

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Please OPPOSE recall effort against School Board members Sheri Zada and Mark Macelli

**From:** Stephen Golub <[StephenGolub@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:StephenGolub@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:55 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Christina Strawbridge <[CStrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:CStrawbridge@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Lionel Largaespada <[LLargaespada@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LLargaespada@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Trevor Macenski <[TMacenski@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:TMacenski@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Steve Young <[SYoung@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:SYoung@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Tom Campbell <[TCampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:TCampbell@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE recall effort against School Board members Sheri Zada and Mark Macelli

Dear Mayor Young, other Benicia City Council members and City Clerk Wolfe,

I am writing to ask that the Mayor and the other Council members unanimously and publicly oppose the recall effort against Benicia School Board members Sheri Zada and Mark Macelli. As you know, the recall is a misleading and very expensive initiative that, among other things, wastes scarce city resources and unfairly singles out two School Board members who have provided fine service to the community. I trust that the Council will take action against the recall at your meeting this Tuesday and in any other ways useful or necessary.

Sincerely,

Stephen Golub

--

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

---

**From:** Kathy Smith >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 7:54 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Agenda Item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

Hello Benicia City Council,

I am writing specific to agenda item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort for the 3/2/2021 meeting.

I believe having this topic on the City Council agenda is wholly inappropriate as it demonstrates a misuse of power/authority and distracts the City Council from more pressing matters in their purview.

Also, based on Mayor Young's comments on social media (see attached examples below) it seems the City Council has itself in a predicament--he stated this is not a matter that the City Council is involved in, however just recently changed his mind and joined forces with Councilman Campbell (see attached) and is requesting it appear on the 3/2/2021 agenda to discuss. This sudden flip brings into question his intent seeing as he has been very vocal on his position, specific to the recall, on various social media platforms. His request to bring this to the agenda is fraught with bias.

Additionally, the time and effort for City Council to take an informed and educated position based on facts will take quite a bit of time and research; time better spent on establishing a plan to fully open city parks and the city pool for recreation. If the City Council moves forward with a position, all city tax payers are entitled to a clear and documented report of how the position was founded to ensure it's aligned to the current city strategic plan and initiatives and more importantly to show that all bias was mitigated.

I welcome a response.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Smith



**Samantha McNally**

Lori Petersen Grundman Yeah all those streets people keep complaining about .... maybe they could get potholes filled up with a couple of those \$300,000s.

Or waste it on a special election instead of just voting in 2022 the regular way.

3w Like Reply



**Steve Young**

Samantha McNally school district is not involved in paving streets; just like City is not involved in decisions involving the schools

3w Like Reply



**Samantha McNally**

Steve Young No I know but if city money is being wasted with a \$300 recall special election that money could've gone to better things. That was my point.



Write a comment...





**Steve Young**

I do support teachers getting vaccinated in the next tier as a way to help schools reopen. But the decision on who gets vaccinated, and in what order, is not one that the City has any role in. We will happily do another vaccine clinic if we get access to more vaccines, but we will need to follow what the State and County direct in terms of who gets vaccinated. I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District, just as I did not think it was proper for the School District to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017 when we were debating cannabis regulations. Other Council members may have different opinions.

1d Like Reply

4



**Sean Pyka**

Steve Young I also ask this



Write a comment...



TOM CAMPBELL, D.O.S., M.S.D., M.A., M.B.A., J.D.

164 EAST 41 STREET  
BENICIA, CALIFORNIA 94810  
TELEPHONE (707) 745-1984

2/17/21

Re: Benicia School Board Recall

Following the two step process the Mayor and I would like to agendaize discussion on whether the City Council should take a position on the proposed Benicia School Board Recall effort.



Tom Campbell  
Benicia City Council

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear City Council Members,

I am requesting that the City Council take up the letter that councilmember Tom Campbell submitted and vote to oppose the \$300,000 effort to have a special election to remove two ethical, wise and conscientious School Board members, Sheri Zada and Mark Maselli.

