Dear Morgan Hill City Council,

Comments for the Public Record submitted by
Doug Muirhead, a resident of Morgan Hill, for:
  Morgan Hill City Council
    Meeting December 16, 2015
    Item n-a: Leadership development and delegation chain
    Item #32: Spay and Neuter Program
    Item #33: Minimum Wage Community Outreach and Engagement

Thank you for your consideration,
Doug Muirhead, Morgan Hill

Item n-a: Leadership development and delegation chain

First, both Ms. Tobin at the Minimum Wage Forums, and Acting City Manager
Swing at the last Council meeting, thanked Kurt Lueneburger (from the Water
District) for participating in a management exchange. You might consider
telling our community a little about our Leadership development program,
including this previously-unknown management exchange.

Second, perhaps I am naive, but I would have expected one of the people
who have the title Assistant City Manager to fill in for the City Manager
in his absence. What is the chain for delegation of authority below the
City Manager?

Item #32: Spay and Neuter Program

I want to speak in support of Ms. Geddes' request. As I said to her
this weekend, it is unfortunate that neither the new 2035 General Plan
(Healthy Communities Element and Natural Resources and Environment Element)
nor the County General Plan Health Element acknowledge that the welfare of
animals (domestic and wild) contribute to the health and happiness of humans.

I hope your support will be a first step toward more regional involvement,
in particular with the County Animal Shelter in San Martin.

Back in May and June 2013 I asked the County Sheriff (HLUET) and Chief Swing
(Mayor Coffee) if the money that they were going to spend on housing police
dogs at Elmwood and in Morgan Hill could be re-directed to facilities at the
Animal Shelter.
Unfortunately, neither even pretended to consider how this could be possible,
and immediately responded that they were too special.

I hope the Council, for the health of our animals and ourselves, will
try to see what we could do and not just fall back on why we can't do.

Item #33: Minimum Wage Community Outreach and Engagement

As I finished sending my written comments on the two forums last week,
I realized that the last thing I said should be the first question
to you: what is our ultimate goal? If the goal is to reduce the number
of working poor, is minimum wage the best starting point to achieve that?

I would like to hear more about the two alternative approaches
brought up by the business community:
  starting wage, minimum wage, living wage
  total compensation

Before I can take a position on minimum wage,
I would like us to participate in the regional study
if it answers several questions
 1) Who considers this a regional issue and why?
    Who does not consider this a regional issue and why?
 2) Is there a flow at boundaries of jurisdictions with different
    minimum wages of sales and of jobs?
 3) What are the unintended consequences and are they offset by
    net benefits?
    For example, an article in the "Bakersfield Californian" on Nov 29
    suggests that minimum wage hike in Oakland could reduce access to
    childcare.

Given that the staff report mentions other Bay Area cities and includes
the SCC Cities Association Report on Minimum Wage, don't you think that
an additional Council Priority would be Regional Involvement?
I would suggest that Regional Involvement does not equate to Regional
Consistency. This differs from the position of the Cities Association,
that regional consistency is a paramount consideration, since differences
lead to economic competition (sales and jobs).

I thought the business and community forums went well (I attended all 90
minutes of the morning session but only the last 30 minutes of the evening
session). Compliments to Kurt Lueneburger, Michelle Katsuyoshi, and Maureen
Tobin. I did not feel the online survey was all that useful, since my
questions (above) prevented me from having a position.