted to take a moment to voice my support on behalf of Lupe Alvarez. As a former mayor and part of the Guadalupe Business Association (amongst many other community organizations) Lupe has been - and continues to be - an integral part of the Guadalupe community. He is well aware of the many needs of this distinct and special community and it is crucial that Guadalupe has his voice within the Independent Redistricting Commission. While there may have been some historical issues in Guadalupe in the past, the current City Government and community are together, working very hard to change directions for and perceptions of our City. It is absolutely crucial that as we move forward and grow within our region, that we do so alongside other municipalities as opposed to being treated as an afterthought to be lumped together with unincorporated areas. Lupe's knowledge and experience will be a strong voice for our community and someone that can represent the City well as it continues to set an example of how to we can learn from history to evolve responsibly.

Thank you,
Garret Matsuura
Owner, Arclight Media
garret@arclightmedia.com

From: [Lee Heller](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: interviewing all potential candidates for the 3rd District seat
Date: Monday, May 31, 2021 6:27:03 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morris and Commissioners,

I have just looked at the packet for the June 2d CIRC meeting, and am concerned that not all the potential replacements for Mr. Olmedo are on the list of interviewees. If I remember right, at the last meeting, it was determined that Kevin Kaseff was not available to be interviewed on the night that you interviewed and selected Commissioner Adams, but that he had NOT removed himself from consideration altogether. Yet I see only three individuals, all Republicans, listed as interview candidates for Wednesday night's meeting.

I do not understand how an interested candidate would NOT be included in interviews, especially when the Commission currently lacks appropriate party parity. As it stands, there are three Republicans currently serving, which is within the parameters outlined by the ordinance. A fourth Republican would put the Commission substantially out of proportion with voter registrations in the County. Section (4) (h) (3), I remind you AGAIN, provides that

[t]he six appointees shall be chosen based on relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial, and to ensure that the commission reflects the county's diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity. However, formulas or specific ratios shall not be applied for this purpose. The five commissioners shall also consider political party preference, selecting applicants so that the political party preferences of the members of the commission, as shown on the members' most recent affidavits of registration, shall be as proportional as possible to the percentage of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Santa Barbara, as determined by registration at the most recent statewide election. However, the political party preferences of the commission members are not required to be exactly the same as the proportion of the political party preferences among the registered voters of the county. For this purpose, voters registered without stating a party preference or registered with any party that had a total registration of less than five percent in the county at the time of the last statewide election shall be considered unaffiliated. Unaffiliated members shall also be appointed to the commission in rough proportion to the percentage of unaffiliated registered voters at the time of the most recent statewide election.

Section (4) (j) (C) (3) addresses resignations as follows:

If any vacancy occurs on the commission by reason of the death, removal or resignation of any commissioner, the remaining members of the commission shall select a replacement commissioner from the pool of most qualified applicants previously selected by the county elections

officer, utilizing the criteria set forth in subsection (4)(h)(3). To the extent practical the replacement commissioner shall be selected to maintain the balance of district representation and political affiliations that existed prior to the vacancy.

So your action to replace Mr. Olmedo must be determined by the criteria laid out in Sec. (4)(h)(3) quoted above. If there are no NPP candidates available to replace Mr. Olmedo, then you should consider the partisan proportionality laid out in that section.

If Mr. Kaseff is indeed still available, you are legally obligated to consider him at the very least, and unless he proves substantially unfit, to appoint him, in order to remain within the requirements of the ordinance.

If you cannot add Mr. Kaseff to Wednesday night's line up, then you should forego a decision as to a new Commissioner, and interview him at a subsequent meeting.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Heller, Ph.D., J.D.
Santa Barbara CA 93109

From: [Spencer Brandt](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the record
Date: Monday, May 31, 2021 6:30:41 PM
Attachments: [Party people Cover Story Santa Maria Sun, CA.pdf](#)

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'd like to submit this news article from the *Santa Maria Sun* into the record. In this article, one of the candidates for appointment to your commission, Lupe Alvarez, is quoted as a supporter of a sitting County Supervisor, toasting the supervisor's victory at an election night party, and bragging about getting more tax dollars coming his way (as Mayor of the City of Guadalupe) due to the Supervisor's victory.

It was a family affair for Steve Lavagnino over at 4th District Supervisor Joni Gray's home in Orcutt. Gray wasn't able to attend because she was out covering the elections for local radio, but her absence didn't dampen the festive mood.

"We're Italians, after all. We know how to put on a good spread," said Steve's dad, Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino, as he poured drinks with Guadalupe Mayor Lupe Alvarez.