The premise of this recall is flawed, because back in October 2020, a limited number of parents wanted to open the schools to in person learning. This was even though our Covid-19 numbers were climbing and the experts in California predicted we'd have severe increases in Covid-19 with the upcoming holiday season. Also our tier levels were rising along with our positives during this time.

Shari Zada, and Mark Maselli voted to keep remote learning through the holidays. These council members decision proved to be correct, because by the end of 2020 we went into state-wide lock down again.

The next School Board vote in January was unanimous to keep the schools remote.

I applaud the Benicia School Board for keeping our schools remote for the past school quarters, many lives have been saved because of their courageous actions, including teachers/school employees and students.

Finally, the state has prioritized teachers and they are being vaccinated. Also, there are plans in the works to return to in person learning within the next weeks and months. This election is a waste of time & money and discriminatory. Please send a strong clear message that BUSD should not waste their limited resources on this frivolous effort.

Thank you.

Pat Toth-Smith Benicia Resident

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:33 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Comment for tonight's city council meeting  
**Attachments:** Benicia Black Lives Matter Letter in Opposition to the Recall.pdf

**From:** brandon greene  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Comment for tonight's city council meeting

Greetings,

I am writing regarding the school board recall discussion item for tonight's city council meeting. Previously, I submitted the attached letter on behalf of Benicia Black Lives Matter. The recall effort is neither an effective use of time nor is it an effective use of resources. In addition, the politicization of Covid-19 and the push to reopen schools without taking into consideration the disproportionate impacts on Black and Brown families is exactly why we need to focus on equity within the City of Benicia. This isn't anecdotal. Virtually everywhere a study has been conducted has demonstrated a wide gap between the safety concerns of Black and white parents. While it is true that children are less susceptible than adults, Black children have experienced more fatalities and more protracted effects.

I urge the council to speak up against this wasteful effort.

Thank you,

Brandon Greene

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Nimat Grantham <[nimat@benicia.ca.us](mailto:nimat@benicia.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 6, 2021 12:44:44 PM  
**To:** Jack Bungart <[jbungart@benicia.ca.us](mailto:jbungart@benicia.ca.us)>; Katy St Clair <[kstclair@benicia.ca.us](mailto:kstclair@benicia.ca.us)>  
**Cc:** Brandon L. Greene <[brgreene@benicia.ca.us](mailto:brgreene@benicia.ca.us)>; brandon greene  
**Subject:** Fwd: Benicia Black Lives Matter letter in opposition to the recall effort

FYI. 🙏❤️

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Brandon L. Greene <[brgreene@benicia.ca.us](mailto:brgreene@benicia.ca.us)>  
**Date:** Sat, Feb 6, 2021 at 12:26 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Benicia Black Lives Matter letter in opposition to the recall effort  
**To:** Benicia BLM

FYI

Please forgive any typos as this was sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** brandon greene ·  
**Date:** February 6, 2021 at 12:26:16 PM PST  
**To:** Charles Young <[redacted]>, Leslie Beatson <[redacted]>  
**Cc:** [redacted], Gethsemane Moss <[redacted]>, Nimat Grantham <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** Benicia Black Lives Matter letter in opposition to the recall effort

Greetings,

Superintendent Young, Assistant Superintendent Beatson and Trustees. Please find attached a letter from Benicia Black Lives Matter in opposition to the recall effort and in support of centering the lives and experiences of Black families in any decisions that may be made regarding opening schools for in-person learning.

Please let me/us know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brandon Greene and Nimat Shakoor-Grantham on behalf of Benicia Black Lives Matter

--  
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Benicia BLM" group.  
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to

--  
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Benicia BLM" group.  
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to





# BENICIA BLACK LIVES MATTER

Symbolizing Unity & Human Relations

## Benicia Black Lives Matter Statement on the Board of Trustees Recall Effort February 2021

We, the members of Benicia Black Lives Matter, stand in solidarity with those who oppose the campaign to recall school board trustees Zada and Maselli.

