

Letters to the Editor

Note from the Editor:

Due to an incredibly large volume of candidate letters, for and against, we were only able to include one letter per candidate, but have noted if multiple letters were received.

Red Smith and Nathan Bell for MOFD board

I write to express my concern about the current elections in which firemen union members or their representatives are running for the board of MOFD. While I deeply appreciate the honorable, even lifesaving work that our firefighters perform in our community, it strikes me as a significant conflict of interest that firefighters would populate the board of directors charged with overseeing the firefighters. As a professional in the financial services industry, I work with numerous corporations, and such a conflict of interest would never be allowed in the private sector.

I've known Red Smith and his family for 17 years. Red coached my kids in the Moraga Baseball League, and our children went from Kindergarten through High School together.

I know Mr. Bell and his family by reputation as our children attended Campolindo High School together. More recently I've gotten to know his background, experience in the business world, and his guiding principles for the MOFD.

I understand they are both endorsed by Senator Steve Glazer and three of the current MOFD Board members.

While both of these men have impressive credentials (MBAs from Cal and Harvard), maybe the most important title they can carry in this election is independent tax-paying private citizen. These gentlemen are concerned citizens with the desire and business savvy necessary to balance the interests of the firefighters with the interests of the Moraga-Orinda Community while responsibly guiding the MOFD towards fiscal stability. I urge my neighbors to vote as I will this election season,

and that is to vote for independent citizens for the board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District: Mr. Red Smith and Mr. Nathan Bell. Rupert Dusauzay, Jr. Moraga (Endorsement also received from Will Cogswell of Moraga)

Michael Donner for MOFD, Division 4

I am writing in support of Michael Donner for the MOFD Board of Director seat in Division 4. I have known Michael for 15 years since my son was in kindergarten with his son. He has been involved in the community and has done everything from creating and painting Glorietta Gopher yard signs to serving pizza for our firefighters during the Ghost Ship fire and clean-up.

Michael has served his entire career as a firefighter for the Oakland Fire Department. Over the years, Michael has become very passionate about emergency preparedness in our community. Throughout his 30-plus year career he has been to many major disasters. After returning from New York for 911, hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and the Loma Prieta Earthquake he realized there was an information void in Orinda. He worked with local schools to store emergency supplies. He collaborated with FEMA professionals to speak to the community on how to prepare for disaster.

Michael is a positive, passionate and motivated person that gets things done. He will make sound decisions and bring much needed fire experience to the board. Based on Michael's extensive experience in the fire service, his years of volunteering to prepare our community for a disaster and his dedication to the community, there is no doubt that he is the best choice for the job.

Please join me in voting Michael Donner to the MOFD Division 4 Board of Director seat!

Amy Schioldager
Lafayette

(Other endorsement received from Julianne and Chris Viadro of Orinda)

Amy Worth for Orinda City Council

Please join me in voting for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council on November 6, 2018. I had the pleasure of serving with Amy on the Orinda City Council, and I know her to be smart, thoughtful, respectful and a problem-solver. From planning new playing fields and tot lots, to providing books and supplies for Orinda's fine public library, to working with our schools to support student safety, to fixing Orinda's roads and storm drains, Amy has worked tirelessly to enhance our civic life in Orinda. Amy also works for Orindans at the regional level, ensuring that we receive excellent recycling and garbage services, and that scarce State and Federal transportation dollars are allocated to meet our transportation needs. It is due to Amy's strong advocacy that the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel was built to increase our safety and ease our commutes!

Please vote for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council so that she can continue to serve our community.
Victoria Smith
Orinda

Don't let the Union retake MOFD

The MOFD is technically insolvent. It has unfunded retirement liabilities of \$62 million, about \$5,000 per family served. If not fixed, the MOFD will eventually go bankrupt and our fire service cut severely.

The MOFD put our fire protection in grave danger on December 9, 2003 when it signed a contract giving firefighters unsustainable retirement benefits. For the next 13 years the union ran the show. Alarmed, the community finally elected enough strong and astute board members who have begun to lead us away from a looming fire protection Armageddon.

Now is not the time to turn back. We need strong determined savvy leadership. Fortunately, Lucy Talbot is the District 2 candidate.

I have known Lucy Talbot and have worked with her on various community projects in Orinda for 26 years. She is a pillar of the community. She is open minded, passionate and tireless. She is very knowledgeable about fire department operations from her experience as a Motorola sales executive. She has extensive and hands on financial xpertise from her 33 years' experience running a family business. She is devoted to Orinda.

Join me in voting for Lucy Talbot. Vote to save our fire protection.
Carol Penskar
Former Chairperson, City of Orinda Finance Advisory Committee

Steve Anderson for MOFD, Division 3

I have the pleasure of writing to support the re-election of Steve Anderson as a Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District from voting Division 3 of the District. I served with Steve on the Fire District Board for four years. Steve always put the interests and safety of the residents of the District above all other considerations. He was exceptionally well prepared at every meeting. He consistently applies his decades of experience as a businessman to the issues of the District, making it clear that he expects value for taxpayer dollars. When Steve was President of the Board, he conducted every meeting with courtesy and respect for every visitor to our meetings and showed genuine interest in what they would say. In dealing with differing views of Board members, he worked hard every time to reach a consensus. After the coming election, no Board member will have more than two years of experience and at least two will have none. It is important to maintain continuity in the District, and Steve's intelligence, integrity and respect for others make him the right person at the right time to be re-elected to another four year term as a Director of the Fire District. I urge everyone in voting Division 3 of the Fire Dis-

trict to vote for Steve.

Fred Weil
Moraga

(Endorsement also received from John Wyro of Orinda, and Susie Epstein of Orinda)

It Just Takes Two!

Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston rode a popular wave with their hit tune, "It Takes Two!" So goes the upcoming election for Orinda City Council, with candidates Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins.

How do you know if Ms. Phillips and Ms. Jenkins deserve your vote?

Do you believe, that all things considered, Orinda is a pretty darn nice place to live and is worth defending? Do you prefer council members who consistently seek to get input, directly from you, Orinda citizens, on important matters, rather than self-determining what is best for you? Do you prefer that your council members have no ties to the always-lurking, real estate development industry? Do you prefer council members who question awarding a succession of city contracts to consultants, which never seem to result in any positive results for Orinda citizens? Do you prefer council members with successful experience in crisis management? Do you prefer council members who understand the link between city council decision-making and the sustained quality of Orinda schools? Do you prefer council members who advocate BART's obligation to provide adequate parking capacity for their Orinda customers? Do you prefer strong council members committed to local control of land use and zoning matters, who are independent of and willing to stand up to the outsiders, who seek to determine Orinda's future?

Vote Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins.

"It takes two, baby! It just takes two!"

Owen Murphy
Orinda

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IVOR SAMSON

Lafayette City Council



Specific Goals and Objectives

... NO Platitudes ...

- More aggressively defend City's legal interests
- Manage growth in light of infrastructure constraints and State reducing local land use control
- Restore meaningful dialogue between the City and schools
- End the East End's orphan status
- Develop regional solution to traffic issues in North East area
- Consider feasibility of developing inclusive, affordable housing (eg. for Lafayette public employees, teachers, and the disabled) in excess of legal requirements – moral imperative
- Consider updating Downtown Specific Plan and zoning to reflect present realities
- Prioritize and focus community attention on emergency preparedness
- Review processes for opportunities to increase transparency

Transparency
Accountability
Fiscal Discipline
Not a Rubber Stamp
Independent Thinking
A Different Perspective

HELP ME CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR YOU!

More information: ivorsamsonforcitycouncil.net