"We're not just supporters, we're wine pourers!" Alvarez said as he filled a glass of red for a supporter. Nice technique, too. Not a drop spilled.

"If we're ever not reelected, we'll have a job bartending," the Guadalupe mayor said with a chuckle before moving on to the man they were there to support.

"I'm excited. I think Steve's experience dealing with Sacramento will come into play, resulting in more appropriations coming our way," he said. "Things like Measure A projects can be completed faster if we get more state monies."

I find it appalling that Mr. Alvarez's candidacy is still being considered by your Commission, given his history as an elected official who has directly supported a County Supervisor, and the concerning statements he has made to you in his interview about his desire to serve on the commission specifically to advantage his City government. His history and his stated intentions are antithetical to the purpose of this commission as an independent body. Please do not consider Mr. Alvarez for appointment.

Link to article: <http://www.santamariasun.com/cover/4718/party-people/>

Spencer Brandt

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Cover Story

The following article was posted on June 08, 2010, in the Santa Maria Sun - Volume 11, Issue 13

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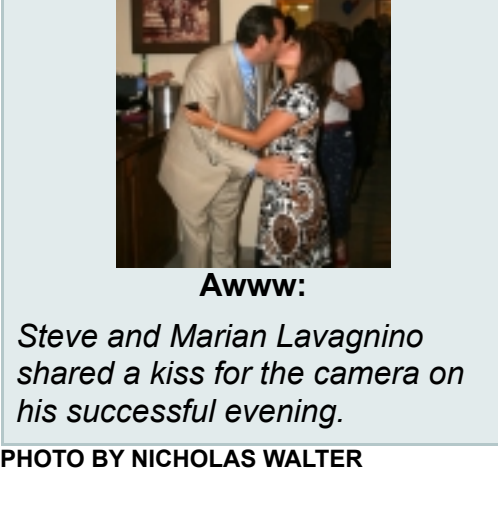
Party people

Candidates stay up late to see the results of their efforts
BY SUN AND NEW TIMES STAFFERS

The parties were colorful, the races were tight, and the candidates were, for the most part, composed.

June 8, 2010, marked the potential for change in Northern Santa Barbara County, considering several key positions were up for grabs, including D.A., Assembly member, and a couple of county supervisor seats.

While the results trickled in over the course of Election Night, *Sun* and *New Times* staffers attended candidates' parties across the Central Coast. Here's a snapshot of the evening, told through events that yielded new officials and some hopefuls whose dreams weren't realized.



Awwww:
Steve and Marian Lavagnino shared a kiss for the camera on his successful evening.

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS WALTER

Steve Lavagnino and Alice Patino, 5th District supervisor

It was a family affair for Steve Lavagnino over at 4th District Supervisor Joni Gray's home in Orcutt. Gray wasn't able to attend because she was out covering the elections for local radio, but her absence didn't dampen the festive mood.

"We're Italians, after all. We know how to put on a good spread," said Steve's dad, Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino, as he poured drinks with Guadalupe Mayor Lupe Alvarez.

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"If we're ever not reelected, we'll have a job bartending," the Guadalupe mayor said with a chuckle before moving on to the man they were there to support.

"I'm excited. I think Steve's experience dealing with Sacramento will come into play, resulting in more appropriations coming our way," he said. "Things like Measure A projects can be completed faster if we get more state monies."



Outpouring of support, literally
Guadalupe Mayor Lupe Alvarez (left) and Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino (center) tended bar at county supervisor candidate Steve Lavagnino's election night party.

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS WALTER

Lavagnino supporter Bruno Bormino thought Steve would be a "real asset" if elected, thanks also in part to his connections in Sacramento.

"If you don't have the contacts to get things done, what's the point?" he asked. "Steve is knowledgeable, forceful, and he knows how to get things done."

And what did the elder Lavagnino think of his son's chances?

"I'm biased, obviously. I picked Steve right from the start," he said, adding that politics is something of a family business. "Both Steve's great-grandfathers were county supervisors. His dad's a mayor. I'm saying we've been in politics for a while."

But what about the man himself? Even before results started coming in, how would he look back on this past year?

"I'm really at peace with the campaign we ran," he said. "No regrets. If I don't win, I'm not going to wake up tomorrow saying, 'I wish I'd done this differently or ran that ad.' I didn't compromise."

That's not to say Steve wasn't thinking ahead.

"If I win? I'll take advantage of those first six months before I take office to get my feet wet. But come January 1st, I want to look at reforming the county retirement system as well as seeing about implementing some type of E-verify for those drawing county benefits. After all, how can you have a real budget if you don't know where the money's going?"