A campaign that is calling for students to return their families to in-person learning that fails to center the perspectives and experiences of Black families is one that should not be given weight or consideration. Indeed, both the economic consequences of the pandemic and the physical consequences of the pandemic are disproportionately shouldered by Black families. A recent [New York Times article](#)<sup>1</sup> and a CDC study<sup>2</sup> both drew attention to the phenomenon of mostly white parents advocating for reopening of schools even as their families and their children are less at risk. From the New York Times article, "Even as more districts reopen their buildings and President Biden joins the chorus of those saying schools can safely resume in-person education, hundreds of thousands of Black parents say they are not ready to send their children back."

The data from the CDC study shows that 62.3% of white parents strongly or somewhat agreed that schools should reopen in-person for all students in the fall, compared to 46% of Black parents and 50.2% of Hispanic parents. The New York Times article goes on to say; "That reflects both the disproportionately harsh consequences the virus has visited on nonwhite Americans and the profound lack of trust that Black families have in school districts, a longstanding phenomenon exacerbated by the pandemic".

The response to the pandemic and the current disparities in Benicia Schools represent two separate instances of government failing to deliver equity to Black Families. The recall of school board trustees Zada and Maselli will cost upwards of \$300,000. This money could instead be put towards improving ventilation systems in all schools within BUSD, as well as protective equipment and modifications of classrooms for when it is truly safe for students and staff to return. Not only is the district considering asking students to return, even as the pandemic is raging and the virus is mutating, but money that could otherwise be utilized to shore up the infrastructure is instead being contemplated for a wasteful political grab that does not have the interests or safety of Black Families in mind.

For the first time in its history the City of Benicia will soon have an equity officer and a tangible plan for seeking to achieve equity. The School district is engaged in a similar conversation. This campaign is a stark example of how privilege and political access play out to the detriment of vulnerable communities. It is as divisive as it is thinly veiled. It cannot be allowed to succeed. The members of Benicia Black Lives Matter fully support all of our board trustees and oppose the campaign to recall trustees Zada and Maselli as it is not representative of the interests of our Black Community.

In Partnership,  
Benicia Black Lives Matter

###

### About

*Benicia Black Lives Matter is a grassroots community group organized to address anti-Black racism in the city of Benicia. There is a lack of Black representation across City leadership, departments, and voluntary boards. The lack of Black representation tells a story of our complacency as a community and more so, the impact on our Black Benicians lived experience. The good news is, we can rebuild the City of Benicia into a better Benicia, one commitment and one change at a time – and we have a strategy to do so. Our Strategy: **Actively Commit to Change**. The City of Benicia must commit to a specific vision of what a better, more inclusive and equitable future looks like. For additional information see [beniciablacklivesmatter.com](http://beniciablacklivesmatter.com).*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/01/world/one-thing-thats-missing-in-the-reopening-plans-of-us-schools-the-trust-of-black-families.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949a2.htm>

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: public comment for agenda item 14.D

---

**From:** Gia Quinn <[Gia.Quinn@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:Gia.Quinn@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** public comment for agenda item 14.D

Hello,

My name is Gia Quinn, speaking to agenda item 14.D Two step request to consider whether the city council should take a position on proposed Benicia school board recall effort:

I believe it is inappropriate for the city council to have this topic on the agenda. As Mayor Young publicly stated on social media, "City is not involved in decisions involving the schools". It would take many hours to fully research the recall effort, as information regarding this matter was gathered over a several month period. The city has more pressing issues that are relevant to the council. I request that if the council does discuss this matter, please publish fully transparent details regarding the depth of research that is done to ensure that you're completely informed and unbiased.

