

14 June 2006

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Sunshine Reforms Task Force  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Members:

When I relocated to San Jose, in December, it was when “garbage gate” was surfacing in the news. I served on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force for 3 ½ years and offer my experience to you. As a strong advocate of Sunshine in our local government, I want to offer my expertise and input on housekeeping issues. This Task Force will be under heavy scrutiny because it was created by the City Council, and some of you have political ties to the Council and/or Mayor. Therefore, you should set the bar high for your conduct and how your meetings will be conducted.

This body should adopt the following recommendations for its own conduct:

- 1) A 72 hour notice for all meetings, including agenda topics. Disallow any new documents or related matters from being introduced less than the 72 hours from the meeting. All materials to be used in the consideration at a meeting will be on file with the Clerk’s office or online.
- 2) Seriatim meetings prohibited, including: telephone; electronic communications; 3<sup>rd</sup> parties; etc.
- 3) Prohibit any direct communication from Mayor or City Council to Task Force or its members.
- 4) Audio and video record all meetings and allow access by members of the public. Post audio recordings of meetings online.
- 5) Allow public comment after each agenda item. And general public comment for items not on the agenda. Increase public comment to 3 minutes.
- 6) Allow for the request of interpreters, of any language, for meetings provided 48 hours notice is given to the Clerk’s office.

I will maintain regular communication with the Task Force and offer my experience upon your request. I wish you the very best and thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions at my mobile phone number, (415)-377-3283.

Respectfully,

David Parker