# The following is a response to the Grand Jury Report and items that I feel are incorrect or false accusations. This is for transparency and the truth.

The 2022 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury (Civil Grand Jury) received numerous complaints regarding the governance ethics of some members of the City Council. The complaints allege that five of the seven councilmembers – referred to by the media as the "49er Five" – engage in unethical behavior, lack transparency in their governance, and govern as if the City Council owes a fiduciary duty to the 49ers as opposed to the City, which they were elected to lead.

Pg 4 of 60- There is lack of definition of what the numerous complaints are. Who are the complaints and are they in alliance with Mayor Lisa Gillmor or former employees? The only media that has referenced the name and invented "49er 5" was the Gillmor driven blog from Robert Haugh writing the daily hit pieces. Later other media like the San Francisco Chronicle would reference it because of Gillmor's influence. In fact, the "49er 5" is a twist on the former name "Stadium Five" that Mayor Gillmor was part of which brought the Stadium to the city of Santa Clara. This is once Mayor Gillmor's spin to pivot and deflect what she was a part of. http://49ers.savesantaclara.org/santa\_clara\_stadium\_five.php



The Civil Grand Jury's investigation confirms that the actions and inaction of certain councilmembers are not consistent with the duties owed to the constituents they were elected to serve, causing severe dysfunction in City governance. The seven-member City Council is deeply divided. Three councilmembers – Anthony Becker, Suds Jain, and Kevin Park – were elected in 2020 with the campaign backing of Political Action Committees (PACs) affiliated with the 49ers. Two other councilmembers – Karen Hardy and Raj Chahal – have aligned with the three, and these five councilmembers together constitute more than a majority of the City Council. The Civil Grand Jury found through the course of its investigation that these five members can – and do – vote in a manner that is favorable to the 49ers. The Civil Grand Jury will refer to these councilmembers in this report as the City Council Voting Bloc.

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The Grand Jury's investigation does not confirm the actions and inaction of councilmembers because not all councilmembers were interviewed including myself. This is assumption "actions and inaction." The only dysfunction is the council minority and that is Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Kathy Watanabe, they obstruct government action because they cannot agree, accept disagreement, or accept being on the losing end of a vote(s). In recent settlement talks both Councilmember Watanabe and Mayor Gillmor could not handle a robust discussion and tried to obstruct the meeting, then walk out in protest abandoning their elected duties. The narrative of the above paragraph from the report resembles the 2-year narrative that Mayor Gillmor and blogger Robert Haugh have created not accepting the fact that the voters made a choice in 2020. The Mayor says there is favorability to the 49ers because of the contracts she created that essentially give the Niners a sweetheart deal just like the same sweetheart deals she gave developer Related Company who backs her campaign as well as litigation benefitting attorney's in the CVRA lawsuit and other lawsuits.

The Civil Grand Jury learned that this City Council Voting Bloc frequently meets with registered 49ers lobbyists close in time to City Council meetings but does not reveal the substance of those meetings to the remainder of the City Council or the public, except to frequently repeat the

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# **UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**

lobbyists' talking points. There is a serious question about whether their practice is in violation of state laws governing open meetings.

This statement by the Grand Jury has no teeth to it. Is it illegal to meet with stakeholders or city business partners? Is it illegal to meet with lobbyists? Is it illegal for Councilmembers in Mountain View to meet with Google? or Councilmembers in San Jose to meet with the San Jose Earthquakes or Sharks? The Grand Jury should have noticed when researching that councilmembers meetings with the 49ers are listed on the Councilmembers calendars as required by the city for all transparency purposes. Councilmembers including myself list the meeting topics discussed with the 49ers, none of the discussions involved litigation because that is unethical. The Civil Grand Jury failed to reach out to me for an interview to clear up these accusations. The calendars are public, and I have provided an example below. A side note about meetings with the 49ers is at least Councilmembers are meeting with the 49ers to have a dialogue and working relationship versus Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Watanabe who refuse to meet with the 49ers and continue a toxic relationship.