Meanwhile, community was the common theme among Alice Patino's supporters gathered at the ladies bar in the Santa Maria Elks lodge.

Some at Alice's party weren't shy at being upset over Joni Gray's choice to support Steve Lavagnino. Berto Van Veen, a contractor and Patino supporter, was less than enthusiastic about Gray's choice.

"I'm disappointed Steve's party is at Joni's house," he said. "Alice has been very loyal to Joni, done a wonderful job representing her. Sure Steve is a great guy, but I was really surprised that Joni supported him."

Disgruntlement aside, Van Veen said he really hoped Patino ended up winning: "I think Alice represents our district so well."

Mark Teixeira, of Teixeira Farms, said Patino would be one of the key economic forces in the 5th District.

"As a farmer, I really feel she has a true understanding of agriculture," Teixeira said.

At a decidedly Republican gathering, Rebecca Carey was the token Democrat of the evening, literally.

"Thought I could help Alice out with our vote since we didn't have a horse in this race," Carey said.

She added that Alice's experience would make her a good choice for members of both parties in the district: "She's been in every part of our community, knows all the players."

As the evening wore on, more and more people gathered around the laptop at the end of the bar, featuring the County Clerk's website.

"Still not updated," said Teresa Menchaca, executive director of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley and self-appointed techno queen of the night. (Well, she was the one who kept pushing "refresh.") Menchaca agreed that Alice's wide-ranging experience made her ideal for the district.

"Alice gets the whole scope of what's going on, the cultures, the different sections of what makes up our valley," Menchaca said. "She really cares about all aspects, from youth to seniors. She is Santa Maria."

Then Menchaca hit "F5" again.

—Nicholas Walter



Another party
Assembly candidate Matt Kokkonen's party was a civil event with no crumbs spilled but some talk about sniper rifles.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

Matt Kokkonen, 33rd Assembly District

There is something noble about Matt Kokkonen, at least to this extent: The man perseveres. No matter the odds, no matter the race, even for the Assembly, his tactics never change. He waves the flag, salutes the military, rails about big government, denies pollution is cooking the planet, inveighs against career politicians, and condemns foreigners who risk arrest to live here.

He strums the same chords, out of tune, out of synch with most voters, and though he can't seem to find the right pitch, returns for yet another performance. What a trooper.

Still, he was running second to Katcho Achadjian in SLO County by 11 p.m. among the four Republicans in the primary, as Etta Waterfield was wallowing him (and Katcho) in Santa Barbara County. But she wasn't going to outgun him at his campaign headquarters, no way; in fact, several of the faithful there, in a downtown SLO Craftsman tastefully converted to office space, were too busy chatting about certain sniper rifles to notice.

"My son found one of those with a scope, and I had to have one, too," a middle-age man bubbled to several others who fired back tales of their own arsenals.

There was more than plenty of wine and what appeared to be dozens of beers on ice but no evidence anyone had been thirsty all night. There were nice crackers, Brie, guscumole, salsa, chips, an untouched plate of turkey aram sandwiches, and cookies—but not a crumb, spent napkin, or overturned plate in sight on the polished hardwood floors or oak swivel chairs, not a speck. Are his core supporters especially neat or polite, on diets (they did look lean), or do they reverse (as they should) Craftsman interiors? Maybe they simply worried there'd be no one to clean up. It's really hard to hire citizens willing to do that work.

—Ed Connolly

Katcho Achadjian, 33rd Assembly District

Dusk descended on San Luis Obispo, and spirits—of the alcoholic variety and otherwise—rose as the man of the hour entered the meeting room of the Sands Inn and Suites.

Shortly before polling closed for the Republican primary, 33rd District Assembly candidate Katcho Achadjian, looking a bit haggard but also delighted, warmly greeted about 50 of his closest campaign volunteers and friends.

"I'm feeling as good as I can be," he said. "I'm surrounded by family members and supporters. This is what we look forward to."

Characteristically, Achadjian's mind was already halfway on to the next morning's business, a Coastal Commission meeting in Marina del Rey. However, Achadjian vowed to stay with his supporters until midnight.

"No rest for the weary," Achadjian said with a smile.

While awaiting early absentee ballot counts, supporters poured wine and devoured Armenian foods, all while taking in Game 3 of the Lakers-Celtics NBA Finals.

Volunteer Kevin Drabinski, who helped with the campaign's communication duties, was cautiously optimistic at the outset.

"The journey to get to this day, which is full of promise, has been a great long ride and very memorable," he said. "It's a funny feeling. You can't let yourself hope that you'll win, and all you can do is look back and say, 'Did we do the best job we can do?' And you have the satisfaction that we did the best we could and things will turn out."

