

Cindy Trego Pinole Recall Rally Speech

August 21, 2007

To the citizens of Pinole — What an achievement! The people have been successful against the odds that faced us to secure enough signatures to submit to the county for verification in the efforts to place a recall of Mayor Alegria and Councilmen Cole and Tilton on the ballot.



The recall was not designed to be easy, but it is the only mechanism the people of this city has to address the matters and facts that have become public knowledge over the last year.

The many citizens who have addressed the council with tough questions have been rudely and arrogantly pushed away from the lectern by Mayor Alegria, with no answers provided to those questions.

The three city council members facing recall were elected to serve the public. How do they justify and account for their actions and behavior to the citizens of this city? They don't, and refuse to answer questions about the issues. All they say is that it's "personal politics."

It is sad and a shame that they sit with such arrogance and shun those who are seeking the truth. They have forgotten that they were elected to represent us.

Some citizens have put their own personal lives on the back burner, taking vacation days, and others have given all their available time to the Recall effort, and I am grateful to them.

The three council members faced with being recalled voted "yes" in the 3-2 vote to oust a much-respected city manager, Belinda Espinosa, who was wrongly blamed for the Pear Street Bistro fiasco. This action was truly the last straw; we are outraged and have not forgotten what you have done.

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This action was an embarrassment to this city and its citizens, and we are here to say the vast majority of the people did not agree with your decision.

Pear Street Bistro owner Gary Wong and his cohorts put the finishing touches on this issue by disrespectfully applauding at the announcement of the decision the three council members facing a recall made to let Belinda Espinosa's contract expire. Gary Wong told everyone champagne will be served at the Bistro in celebration of that decision. This behavior is beyond comprehension.

That the three council members in question continue to associate with Gary Wong — who is 22 months delinquent on his loan payments to the city — is an embarrassment to the city and a slap in the face to all honest, hard-working homeowners and business owners who pay their bills on time.

These types of decisions and behaviors are deplorable and city needs its honor and respect restored by making the necessary changes to the council through this recall effort.

The citizens of Pinole are determined to set an example and send a very important message — that the buck stops here. The council will be held accountable for their past actions at the will of the people.

A lot of damage has been done, trust has been broken, and the city needs new leaders who can be trusted to make decisions in the best interest of its people. The people of this city have made it clear that they have lost their confidence and trust in Maria, David and Stephen to further serve this city.

As a Pinole homeowner, I sincerely appreciate the support of the many citizens who signed the recall petitions, who shared their thoughts, who asked questions in order to be informed of their decisions, who invited us into their homes — and those who only wanted information so they, too, could become aware of the many concerns and facts that led to the recall effort.

Don't be fooled by the words "Personal Politics," which have become the mayor's favorite words. The citizens are not politicians — they are the people who stand for honest government. So, I would ask the mayor and the councilmen facing recall to provide the documented facts to back up her comments — or let it rest.

I don't know the mayor, and until I got involved in this recall I didn't personally know anyone on the council except in passing. So there is nothing about my decision that involves personal politics.