

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob Hart
Date Submitted: 06/04/2024 11:46 AM
Council File No: 23-1027

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to urge the Council to NOT approve the CAO's proposals to the city charter that would allow it to assume duties of the City's Chief Financial Officer, and to allow the CAO to conduct performance audits explicitly. We elected this Controller to be our independent watchdog on government spending. To hinder his work by giving power to an unelected official flies in the face of the will of the voters. In 2019, voters stripped the CAO of the power to conduct performance audits and gave it the Controller's Office in 2019, but now the CAO wants to take that power back. This smacks of government corruption at a time when trust in government is tenuous all around the country. A Democratic Mayor and a Democratic City Council kneecapping the elected official bringing transparency and accountability to our tax dollars at a time when the national party is giving thousands and thousands of its constituents reason to abandon the party because of its stance on the genocide in Gaza is a path to reducing faith in the local party. Democracy is on the line, and local and state government will be the firewall against Republican, Christofacist overreach at the federal level. We need you to shore up the base and inspire confidence in the party now more than ever. Supporting the CAO proposals will do the opposite and potentially doom us to an authoritarian future.

Communication from Public

Name: Hon. Nick Pacheco (Ret.)

Date Submitted: 06/04/2024 12:23 PM

Council File No: 23-1027

Comments for Public Posting: In 1999, I Chaired the Elected Charter Reform Commission's Committee On Managerial And Financial Accountability, which put before the voters the ELIMINATION of the position City Administrative Officer since the person in that position, Keith Comre, TWICE told us that the position was very limited to assisting the Mayor and Council with the Budget. The then CAO's presentation were so clear that when I gave my report to the Elected Charter Reform Commission I stated that naming the position City Administrative Officer WAS A MISNOMER since the position did not be an "administrative officer" anywhere outside of their department in the City governmental structure. Mr. Comre emphasized that his job was to provide the information, the analysis, the background, the research, in essence the "nuts and bolts" to assist the Mayor in submitting the proposed budget. (See, Comm. Nick Pacheco Presents Committee on Manag. & Fin. Accountability Report 2/9/1998, <https://youtu.be/hx30upw8444> starting at 13:40) Consequently, the office was more accurately identified as the OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH SERVICES with a DIRECTOR as head of the Department. If for some reason this change wasn't given the full force and effect is deserved then you shouldn't reward this misbehavior by returning the misnomer of City Administrative Officer (including performance audits). PERFORMANCE AUDITS in the CONTROLLER'S OFFICE was a significant expansion of the Controller's authority because the Controller is a City position INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED and not subject to the political pressures of other segments of the City government. Why would you make a change that would obviously lack the foundational independence to garner the respect and support of the community. WHAT'S THE MOTIVATION TO EXPAND THE CAO'S DUTIES WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN READ THE CONTROLLER'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORTS On May 6, 2024, the Budget Committee reviewed the Department of Cannabis Regulation and based on the Mayor's proposed budget with the Committee's review it was painfully obvious THAT NEITHER THE MAYOR NOR THE COUNCIL read the December 1, 2022 Controller's Report: High Maintenance: Review of the City's Cannabis Regulation Efforts, which contained significant

constructive criticisms. The report accurately reveals that the City is not providing a safe cannabis industry and has not funded social justice programs in the community. SO, now YOU want a second set of reports YOU won't read? There has not been any significant development at City Hall to change the popular work we did in 1999 to improve City Hall that the voters supported. The CAO being an appointed position should not be given "performance audits" since they are not an independent office. It would be a huge mistake and I recommend you withdraw the change.