

# Lafayette commissioners

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Burks says that the decision marks a major shift in the way the council addresses issues of integrity. "I believe the new policy will tangibly strengthen public confidence in our design review and planning entities and processes," he said.

Burks continues, "I considered this the most important vote that I've cast in my 15 months on the city council; integrity, ethics and public trust mean everything to me. Our community rightfully expects their government officials to execute at the highest standard when it comes to these critical values. In this context, I'm very pleased with the outcome."

Reflecting the PC members' disappointment with the decision, the letters of resignation came quickly from Commissioners Ateljevich, Chastain, Curtin, Gutzwiller and Lovitt. "It is sad when a town's democratic body votes to disenfranchise a class of its citizens," says Chastain in his letter.

"I am truly shocked that our leaders believe one is guilty before proven innocent," observes Curtin in her resignation letter.

Tatzin is very clear in his opinion. "Obviously we made the wrong decision," he says, adding, "None of the current commissioners have done anything wrong. We've rejected five very good people whose only goal was to make this a better city."

Both a former mayor and for-

mer PC member Erling Horn agrees. In an email to the council he states, "It is clear to me that the concerns outlined in these (resignation) letters are correct and the policy should be revisited. The city has lost a group of experienced, talented and dedicated citizen commissioners who will be very hard to replace."

Former mayor Brandt Anderson referred to the policy as "punitive" at the meeting as he expressed doubt that anyone would want to sign up and serve on a commission under those circumstances.

Getting people to serve will now be the new focus. To that end, Tatzin called a special city council meeting for April 2 to discuss how to move forward including options such as appointing the city council to do double duty and function as planning commissioners until new PC members are appointed, appointing the five existing DR commissioners to fill the empty seats or to temporarily reduce the size of the PC from seven to five commissioners.

Burks is not panicking. "I'm 100 percent confident that we will be able to staff these commissions with fully qualified folks who will deliver a high level of service to our community," he says.

Editor's Note: The April 2 meeting was due to take place after this edition of Lamorinda Weekly went to print.

# AUHSD board revises policy

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They're leaders of different equity groups and clubs on campus, and often excel academically."

Of the 129 transfers at Miramonte, 58 percent are people of color.

The limits were proposed due to the district's classification as Basic Aid for the last three years, meaning that the local property tax allocation exceeds the Local Control Funding Formula.

Since Basic Aid districts do not receive funding per student, the estimated expenditures for interdistrict transfer students would cost the district an estimated \$1.75-\$2.25 million next year.

Superintendent John Nickerson said, "The board sees the value in interdistrict transfers, but without funding it creates a tremendous financial burden."

Students expressed that they were glad the vote was paused, but would continue to mobilize and speak out against what they see is an unjust, regressive step.

## Academic Calendars

In other district news, a calendar task force explored alternatives and made recommendations on the upcoming academic calendars for the next two years.

For 2018-19, school will begin on Aug. 20, with the first semester ending on Jan. 7, and the last day of school on June 6.

For the following year, 2019-20, the school year begins a week earlier on Aug. 13 in order for the first semester to end before Winter Break on Dec. 20. School will dismiss for the summer on May 29.

## Bell and Block Schedule

After a survey of the Acalanes Education Association members, Lori Tewksbury, president of the union, said, "The overwhelming majority of teachers polled said they would prefer no changes to the schedule."

One problem with the existing schedule was that the lunch break happens later in the day, but even that did not affect the decision to keep the schedule the same for the upcoming year.

# Moraga parks and recreation department

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The number of facilities – three public swimming pools, several sports fields, two community centers, and dozens of parks – is also not commensurate with what Moraga has to offer. Under Brandt's supervision, programs were conducted for older adults, tens of classes for all ages, and special events such as the June San Leandro Cherry Festival that attracts tens of thousands of people each year to downtown San Leandro.

Brandt also oversaw human services, making sure that the more vulnerable population in San Leandro got access to the services they are supposed to receive.

The new director says that she is aware that in Moraga volunteer groups have led many of the events such as the Pear and Wine Festival or Hacienda Nights. She says that she has started meeting with these groups and evaluating with their members what works and what does not. The triathlon was put on hold this year, because of limited staff and dwindling participation. Brandt plans to conduct a full analysis of the event and decide on the opportunity to revive it. She said

she would also reach out to neighboring recreation departments and discuss possible synergies.

On her plate in the very near future is the transformation of the Hacienda to allow the operation of a full-time restaurant. Brandt said that the council would review a proposition for a public-private partnership in April. If such a project moves forward, it means the amount of public space at the Hacienda will be reduced, but she is confident that her department will remain in the beautiful historic building and expects that the casita could be expanded to accommodate more activities.

Brandt lives in Danville with her family including three young children, ages 8, 6 and 1. The busy young woman finds the time to hike, which is one of her passions. Prior to San Leandro, she worked for the cities of South San Francisco and Redwood City and claims 20 years of experience in parks and recreation involvement. She came to California to complete her bachelor's degree, then her master's in public administration and has stayed out West ever since.



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