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TO : Lompoc City Council (PUBLIC COMMENT)

RE: AGENDA ITEM 11. (PUBLIC COMMENT)

Discussion of Potential Revisions to the Appointment Method and Structure of City Commissions; Introduction of Ordinance No. 1677(21) and Adoption of Resolution No. 6373(20) Changing the Appointment Method and Structure of City Commissions to Require That Commissioners Be Appointed by District (Requested by Mayor Osborne)

I am writing to express my concern over Mayor Osborne's attempt to restructure the appointment method and structure of City Commissions. This has the appearance of a pure political power grab to disenfranchise the newly formed minority majority district(s). The Mayor, with the only at large position, will be able to appoint a person whose sole purpose is to negate the vote of a commissioner in the minority majority district. This only undermines the original intent of forming the majority minority districts. This will give the Mayor more political voting power in any given district than in the past where the Mayor's appointee was an equal with any appointments on a commission. In essence, the Mayor will be able to nullify the vote of commissioner in which ever district that the Mayor decides to make her personal appointment.

The requirement that a council member must appoint his commissioners based upon the standard that the person lives in the council members district will have a disparate impact on members who do not live in that district. Many people may desire to serve on a commission but the opportunity to serve the community will be restricted by where you live. The proposed method and structure is ripe for abuse and appears to be a maneuver to disenfranchise some members of the community. I recommend that the City Council do not change the current method and structure.

Sincerely

Nicholas Gonzales Jr.