



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor  
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor  
Steven Bliss, Council Member  
Cameron Burks, Council Member  
Teresa Gerring, Council Member

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **City of Lafayette Statement on the Terraces of Lafayette Project**

**LAFAYETTE, CALIF., Sept. 26, 2019** — Beginning shortly after Susan Candell's election to the City Council in November 2018, the City of Lafayette received several letters from Bryan Wenter of Miller Starr Regalia on behalf of O'Brien Land Company, LLC, the Applicant for the proposed Terraces of Lafayette apartment development project. The letters called for Vice Mayor Candell to recuse herself with respect to any City Council decisions or discussions regarding the Terraces project.

On February 25, 2019, Vice Mayor Candell announced that she would recuse herself, stating that her decision was made after consultation with her own attorney, as well as the City's attorney on matters related to the Terraces project. The City's attorney serves as counsel to the City of Lafayette, not Vice Mayor Candell as an individual Councilmember.

On August 12, 2019, Vice Mayor Candell announced that she would no longer recuse herself with respect to the Terraces project. Ultimately, it is each individual Councilmember's responsibility to make the decision whether or not to recuse herself or himself when faced with a conflict of interest charge of the type that the Terraces project applicant has made.

The Applicant has also asserted that the other Councilmembers are under an obligation to initiate legal action, or take other steps, in order to prevent Vice Mayor Candell from participating in the City's consideration of the Terraces project application. There is no such obligation, and City Councilmembers are not empowered to overrule a fellow Councilmember's judgment with respect to such a matter.

The City Council and City staff remain committed to ensuring fairness and due process throughout its consideration of the Terraces project, regardless of whether or not the Applicant chooses to seek judicial guidance regarding Vice Mayor's participation in the Council's possible future consideration of matters concerning the Terraces project.

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