

Kira Linberg

From: Council Internet Email
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Kira Linberg
Cc: Jason Haber
Subject: FW: CCE + LGBTQ+

Please distribute. This is regarding 2 agenda related items.

-----Original Message-----

From: mburkholder06@gmail.com <mburkholder06@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Council Internet Email <CityCouncil@carlsbadca.gov>
Subject: CCE + LGBTQ+

Good Morning Council,

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow night but I wanted to express my concerns about two issues on the agenda.

1. Community/Consumer Choice Energy (CCE) and the appointment of a committee with two city council representatives and members of the community. I'm curious, what two members have any background, education or experience in energy? In my understanding, the energy business is very complex and not something the layperson would be keen to understand and make good decisions on in the interest of the voters. I am definitely against using my taxpayer dollars for such a committee. Let's not forget who works for whom and be good stewards of the tax-payers funds. Of course, I understand that you can be short-sighted if you do not pay property taxes, and that's why I'm writing. We citizens need you to be mindful of the lasting impact of your decisions while serving on our city council.

While I'm not opposed to exploring CCE options (and I believe staff is already doing that), I am deeply concerned about the qualifications of anyone on the council to make any decision about that for me and my family.

Additionally, if you are moving forward, I would strongly encourage you to make the decision an "opt-in" and not an "opt-out" choice. Think of the population of Carlsbad and the needs of the elderly. Many elderly people would not know that they needed to make a decision about their energy providers and may be taken advantage of by this reckless decision to invest in a volatile and unstable market.

Finally, we do not know the future of the market and to jump into something that has a lasting effect on us residents is foolish and will be seen as such by your constituents.

I urge you to allow staff to do their job and trust that they will be thorough, have experts in the field and present a complete report for us to review.

2. LGBTQ+ Pride Month. I'm understanding that you will be designating an entire month to this group of residents and I'm curious if anyone of you has any idea if that is something that resonates positively with the residents of Carlsbad or, frankly, reflects the majority or our resident's lifestyle? What percentage of the population identifies as LGBTQ+? Would this choice have a lasting and positive effect or would it be more divisive? In a time in our great nation where we are seeing a thriving economy, low unemployment and very few conflicts, why are you choosing to focus on this issue? Aren't we all Americans and can't we just be united u see the flag?

While I'm not against the LGBTQ+ population, I'm opposed to designating a special recognition day for it. Full disclosure: I also don't celebrate Valentine's and other manufactured days. I don't think most people in Carlsbad need to have special recognition, either. Why do you?

If designating this as a special day, will there be more, like: "Red Door Day" or perhaps: "White Car Day"? This is playing politics - identity politics - and it isn't necessary or needed and is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Frankly, we elected you to do the work for the people and to think critically about the lasting impact of your decisions. This is another reckless decision and does not represent the majority of Carlsbad residents.

Remember what is on the wall in the council chamber: What is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular. Thank you for your time.

Melanie Burkholder, PhD
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