

Rebuttal to Argument Opposed to Measure CC

Measure CC opponents claim the measure would “unacceptably split Piedmont’s governing authority” but have identified no other city with Piedmont’s current system of split governance. The Charter says City officers are appointed, directed by and serve at the pleasure of the Council, but also has conflicting provisions saying that the City Administrator is the chief administrative officer, with responsibility for administration and supervision of all departments. Measure CC would resolve this conflict.

Opponents mischaracterized the measure. Under Measure CC, the Council still hires, directs and fires the City Administrator and City Attorney and hires other officers. But meeting twice a month, Council cannot and shouldn’t attempt to direct department heads’ daily work; instead, Council provides strategic direction to staff through the City Administrator, who’s responsible for supervising, reviewing performance, and if necessary disciplining staff – including department heads. This is the practice in Piedmont and nearly every other city. Measure CC clarifies this ambiguity.

Opponents warn of wrongful termination lawsuits, but cite no legal opinion. The City Attorney carefully reviewed the measure.

Piedmont competes for quality staff in a tight labor market. While Piedmont currently benefits from a highly qualified, professional staff, expensive failures of oversight have occurred in the past. Letting three Councilmembers protect an incompetent department head from termination even after a disciplinary process, or fire a competent department head for payback or political reasons, has the potential for an uncomfortable work environment, high staff turnover and low morale.

Bring Piedmont into the 21st Century – Vote Yes on CC.

The undersigned proponents or authors of the rebuttal to the argument opposed to Measure BB at the General Municipal Election for the City of Piedmont to be held on November 6, 2018, hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of his/her/their/knowledge and belief.

Robert S. McBain
Mayor

Tim Rood
Councilmember

Valerie Matzger
Former Mayor

Dean Barbieri
Former Mayor

John Chiang
Former Mayor