		SCSA // 49ers. Topics: Coldplay Recap; Noise monitors;	
		SBL's for Field Seats; FIFA update; PSC follow up; New	Emily Matthews; Sajjan, Jas; Chandhok, Rahul; MacNeil, Larry; ; Josh
5/23/2022	5:00 PM	CFO.	Stephens; Diana Torres; Suds Jain; Kevin Park
		SCSA // 49ers; Topics: Budget; NRS signage repair; Field	Emily Matthews; Sajjan, Jas; Chandhok, Rahul; MacNeil, Larry; Kevin
4/11/2022	5:00 PM	Seats SBL's; Concert update; SBL contract execution; PRA's	Park; Sudhanshu Jain; Josh Stephens; Diana Torres
		Manager A. Olivier and Organisht Organishts a (0000) [Orginalis	

As you can see it is transparently listed on my calendar including the topics or "substance" discussed. The two examples are ripped from my City Calendar, there are many more examples here on my city calendar.

https://www.santaclaraca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/71539/637989437443130000

The Civil Grand Jury learned that some members of the City Council Voting Bloc have failed to follow City protocol regarding "operational tours" of the Stadium. The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has opened a case into whether two councilmembers violated state law regulating gift limitations related to these operational tours. This conduct potentially violated City policy as well. Not surprisingly, there is no City-level inquiry into these actions because that would require a vote by the City Council, which is ruled by the City Council Voting Bloc whose conduct is at issue.

Pg 23 of 60- Councilmembers do not need permission to take operational tours of the stadium, we are elected to represent and in part govern the stadium. There is no policy on having tours done. I personally requested a tour of game day and concert operations and notified staff ahead of time.

It blankly assumes guilt in the Civil Grand Jury Statement above, but if it "potentially" violated city policy it is again an assumption or an opinion and not a fact. They do not even reference the policy as there is none.

There is no need for city-level inquiry until the FPPC decides. The FPPC makes that decision and no one else.

The former City Attorney and former City Manager raised many of these financial, safety, and ethical concerns to the City Council publicly at City Council meetings. Registered lobbyists with the 49ers informed members of the City Council Voting Bloc that they wanted the City Attorney and City Manager fired. The City Council Voting Bloc obliged, and both the City Manager and City Attorney were fired – leaving City management rudderless and without strong leadership.

# Pg 5 of 60. This is a blank assumption. They assume the city was left without strong leadership. This is a political statement that Mayor Gillmor often is quoted saying and now the basis of a Civil Grand Jury Report.

Although the City has ethics rules designed to promote good governance, City Council ethics guidelines are routinely disregarded and are not enforced. The Civil Grand Jury has serious concerns that the current City Council Voting Bloc, which essentially dictates City action due to the majority they hold, is not acting in the best interests of the City or acknowledging the ethical duties owed to their constituents.

Pg 5 of 60- This is also another assumption that the council is not acting in the best interests of the city or acknowledging the ethical duties owed to their constitutes. This is the same narrative that Mayor Gillmor and blogger Robert Haugh use daily. It is the opinion that that council does not act in the best interests of the city with no solid factual proof of that.

#### Measure J and Management of the Stadium

In 2010, voters approved Measure J to build a stadium on City-owned property and lease it to the 49ers as tenants. The purpose of the measure was to generate new revenue for the City, create new jobs, provide taxpayer protections, and generate community funding.

Measure J authorized the formation of the Stadium Authority as a joint-powers authority to oversee the design and construction of the Stadium, be its landlord, and oversee all business related to Stadium maintenance and operation. This entity was created to insulate the City from any financial burdens related to Stadium operations.

Per Measure J, the Stadium Authority entered into an agreement with StadCo to lease the Stadium for an initial term of 40 years with the option of four five-year extensions. In 2014, the Stadium was completed and the 49ers became the City's tenant.

Following the passage of Measure J, the Stadium Authority contracted with 49ers affiliate ManCo to manage Stadium operations. This contract has an initial term of 25 years with a 15-year renewal option.

This report discusses StadCo, ManCo, and Stadium Authority relationships throughout. For the sake of clarity, here is a very brief summary of those entities. A more complete diagram of the relationships is shown in **Appendix A**.

