

Two City Councilors Change Stand on Ordinance

Two of Tualatin's City Councilors changed their position on the controversial ordinance that was passed unanimously in May that prompted the lawsuit filed against the City by the Chief Petitioner of the Term Limit Initiative. Tualatin City Councilors Joelle Davis and Frank Bubenik have decided to ask the City Council to repeal the Ordinance until Citizens have the opportunity to participate in the process.

While it appears that the City is prepared to fight this lawsuit, at City expense, it will be interesting to see if Councilors Davis and Bubenik are successful in their effort to overturn the Ordinance and what affect that might have on the lawsuit.



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City of Tualatin

An Open Letter to Tualatin Citizens from City Councilors Joelle Davis and Frank Bubenik

July 8, 2015

Since Council's vote on the ordinance regarding signature gathering, we have heard from many constituents, friends, family and even the Oregonian on the topic. Years ago, Tualatin made a commitment with the establishment of our Citizen Involvement Organizations to be more transparent, more open, and more cognizant of the role our citizens play in the decision making process. Through citizen involvement, we have tackled many challenging issues, from marijuana dispensaries to demolition of the council building, from chickens to transit. These issues have come with highly charged opinions on all sides, and we did not shy away from the citizen involvement process for any of them.

We see no reason why the same citizen involvement process would not have been appropriate for the signature gathering ordinance. This ordinance was introduced in a way that is atypical from our normal way of doing business. This has rested very heavily on us ever since that night, and we have come to the conclusion that we made a mistake. We believe that the normal process to allow for citizen participation should have taken place, and in the coming weeks we will be encouraging our fellow city councilors and mayor to join us in calling for repeal of this ordinance in order for it to be reintroduced with full citizen participation. We are both committed to citizen involvement from the start in our role as your city councilors, and we believe that we have an opportunity to restore integrity to the process by doing what we've promised.

Sincerely,

Joelle Davis
Tualatin City Councilor
Joelle Davis

Frank Bubenik
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