Achadjian's assembled campaign helpers, some not even old enough to vote themselves, were hopeful the night would swing in their favor.

At 9 p.m., the first results trickled in. Achadjian scribbled the district-wide numbers on a whiteboard in marker. He'd managed 37 percent of the votes to Etta Waterfield's 33 percent, leading in SLO County by more than 2,000 votes, but lagging third in Santa Barbara County.

As early returns pointed to the possibility of a three-way race, volunteers hunkered down for the long haul.

"It could be a long night," said Ross Buckley, a Cal Poly senior and campaign volunteer. "I hope I don't have a heart attack by midnight."

Expecting a close race coming into the evening, Achadjian took a time-out to thank his supporters. While encouraged, he also didn't put too much weight into the results.

"The numbers can change dramatically," Achadjian said. "I've been here three times before, so you've got to wait until the last votes are counted. When the clerk's office says this is it, then you celebrate."

Achadjian's campaign was a true family affair. His wife Araxie, who helped her husband in multiple campaigns for supervisor, called the night a "temporary relief."

"It's very rewarding," she said. "We kept it positive, so regardless of the outcome, we'll be very proud of the way we've run our campaign."

At 9:30 p.m., the candidate's son and campaign manager Hatch, just 22 years old, arrived from Los Angeles.

"It's a change of pace from the L.A. rush, but it's a rush all in itself," Hatch said of the night. "This is the fun part. This is the easy part. We've been through this three times with his supervisor races, so we just sit back and wait now."

As the night progressed, though results from Santa Barbara County were slow to post, Achadjian's lead in SLO County over challengers Waterfield and Matt Kokkonen continued to rise. So too, did the hopes of his supporters.

By the time the local 10 o'clock news began, some volunteers were patting each other on the back in a congratulatory fashion. Achadjian, sans jacket and tie, appeared confident his lead would hold.

"Overall, what you see as we speak is what can be expected throughout the night," he said. "I think it will stick. The percentages might change, but the rankings won't change."

"We ran a good campaign. We kept it clean. We didn't let anybody down," he added. "We made a lot of new friends and kept old friends, and life goes on."

—Jeremy Thomas



Hometown supporters
Assembly candidate Etta Waterfield nabbed the most votes in Santa Barbara County, but overall trailed behind opponent Katcho Achadjian throughout the evening.

PHOTO BY AMY ASMAN

Etta Waterfield, 33rd Assembly District

Dozens of red, white, and blue balloons hung in the air at 33rd District Assembly candidate Etta Waterfield's election night party in Santa Maria, their multi-colored ribbons creating a kelp forest-like maze for supporters to navigate throughout the night.

Waterfield's campaign headquarters—an office building on Santa Maria Way—was packed with people of all ages waiting to see if their candidate would take the Republican nomination for the seat.

As of press time, Waterfield trailed opponent Katcho Achadjian by about six percentage points.

While watching the election results come in, Waterfield told the *Sun* she felt unusually calm about the situation.

"I can't watch a game if my team is a few points away from winning," she explained. "I have to walk away."

Waterfield credited her serene demeanor in large part to the support of her family, friends, and fellow community members, some of whom she was meeting for the first time.

"It's very humbling to meet perfect strangers who buy into you, heart, soul, and everything," she said. "That's been the best part of the campaign; I have so many friends now."

Waterfield's daughter, Mercy Clark, who traveled from Arizona with her husband and daughters for the occasion, said her mother is equally devoted to her supporters and potential constituents.

"She's a people person, and she's a person of integrity," Clark said. "She's not a politician, she's a real person, and she definitely cares about her people."

Fifth District Supervisor Joe Centeno also listed Waterfield's integrity as a reason for his decision to back her politically.

"She's a fantastic lady. She has a lot of integrity, and she's passionate about working with the people in our valley here," he said. "She has a great perspective on [the government] regulations imposed on our working people, the farmers and business owners who built our economy."

Centeno also said he's confident Waterfield, who until recently worked for the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and its economic development committee, would bring businesses and jobs to the district if elected.

Economic growth has been a cornerstone of Waterfield's campaign. She strongly opposes higher taxes and has often labeled herself as a "conservative tax fighter" throughout the campaign season.

While this has been her first campaign for office, Waterfield said she views her outsider status as an asset.

"Assemblyman Sam [Blakeslee] was never elected before he took office, and he's done so much for the district," she said. "I tell people, 'My predecessor is my example. He went through the same process.'"

—Amy Asman

Send comments to Executive Editor Ryan Miller at rmiller@santamariasun.com.