# Pg 6 of 60- Fails to Mention the large push by Lisa Gillmor to bring the stadium to Santa Clara and being part of Citizens for Economic Progress. She benefitted from the \$5 Million dollars

Measure J campaign to bring the stadium here. It also fails to mention Gillmor was behind the official contracts signed in which she objects to often.

http://www.savesantaclara.org/Lisa\_Gillmor.php

### Lisa Gillmor - San Francisco 49ers point woman

Lisa Gillmor was a Santa Clara city council member from 1992 to 2000. She had to leave due to California term limits, but like most Santa Clara politicians, she is back, using the loophole in term limits that allows a return after sitting on the sidelines for two or more years. In 2010 she worked diligently with the San Francisco 49ers through their <u>front group Santa</u> <u>Clarans for Economic Progress</u> to get a <u>tax dodging</u> city subsidized <u>49ers</u> <u>stadium</u> in Santa Clara. Her group allowed the 49ers to funnel 5 million dollars into the stadium campaign and shield the fact that it was actually the team buying the election by flooding mailboxes with dishonest propaganda and running commercials that among other things, told people how great the word 'yes' was. Gillmor was the key press spokesperson on this effort.

Lisa is the daughter of former Santa Clara politician and real estate multimillionaire <u>Gary Gillmor</u>. She works for him in his real estate company Gary Gillmor and Associates. Lisa and her father were taken to small claims court over illegal cash contributions they gave to Santa Clara politicians. In court both she and her father stated - despite the fact that they were both multiterm Santa Clara politicians - that they had no idea that giving over 99 dollars in cash to a politician was illegal.



# **METHODOLOGY**

The Civil Grand Jury conducted more than ten interviews; reviewed City ordinances and policies; studied legal opinions and legal documents; reviewed more than 700 emails; watched videos of City Council meetings; examined councilmembers' public calendars; reviewed portions of the City's charter and ordinance code, the City's Ethics and Values Program, and the Council Policy Manual; reviewed public Stadium Authority financial documents; reviewed multiple media articles; and consulted with legal experts. The Civil Grand Jury used these sources of information to develop facts, findings, and recommendations.

Pg 14 of 60- The methodology: Who were the 10 interviews? This is a major question as to how bias was were the nature of the interviews. I was never contacted to give an interview and speak the truth. However, they were able to discuss my name among others with no actual research. In America you are innocent till proven guilty, and this feels like it assumes guilt without transparent methodology. The proper process is interviewing the source they are making accusations about, which includes me and I was never interviewed. It also mentions that the body reviewed the councilmember's public calendars so they should have noticed then the meeting topics are transparently listed on my calendar. The body also describes reviewing multiple media articles and legal experts, which ones? That is a legit question to ask. Fifth, according to the Civil Grand Jury's investigation, the content of those meetings is not shared with the minority members of the City Council and Stadium Authority. The Civil Grand Jury found no evidence that the minority councilmembers met with the registered 49ers lobbyists. The meetings between the 49ers lobbyists and the City Council Voting Bloc occur behind closed doors. There are no known notes of the meetings and meeting minutes are not required, so there is no way to know what was discussed. When the Mayor tried to require minutes of these meetings, the City Council Voting Bloc voted against it.

This is an unfair assumption and the Council majority meeting with the 49ers is illegal, it is not illegal. The Council minority has every right and opportunity to meet with the 49ers but they choose not to. Instead, they accuse their council colleagues of wrongdoing by meeting with the 49ers. The topics are transparently listed on councilmembers Calendars. If the council minority is so worried about discussions, they should meet with the 49ers themselves and ask questions instead of initiating a witch hunt because they do not agree with what others on council do.

As for meeting minutes etc., does the Mayor or Councilmember Watanabe do the same while meeting unions, developers, residents, or their campaign backers the Related Company? If you do it for one you have to do it for all. This statement by the Civil Grand Jury continues to show their report has a bias nature.

#### Figure 4. Post-Meeting Material from the March 15, 2022, City Council and Authorities Concurrent Meeting

Second, Measure J promised the voters that the City would financially benefit from the Stadium agreements. For that reality to occur, ManCo needs to book non-NFL events that result in Performance Rent to the City. One of the reasons ManCo has expressed for not being able to successfully book more events has been the 10 p.m. weeknight curfew. The Civil Grand Jury watched a February 2022 presentation made to the City Council by a reputable event management company hired by City staff, which proposed options for increasing revenue streams at the Stadium. According to their envisioned marketing strategies, the curfew need not be a significant impediment for booking talent. One of the ways presented to work around the curfew is to book half-bowl or quarter-bowl events that cater to smaller, more specific demographics.