Thank you,  
Gia Quinn

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on 14.D

**From:** Kathleen Ferguson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Public comment on 14.D

Hello,  
My name is Kathleen Ruiz and I have been following the school board meetings. I am one of the parents that has and does support our teachers, district, and support staff, but also believes the recall is necessary. I find it interesting that Steve Young said in a Facebook comment that it was a district matter and now only a few short weeks later I see it on your agenda. What has changed? I hope before deciding how you all feel about the recall you watch each and every board meeting over the past year. We have already heard Mr Young's stance on the recall and I wonder if this is only being brought up because of his friendship with Mrs Zada Na Mr Maselli. Since I have taken the time to watch the meetings I have seen several board members learn what their job as a board member is, and one completely disregard his need to represent all of his constituents. After the meeting where the board vote to let the schools start the opening process Mr Maselli commented "let me see if I can fix this" when a teacher posted that they were scared. Then he brought up the vote again, by claiming he didn't know what he voting on. Between this, his Facebook posts mocking opening the schools, his Facebook posts mocking our children's mental well-being, I can not support him being on the school board. Our children deserve adults that put their needs first. If you haven't been following the school board meetings PLEASE do so before forming an opinion! This is all new to everyone, since none of us have lived through a pandemic before. Since only 1 of you have school aged children, please also ask the kids around you how it is affecting them. If you can't do all of these things, I politely ask for you to just remain neutral. This isn't just about opening up the schools, it is about giving the children, teachers, and district the best people possible to lead them. Thank you, Kathleen

Sent from my iPhone

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 2:30 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 14.D - "Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take " Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort"

---

**From:** Sarah Mathews <[Sarah.Mathews@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:Sarah.Mathews@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 14.D - "Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take " Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort"

Council members,

Hello I'm writing on the Agenda Item 14.D - "Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take " Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort"

I question the motives of forcing our City Council to take a position on this Recall Effort when we have already heard public comments about being against the recall from Mayor Steve Young, Young himself has made numerous comments on social media that contradict the two step request that Tom Campbell and him have initiated. Members of the community public have replied to this effort and question if Steve Young's motives are biased or doing this in favor of his friends Sheri Zada and Mark Maselli. A community member asked that Steve Young respond and clarify his reasoning behind this agenda request when he himself has said: "school district is not involved in paving streets; just like City is not involved in decisions involving the schools".

An additional quote from Steve Young's social media: "I do support teachers getting vaccinated in the next tier as a way to help schools reopen. But the decision on who gets vaccinated, and in what order, is not one that the City has any role in. We will happily do another vaccine clinic if we get access to more vaccines, but we will need to follow what the State and County direct in terms of who gets vaccinated. I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District, just as I did not think it was proper for the School District to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017 when we were debating cannabis regulations. Other Council members may have different opinions. "

This statement from Mayor Steve Young made recently contradicts this 2-step request to force the City Council to take a position just as he did not think it was "proper for the School district to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017." It is my belief if the people follow an approved lawful clearly defined process to recall than the people have through the democratic process voiced their opinion. We have heard Mayor Steve Young's opinion and the public is forming their own opinion through the democratic process. We have not contradicted our opinion. However, Steve Young has contradicted his social media public comments.

Council, I ask you not to be part of the motives behind this request.

Thank you,

Sarah Ferrucci

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 2:32 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

---

**From:** Greg Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:13 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

Benicia City Council,

I am writing about agenda item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort for the 3/2/2021 meeting.

This topic is outside of Council governance, is inappropriate and a misuse of power and authority.

Additionally, Mayor Young's comments on social media (see attached examples below) stated this is not a matter that the City Council is involved in. However he recently changed his mind and joined forces with Councilman Campbell to place this item on the City Council agenda: requesting it appear on the 3/2/2021 agenda. This change of position brings into question his intent/loyalties are, seeing as he has been vocal on his position in the past. Why the change?

City Council needs to focus their efforts on items within their control...top of that list would be establishing a plan to fully open city parks and the city pool for recreation: the cure cannot and should not be worse than the disease. In the event Council moves forward with taking a position on the BUSD recall, City tax payers are entitled to a clear and documented report of how and why Council decided to freelance into another agency's jurisdiction.

I welcome a response.

Respectfully,

Greg Smith, MPA



**Samantha McNally**

Lori Petersen Grundman Yeah all those streets people keep complaining about .... maybe they could get potholes filled up with a couple of those \$300,000s.

Or waste it on a special election instead of just voting in 2022 the regular way.