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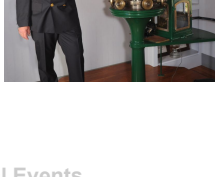
MY 805 TIX

TICKETS TO UPCOMING EVENTS

Select An Event Type Select An Event Topic Clear Filters

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Apr 26



PSL LIGHTHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR ON-DEMAND

Apr 29, 2021 to Jul 31, 2021

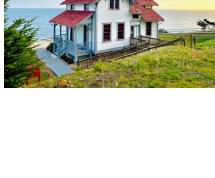
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Attraction - Virtual Events

May 26



IN PERSON LIGHTHOUSE TOUR

May 26, 2021 to Dec 31, 2021

1 Lighthouse Rd, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Attraction - Non Profit

Jun 26



LIVE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE: JILL KNIGHT TRIO

Jun 26, 2021 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

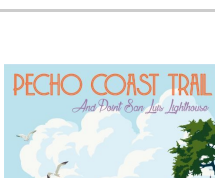
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Concert

Aug 01



PECHO COAST TRAIL PLANT LIFE

Aug 1, 2021 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

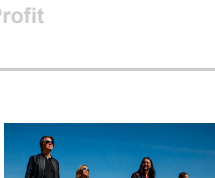
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Attraction - Non Profit

Aug 29



INCENDIO: CAMBRIA CONCERTS UNPLUGGED

Aug 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Concert

On the Beach: Morro Bay, Morro Bay, CA



CHAKRA MEDITATION & BREATH-WORK ON THE BEACH

On the Beach: Morro Bay, Morro Bay, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Sports

Jun 06



BARREL ROOM CONCERT: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jun 6, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Cass Winery, Paso Robles, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Live Music

Jun 19



PAINT 'N SIP AT POINT SLO

Jun 19, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Class or Workshop - Non Profit

Jun 26



BENEFIT DRAG SHOW

Jun 26, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

1660 N McClelland St, Santa Maria, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Theater

Jul 18



PATRIOT CRUISE OF SAN LUIS BAY

Jul 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM

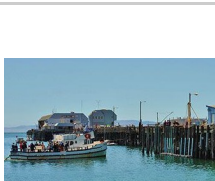
Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Attraction - Non Profit

Jul 31



YOGA AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Jul 31, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Point San Luis Lighthouse, Avila Beach, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Class or Workshop - Private Event

Aug 14



2021 EVENING UNDER THE ESTRELLA SKY WINEMAKERS' DINNER

Aug 14, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

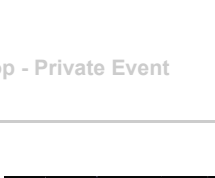
Hartley Farms, San Miguel, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Dinner - Food & Drink

Aug 29



PIANO TRIO

Aug 29, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

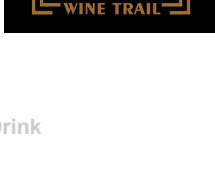
Cass Winery, Paso Robles, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Concert

Oct 16



FASHIONS FOR A PURPOSE: FASHION EVENT

Oct 16, 2021 at 9:30 AM

Trattoria Oliveto, Orcutt, CA

More Details

Get Your Tickets!

Ind - Charity & Causes

From: [Lata Murti](#)
To: [CEO Redistricting RES](#)
Subject: public comment for June 2, 2021 CIRC meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 12:44:29 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morris and Redistricting Commissioners:

I am submitting this public comment out of concern. During the May 19, 2021 meeting, Ms. Shalice Tilton said that Kevin Kaseff—the only Democrat in the 3rd District applicant pool who is still eligible to serve on the commission—was not available for an interview that evening due to a scheduling conflict and **not** due to a lack of interest or willingness to serve.

Chair Morris, when you asked Ms. Tilton to please reach out to Mr. Kaseff again, to see if he is available to be interviewed during a future meeting of the commission, she agreed to do so. However, I do not see his name listed as one of the candidates to be interviewed during the June 2, 2021 meeting.

Did Ms. Tilton in fact reach out to Mr. Kaseff to see if he is available for an interview during the June 2, 2021 meeting? And, if she did, and he was not available, should that not be noted in the packet or agenda for this meeting? Or, more importantly, should when he is available to be interviewed not be noted in the packet or agenda?

Given that there are now three Republican Commissioners, I am concerned that appointing a fourth, especially if the Commission has NOT made every effort possible to consider all eligible 3rd District candidates, will put the Commission and its work at risk of legal challenge.

I hope that 3rd District applicant Mr. Kevin Kaseff will be interviewed and considered for the commission's current vacancy.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Lata Murti