After the presentation, the City Council Voting Bloc voted not to forward the marketing plan presented that evening to ManCo for consideration. The City Council Voting Bloc members did not address any of the substantive points made by the marketing firm. Instead, one of the City Council Voting Bloc members referred to an email prepared by a 49ers lobbyist disparaging both the marketing firm and the City Manager. It is not clear to the Civil Grand Jury why the City Council Voting Bloc would not want ManCo to consider all strategies for booking non-NFL events. It is actions like these that show that the City Council Voting Bloc puts the 49ers' interests ahead of the City's interests.

Third, City staff have noted chronic fire and life safety violations at the Stadium. A senior Santa Clara Fire Department official detailed ManCo's extensive safety violations to help ManCo achieve compliance. From January 22 to October 23, 2020, for example, ManCo consistently had a monthly average of 21 outstanding violations. Repeated violations included ventilation and explosion control safety measures, lack of compliance with minimum code requirements, expired

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Pg 18 of 60: This statement from the Civil Grand Jury continues the narrative of former City Manager Deanna Santana, where the council did not agree with the analysis. This is an opinion and not a legal explanation. It is the council's right to not move forward on a suggested marketing plan, that is the council's ultimate decision and no one else. It again assumes councilmembers put 49ers interests ahead of the city's interest. That is a major accusation with no proof especially if they did not interview councilmembers like me. Where is their proof that the council puts the interests of the 49ers before the city? This again is Mayor Gillmor's constant narrative that the Civil Grand Jury supports. Since Mayor Gillmor lost majority on the city council, she refuses to accept that she lost her power, her control and ultimately refuses to accept that there is other voices on the city council.

> The Civil Grand Jury finds that the City Council Voting Bloc has displayed unacceptable behavior by aligning themselves with ManCo and putting the interest of the 49ers ahead of the interest of the citizenry of the City. By aligning itself with ManCo, the City Council Voting Bloc has effectively breached its duties to the City.

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This again is another major accusation that the council puts the interests of the 49ers before the city. Over and over this Civil Grand Jury report highlights all of Mayor Gillmor's talking points for the last 2-4 years. It again assumes guilt yet cannot pinpoint the unacceptable A settlement was announced on August 31, 2022, pursuant to which ManCo would continue managing the Stadium and non-NFL events. There are reports of shouting, swearing, offensive hand gestures, and aggression by one of the members of the City Council Voting Bloc during the closed session that occurred the evening prior to the announcement. The police were called, and they remained present for the balance of the Council meeting.

Pg 20 of 60 – This again only takes one side of the story and does not transparently follow proper methodology which is interview all the councilmembers. The failure to interview me tells me everything I need to know because of this incident. There are significant differences in this statement by Grand Jury and what they are referencing. They are referencing the dispute on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 where Councilmember Watanabe and Mayor Gillmor stormed out of closed session after disagreeing with the discussion on the settlement agreement in closed session. The reports of shouting and swearing came from Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Watanabe accusing me of doing these things. These reports of the incident are false, exaggerated, and contradictory. Councilmember Watanabe had verbally assaulted me before she slammed her chair and the door to city hall. Mayor Gillmor then followed her. Both were unable to uphold their elected duties and curb their emotions. Instead, they consistently bullied and obstructed the meeting because they were not getting their way, often antagonizing me. When they abandoned their duties, we continued the meeting. They knew nothing and the following day once they received the settlement agreement, it was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle, Mayor Gillmor's favorite paper. In addition to the leak to the chronicle and to cover herself she and Councilmember Watanabe falsely made accusations about me to the media about my behavior neglecting to acknowledge their own behavior towards me. Not only did they leaked the settlement agreement they leaked closed session discussions which wasn't even accurate leaving me in a tough situation to honor closed session privacy.