3w Like Reply



**Steve Young**

Samantha McNally school district is not involved in paving streets; just like City is not involved in decisions involving the schools

3w Like Reply



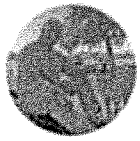
**Samantha McNally**

Steve Young No I know but if city money is being wasted with a \$300 recall special election that money could've gone to better things. That was my point.



Write a comment...





Steve Young

I do support teachers getting vaccinated in the next tier as a way to help schools reopen. But the decision on who gets vaccinated, and in what order, is not one that the City has any role in. We will happily do another vaccine clinic if we get access to more vaccines, but we will need to follow what the State and County direct in terms of who gets vaccinated. I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District, just as I did not think it was proper for the School District to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017 when we were debating cannabis regulations. Other Council members may have different opinions.

1d Like Reply

4



Sean Pyka

Steve Young I also ask this



Write a comment...



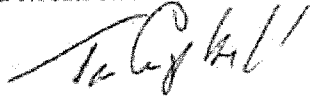
TOM CAMPBELL, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.A., M.B.A., J.D.

164 EAST "H" STREET  
BENICIA, CALIFORNIA 94510  
TELEPHONE (707) 745-1994

2/17/21

Re: Benicia School Board Recall

Following the two step process the Mayor and I would like to agendaize discussion on whether the City Council should take a position on the proposed Benicia School Board Recall effort.



Tom Campbell  
Benicia City Council





**14.D - TWO-STEP REQUEST TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON PROPOSED BENICIA SCHOOL BOARD RECALL EFFORT (City Manager)**

Vice Mayor Campbell and Mayor Young submitted a two-step process request (see Attachment 1) for Council's consideration of whether the City Council should take a position on the proposed Benicia School Board recall effort.

**Recommendation:**

Discuss the request and provide direction to staff on whether or not to schedule this topic for future Council discussion.

Staff Report - Two-Step Request - Benicia School Board Recall Effort

1. Two-Step Request, Vice Mayor Campbell and Mayor Young

**15. Adjournment (10:00 P.M.)**

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment Agenda item 14.d

**From:** jimmy wop <\_\_\_\_>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:51 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment Agenda item 14.d

Public Comment  
Agenda Item 14.d

Council Members,

Thank you for taking the time to accept comments on this item.

Mayor Young, as you have clearly stated in written text multiple times. The city has no business in school district issues and the school district has no business with city issues. You have made that clear.

It's unfortunate you are attempting to leverage the council as a pawn in political gamesmanship. I understand these individuals are your friends, but the city government is not meant to be a tool for personal use and gain.

Despite this, you have inserted your self through community posts regarding this issue. Through these posts which you freely make and are the steward of the content, regarding this issue, has resulted in threatening statements and vandalism of real property. As the steward, you have a responsibility to the content.

Council, I ask you to not become involved in the Mayor's personal agenda. It's unfortunate in a small town that different views can not be respected. This city has much more pressing issues to attend to.

Thank you for time,

James Ferrucci II

Sent from my iPhone

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Item 14.D - Agenda 3/2/21

---

**From:** Stacey Hart  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Item 14.D - Agenda 3/2/21

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to item 14.D and the City potentially taking a position on the school board recall. As a lifelong Benicia resident, I am deeply concerned about the City Council potentially taking a position on the School Board recall. The City Council & School Board are completely separate entities, and have no influence over one another. Whether or not I agree with the position of those seeking the recall, I acknowledge and respect their rights to follow the legal process available to them. Mayor Steve Young has repeatedly made public statements that the City is not involved in the decisions regarding our public schools; and even rejected the opinions of the teachers union when the Cannabis measure was open for public comment, telling them to 'stay in their lane'.

If a group of parents is following due legal process in an effort to do what they believe best for their children, why would the City take a position on that? From the outside looking in, this REEKS of self preservation and preventative self protection. If our elected leaders discourage their constituents from following due process, what comes next? It seems that Mayor Young is looking to protect himself from the possibility of his own opposition or recall in the future. Are we really the type of community who ignores the voices of its voters? Or even worse, encourages others to silence the voices of the opposition?

