

**From:** [Lisette Alvarado](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: 307-24  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:38:04 PM

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Dear City Councilmembers,

Please don't allow Mayor Christenson to pressure you into a vote to appoint a new Police Commissioner tonight. This process requires more thought, research, and wider access to potential candidates. If you allow yourself to be forced into a vote tonight, you have enabled the Mayor's office to bypass and undermine the City council's influence and opinion for the future. Please vote no and ask the mayor to start the process from scratch with transparency and input, or push the current candidate to the Personnel Appointments Committee to be further reviewed. Any other options undermine the power of the City Council which represents all us.

"Political appointments" was literally my job in the White House during the Obama Administration. As a Director in the Office of Presidential Personnel, I oversaw the research of candidates, creation of candidate slates, and announcements of positions that were specifically hired as presidential appointments for federal agency positions. And what is happening with the new police commissioner position is NOT aligned with how this process works.

First, Yes, Mayor Christenson and his office can research and create a slate of candidates for this position, but the position was never formally announced on the website for applications. This went against our own city ordinances to publicly post all open positions for a two week period. If mayoral appointments fall outside of this ordinance, I would like to see the language on that.

Secondly, Mayor Christenson cannot announce a mayoral appointment as filled BEFORE it has gone before the City Council for review, discussion and a vote. The Mayor could have announced an "intent to appoint" which shows that he had decided on his final candidate, but it's then up to the City Council to make the final decision on that candidate. Mayor Christenson has undermined the City Council and this entire process by announcing the Police Commissioner position as a "done deal" already. This is the entire reason the City Council already has a Personnel Appointments Committee in order to discuss mayoral appointments BEFORE they go up for a vote! Mayor Christenson's announcement cut out this important committee altogether and rushed this appointment directly to the Council for a direct vote without any prior discussion. The committee hasn't even met since the end of June.

The entire point of a transparent appointments process is to make sure that mayoral appointments are not just good ole cronyism but thoughtful decisions for selecting the best candidate for the job. Undermining the City Council's power to review and make the final decision (based on our councilors knowledge of what is best for their wards and the city) is not only unfair and opaque, but it raises more questions than it needed to. Mainly, are we a democratic city or what?

Best,

Lisette Alvarado

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