

**From:** [Amanda Smith](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Cc:** [Peg Crowe](#); [Amanda Linehan](#)  
**Subject:** Comment -- Paper 129-26  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:18:25 PM

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Dear Clerk Desiderio,

I am writing to express my strong concerns about Paper 129-26 to be discussed this evening. While we are in a budget crisis and it is important for everyone to do their part to cut costs, I am concerned that reducing City Councillor pay could cause a number of bad outcomes.

Councillor pay is already set at a very low rate compared to the level of responsibility of the job and the level of service residents deserve. If we send the message that being a Councillor is basically a volunteer level position, we as residents shouldn't be surprised if we get volunteer level service. That would be especially harmful for lower income folks and those who are not native English speakers who may need more help navigating City services.

Convincing qualified people to run for these jobs is already hard enough. A reduction in pay could make that process even harder and make running for City Council jobs out of reach for many working and middle class residents, especially with our cost of living being so high.

Reducing diversity -- for example by gender, economic status, people with young children, etc -- among our elected officials is the opposite of the direction we should be going. We've made some positive strides on this point recently and I would hate to see us go backwards.

I am confident the Council can agree on alternate areas to cut costs that would avoid these negative impacts.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Smith, Ward 1 resident