It would be setting a dangerous precedent for our City Council or our Mayor to intervene in matters outside of their domain. I also find it interesting that the City is suddenly concerned with the cost associated with a recall; yet turned a blind eye to the squandering of millions of dollars of Covid relief funds given to the District, and spent without discretion.

The City needs to stay in their lane and quit abusing their power.

Sincerely,

**Stacey Hart**  
Office Administrator

**POS** SUPPLY SOLUTIONS  
*Your Point of Sale Supply Experts*

**Protect your staff & customers with masks, wipes, disinfectants, shields & more COVID-19 products.**

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 14D in reference to tonights City Council Meeting

**From:** Kimberly Johnson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:58 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 14D in reference to tonights City Council Meeting

Dear City Council,

I agree with Steve Young. I don't believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District.

Has the City Council from March 2020 to Present offered any support or help to, Principals, their Staff, Teachers, Students, Parents, the Superintendent or any Board Members?

I noticed on the City of Benicia Website that there has not been an agenda item from the School Board Liaison Committee from 2015 to present.

Tom Campbell's bio references that he is on the School Board Liaison Committee. Perhaps he can shed any light if any support or help from the City Council has been given to the operations of the School District during the past year?

Maybe its best for the City Council to stay in their lane.

## Jennifer Bergstrom

---

**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: Public comments  
**Attachments:** SG3-2.pdf

---

**From:** Stan Golovich  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Cc:** Erik Upson <[EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:EUpson@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Mario Giuliani <[MGIuliani@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:MGIuliani@ci.benicia.ca.us)>; Danielle Crider <[DCrider@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:DCrider@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** Public comments

Ms. Wolfe-

Please include the attached as public comments for this evening's meeting.

Thank you,

Stan Golovich

March 2, 2021

From: Stan Golovich

Subj: Public comments; Alan Schwartzman Day, cannabis jobs, Campbell evolves

In December of 2017, former City Council member Alan Schwartzman famously declared that “prohibition is over” in Benicia, as he held up a Time magazine with a cannabis leaf on the cover, leading to the development of ordinances to support the emerging new economic frontier of regulated and taxed cannabis commerce in our city. Cannabis commerce is now a leading edge component of our future economic trajectory, and Alan Schwartzman played a leading role in establishing policy consistent with voter preferences. Accordingly, April 20th, recognized nationally as a holiday for cannabis culture, should be proclaimed “Alan Schwartzman Day” in Benicia. The City Council has a meeting on 4/20 and honoring Schwartzman at that time would be apropos. I will be enjoying a fat bomber in his honor as the proclamation is read.

The Planning Commission will consider a use permit for a cannabis microbusiness at Benicia Industrial Park on March 11. Later this year, cultivators and manufacturers will be considered following staff reviews of permit applications. Benicia residents, especially career-minded young adults, are encouraged to keep their resumes polished and learn all they can about the plant and the products derived from it. Jobs in cannabis commerce continue to swell in America, with over 77 thousand new jobs added in 2020, bringing the national total to over 300 thousand FTE jobs. The explosive growth of cannabis industry jobs outpaces all occupations tracked by the US Department of Labor Statistics.

The city of Campbell, featured in a cost/benefit analysis by Lionel Largaespada in an effort to turn Benicia away from regulated cannabis, has evolved. Voters there approved a cannabis tax with 84 percent YES. Their city council has set the rate at 7 percent with a cap of no more than 15 percent as a precursor to regulated activity. Campbell staff has projected millions of dollars of revenue. Like other cities that have flipped, Campbell was leaking tax revenue badly to surrounding cities and wised up. They are now on track to repeal prohibition and start cashing in, and have indicated an interest in multiple dispensaries to maximize revenue potential. Within the next few years, there will be no Bay Area city banning cannabis. Benicia has led the way in regulating a popular consumer choice, and other cities are following our lead. Hooray for Benicia!

Stan Golovich

Senior, veteran, artist, guru