To the media they had said they were uncomfortable sitting near me. These are the same words many uses when they are uncomfortable sitting near openly gay men or transgender individuals. That is truly disturbing to hear that. At the same time the Mayor said she called the police when it really was calling the Santa Clara Police Chief Pat Nikolai on his personal cell. Chief of Police happens to also endorse Lisa Gillmor for Mayor. The Mayor did not call 911 she had called the police chief who endorsed her. The Police were at City Hall for another reason in which some individual from the public broke into closed session. This was confirmed by City Manager Batra at the end of that council meeting. The Civil Grand Jury ignores these facts and only listens to the narrative put out by the Mayor, deflecting from the fact that she leaked closed session information and that her and Councilmember Watanabe displayed inappropriate behavior themselves. This is not the only time she leaked closed session information which she had done again during the South Bay Labor Council

endorsements. The Grand Jury fails to have investigated further about this and again not interview me. See the news story below about that incident that was not controlled by a Mayor Gillmor narrative.

https://www.svvoice.com/significant-differences-becker-responds-to-gillmors-accusations/

This behavior by Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Watanabe is nothing new they have a history of bullying other councilmembers including gaslighting them. Councilmember Watanabe's claims about me having abusive behavior is hypocritical. Just the past weekend at the Parade of Champions breakfast Councilmember Kathy Watanabe walked up and verbally assaulted my partner by yelling at him.

In February 2022, the City Council passed a resolution welcoming the 2026 FIFA World Cup (Competition) to the City. At that meeting, the then-City Manager raised concerns about how hosting the FIFA World Cup at the Stadium could negatively impact the City/Stadium Authority. The then-City Manager presented a PowerPoint that noted concerns like security costs, as follows:

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The resolution was unanimous with the Mayor and Councilmember Watanabe voting with the entire council. They had tried to derail it and stall the vote and continued to fight against it. However ultimately it was passed. The Mayor however now tries to take credit for it despite fighting it. The resolution clearly states that the Stadium Authority must be insulated from any financial losses in accordance with voter approved Measure J.

 WHEREAS, Santa Clara's Levi's Stadium is near California's Great America theme park and the

 Santa Clara Convention Center and provides easy access to public transportation, highways,

 and the San Jose, Oakland and San Francisco International Airports; the City of Santa Clara is

 a world-class city with a high-tech venue ready for the opportunity to host this premier event;

 and

 WHEREAS, 2026 FIFA World Cup matches would be a Santa Clara Stadium Authority Non 

 NFL event and both the City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara Stadium Authority must be

 Resolution/2026 FIFA World Cup
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 Resolution/2026 FIFA World Cup
 Page 1 of 2

insulated from any financial losses in accordance with voter-approved Measure J: The Santa Clara Stadium Taxpayer Protection and Economic Progress and required in Government Guarantees requirements, respectively. As detailed above, the former City Manager defended her staff against inappropriate behavior from the City Council Voting Bloc. She opened investigations. She raised concerns about ManCo's compliance with contractual agreements. She has had to defend herself from personal attacks by 49ers lobbyists, who told the City Council Voting Bloc that they wanted the City Manager/Stadium Authority Executive Director gone. On February 22, 2022, she spoke out about concerns related to the FIFA event, urging caution and the need for more information. She also raised the issue of potential conflicts of interest related to the 49ers. Two days later, the City Council fired the City Manager with a contractually obligated severance package. The vote was 5-2, with the City Council Voting Bloc voting in favor of termination.

# Pg 26 of 60 This is a false statement and research by the Grand Jury. The Vote to terminate Deanna Santana was 4-2 with Councilmember Jain absent. The research and facts are not accurate.

The Civil Grand Jury commends the former City Attorney and former City Manager for putting the interests of the City and Stadium Authority first, which has come at great personal and professional cost.

Pg 26 of 60 – This is a very political statement by the Civil Grand Jury as well as the same narrative as Mayor Gillmor for the past year.

Section 807 of the City Charter makes it clear that "except for the purpose of inquiry, the City Council and its members shall deal with the administrative service under the City Manager solely through the City Manager and neither the City Council nor any member shall give orders to any subordinates of the City Manager, either publicly or privately." A violation is a misdemeanor. Under the City Code, the City Manager is tasked as the chief administrative officer with responsibility for the administration of all affairs of the City. (Santa Clara City Code §§ 2.15.020(a) & (c).) The Civil Grand Jury learned that the then-City Manager made a complaint that, among other things, a councilmember was directing City staff. An outside investigator was hired to investigate the complaint. If true, the allegations in that complaint may have violated the Charter. On August 23, 2022, the City noticed a closed session meeting under the exception for "public employment appointment" for the City Manager. At that meeting, the City Council Voting Bloc voted to stop the investigation made from that complaint.

