

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Velkei

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Comments for Public Posting: Good Morning Council Members My name is Laura Velkei and I have been a community advocate for the Downtown area for over 15 years. I previously served the NC system as a member of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council. As a board Member, I Chaired the Land Use, Communications, Bylaws and Elections committees in addition to being on the Executive Committee for my entire term. I currently run a 15 year old non profit based in the Arts District. I came to know Jamie after my service on the NC thru the DONE Watch website and was immediately impressed with her creative solutions, her unwillingness to maintain poor status quo and her determined and respectfully ferocious tenacity. I personally spent several years, along with others, attempting to find ways to resolve the ineffectualness of the Ethics Commission, and to give the Commission the teeth needed to get our City's accountability back on track inclusive of requiring the NC's to be subject to all the same rules as our paid government. While some change has occurred, it is not enough to even remotely contend with the recent events that have toxically infected our local government at every level. Jamie has been wonderful to work with and as an attorney, has the ability to identify where and when things can be changed to serve the greatest accountability and transparency. Our country is based on the rule of law. When rules are not followed, and laws are broken with no consequence, chaos ensues. I am hopeful that the City Council sees fit to give the Ethics Commission the teeth it needs along with appointing the people that can make a true difference in making our government more responsive to the needs of the people and their communities vs a finite number of private interest. Jamie is an incredible choice to be a part of this much needed reform and I hope and pray that our current Council has the foresight to see what the public has been begging for for years. I whole heartedly and thankfully support the nomination by our City Controller of Jamie York to be appointed to the Ethics Commission. It is imperative that our City come back to serving the public's interest by appointing people that are true public servants. Respectfully, Laura Velkei