From: Lars Langberg [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Public Comment Received For City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Cc: Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: [POTENTIAL SPOOFED SENDER] November 17th meeting, agenda Item 15: City Staffing

Dear Council members,
I'm writing to encourage you NOT to fund the request for more Planning Dept consultant time with 4Leaf, and instead work to fill the vacancy of our Planning Director. I am the current chair of the Design Review Board, and have been a board member for a few years now, including the time we had someone in that position. WIth no disrespect to the consultants we've had since the position has been vacant, the relationship between the work of the board and the Planning Dept has been less collaborative and effective.

More importantly, the City as a whole has suffered from the lack of vision that a Planning Director can provide. This includes developing the Work Plan for the DRB that was requested by the Council, as well as a more robust defense of important new housing laws like AB1033. It became clear through the review of the project at 8100 Valentine that we need more wide-ranging objective design standards. The volunteers of the DRB could work on that, just as they are working on a revised tree ordinance. But without a full-time Planning Director to lead that effort, it would take a lot longer, and not hold as clear a vision. Not to mention many other issues that need attention on our town.

Whether we need to raise the salary offer, or widen the search to include less experienced candidates who are excited and inspiring, the importance of this position can't be overstated. Please vote against this item, or limit the term, to focus everyone's attention on the solution that would bring long lasting value to our City.
Sincerely,
Lars Langberg

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