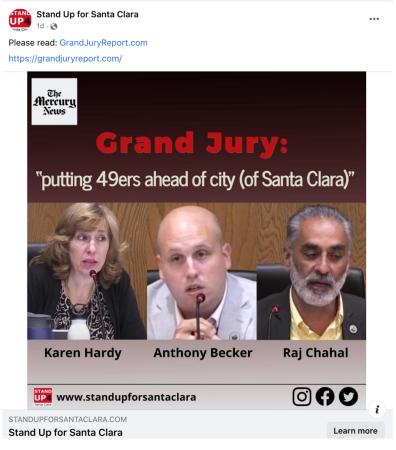
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How does the Civil Grand Jury know about a closed session item? How do they know about a vote on an investigation, the only two people that could have said anything from the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 vote was Mayor Gillmor and Councilmember Watanabe.

The following screenshots are from Stand Up for Santa Clara and organization closely tied to Mayor Gillmor which released these posts before the release of the Grand Jury report at 10am on Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

This shows the political nature of the Grand Jury report and that it was leaked to Stand Up For Santa Clara. It also shows a website name, <u>www.grandjuryreport.com</u>. This is a website that is for political purposes this website was launched before the supposed release of the Grand Jury report on October 10th, 2022 at 10am.

The website uses "fake" Santa Clara County Grand Jury logo. One can say the logo is being used in a fraudulent way to mislead people including voters as I suspect that it will be on all of Mayor Gillmor's mailers.









"The Civil Grand Jury has serious concerns that the current (Santa Clara) City Council Voting Bloc ... is not acting in the best interests of the City (of Santa Clara) or acknowledging the ethical duties owed to their constituents."

**Report Highlights** 





The City Council Veining Bloc is matcheding/ManCo (divers Stadium Management Company) accountable for its financial accounting deficiencies or its inability to hold non-NEL events that creater revenue for the City. Neither does it require ManCor appresentatives or divers representatives in attend City Council meetings to explain matters related to the Stadium and its management.

The City and Stadium Authority have recently settled litigation brought by the 49ers. Two members of the City Council Voing Bloc (Big Chabal and Keren Hendy) who are up for re-election, and are [Inthing: Bicker] who is challenging the current Mayor. Received almost \$750,000 in densitions from 45ers PMCs within Answ direct the articipant up are mind-

The former City Attorney and Jorner City Monager **related many of these financial**, **softps**, and **chical concerns as the City Counted** publicly of City Council Interings, **theory of the City Attorney and City Monager (First**, The City Council **Bite:** that they availed the City Attorney and City Monager (First, The City Council **Bite:** that they availed the City Attorney and City Monager (First, The City Council **Bite:** that they are both the City Monager and City Monager (First, The City council City **Bits chicages and City Attorney First**, The City Council Herving City **Bits chicages and City Attorney First**, The City Council Revision City **Bits chicages and City Attorney First**, The City Council **City**, **Bits City City**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits City**, **Bits**, **Bits**,





In 2019, before the current City Council Voting Bloc was in place, the City Council voted to terminate the contract with ManCo, triggering a lawsuit by the 49ers contesting the termination.

That lawsuit and others were combined by the court, and the parties were directed to attend mediation. Anxious to wrap this up quickly, **the direct began an almost daily pressure compaign to swap public opinion and [evec the City to settle the lawsuits], all of which were initiated by the 49ers. The settlement would <b>enable then to continue managing the Stability**.

A settlement was announced on August 31, 2022, pursuant to which ManCo would continue managing the Stadium and non-NTL events. There are reports of **Stadium Events**, **Reserving, Affinish Kahar Gatances, and association by and of the mankers of the Cap Gaussian Whiting Black (Atalama); Referred Juring the cloud assistion that concurred the eventing prior to the announce. The palacescure called, and they remained present for the balance of the Council meeting.** 

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"The Civil Grand Jury has <mark>serious concerns</mark> that the current (Santa Clara) City Council Voting Bloc ... <mark>is not acting in the</mark> **best interests of the City** (of Santa Clara) or acknowledging the **ethical duties owed to their constituents.**"

Fake Logo



Real Logo