

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: May 18, Special 4pm Budget Meeting, Public Comment, I don't see item numbers on the agenda
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 8:12:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

This comment concerns any proposal to give money to the Chamber of Commerce:

According to the California Attorney General, the total revenue for the National City Chamber of Commerce in 2016 was \$926,425. The next year it dropped to \$538,979. And in 2018, it dropped to \$343,289.

At the same time, staff costs escalated to the point where they exceeded \$330,000 for 2018. This compared with staff costs at other Chambers more in the range of \$100,000-\$150,000.

How did this happen? It happened because the prior management of the Chamber lost touch with its membership and lost interest in their desires. Membership plummeted. The Chamber focused on operating like a branch of City government.

Under Mr. Matkowski, the Chamber has a chance for a fresh start. Part of a fresh start is to not repeat the errors of the last several years. Chambers do not normally ask for tax money. There is no good reason this one should.

There is another problem. I have just checked the AG's website again at 5pm on May 13, and they still list the Chamber as being on Delinquent status. This relates to a failure to make timely filing of tax forms and other disclosures. Under the AG's FAQ page, delinquent status means that an organization is not permitted to operate or solicit money. The weblink for these points is listed below so you can check for yourself.

Someone will boast that the Chamber held an online job fair on April 29. But that is where their membership fees should go. Another partner in the job fair was MAAC project, which just received a \$65,000 CDBG grant from the City in June 2020 for job development, so that bill has already been paid.

Please do the businesses of National City a favor and force the Chamber to rely upon them rather than on public funds.

-Joan Rincon, National City

* * *

(This is page explains what "delinquent" status means, and you use the Search Tool to view the Chamber's page)

<https://oag.ca.gov/charities/content/info>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment:](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Comment for the Budget meeting on May 18, 2021 from Mr. Ted Godshalk
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:25:56 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Public Comment for SPECIAL MEETING (Budget) Council Meeting of May 18 from Mr. Ted Godshalk

Council,

This year's City budget must be carefully thought out. Several funding proposals are examples of poor timing or poor judgement. It will be important that you set a measured course for our community.

First, the need for a larger staff in the Mayor and Council's Department is unnecessary at this time. The work load of our city's elected officials has never been disputed, but adding interns at this time is the wrong way to spend during a “tightening” period. Instead of asking us to pay for new staff, *you should consider giving us more representation.*

This is the time for a “**reset.**” We should expand our City Council membership by three elected seats. This would give the community more representation and we would have fewer major decisions made by the slim majority of three people. A real majority vote on the important issues like Cannabis and the General Plan would mean something. Likewise, the political circus last seen during the appointment of Dr. Quintero to fill a vacancy would be avoided with a larger Council.

It is also time to have a “Presiding Officer” or Council President appointed from the elected Council members and have the Council President serve two years at a time. It is time to “reset” towards consensus building and power sharing. These changes would help end the deep in-fighting and the intense public relations aspects to holding office that we have seen lately. It could also help our city avoid the strangulation of special interests in upcoming political campaigns.

Please reject the new Intern proposal and study the expansion of the City Council instead. There are many benefits to this idea.

Second, any donation to the Chamber of Commerce is an unnecessary and unjustified expenditure. Yes, small businesses have suffered during the pandemic, but the Chamber can support them without our tax money. Neither you, nor the the public, have a representative on the Chamber's Board of Directors. Positions and policies of the Chamber of Commerce may not be in line with the city's or your constituents' goals. For this reason, the public's money should not go to the Chamber of Commerce.

Third, expanding the size of the Public Works crew to accomplish a more complete maintenance of our streets and alleys, on-ramps and culverts, and other public spaces is important. Common trash, runoff, rogue dumping, graffiti, pot holes, bad sidewalks, weedy parkways, and abandoned cars afflict us every day. The amount in this budget is not enough. The days covered sare not enough. To say "*It's a start,*" about the small step proposed is to admit that it it will not completely address the growing deterioration of our community's health, quality of life, and appearance. If you were to look closely at the reports in **See-Click-Fix** you would get a true unbiased survey of what some in the community believe should be our City Budget's priorities.

Good evening Council,

Mr. Ted Godshalk