

February 1, 2020

Mr. Rahul Chandhok
San Francisco 49ers
4900 Marie P DeBartolo Way
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Dear Mr. Chandhok:

First, we'd like to wish the team good luck tomorrow. What a great accomplishment to reach the Super Bowl this year. Congratulations.

My purpose in writing is to request the 49ers organization help to defeat Measure C in Santa Clara placed on the ballot for the March election. I write on behalf of Reverend Jethroe Moore II of the San Jose- Silicon Valley NAACP, Victor Garza of La Raza Roundtable and former State Assemblyman Paul Fong.

As a valued community organization in Santa Clara, we know the 49ers share our collective and steadfast belief that we can build strong and healthy communities when all of our voices are heard and represented. For that reason, we urge you to join us in our fight to defeat Measure C.

Measure C would amend the Santa Clara city charter to reduce City Council districts from six to three, with the consequence of disenfranchising minority and underserved communities. To be clear, if passed, Measure C would institutionalize anti-democratic elections in Santa Clara that would deny many in the community equal representation on the City Council—a fact that has been affirmed by the Santa Clara County Courts.

In 2018, the Santa Clara County Superior Court ruled that the city's at-large election system was a direct violation of the California Voting Rights Act. Furthermore, the Court mandated Santa Clara adopt a six-district election system that guarantees that members elected to the City Council live and reflect the needs of the communities they serve.

In nearly 40 years, Santa Clara has only elected one non-white City Council member. And that member was elected under the new system of six council districts. Santa Clara's economic and cultural vibrancy is enhanced by its rich diversity. There is no doubt that there is a better democracy and a better Santa Clara when that diversity is reflected and represented in local government.

Measure C is bad for democracy and bad for Santa Clara. Nevertheless, there are those who want to maintain the antiquated and illegal system of government for political power motives. These individuals are invested in the passage of Measure C. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

We hope that you will join us publicly and with resources to reach the voters in ensuring Measure C is defeated on March 3, 2020.

We look forward to discussing this further.

Sincerely,

Richard Konda
Executive Director
Asian Law Alliance
408-823-0799
rgkonda@hotmail.com

*organizations listed for identification purposes only