

From: [Hsinya Shen](#)
To: [Council, City](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment for Item 5 of 3/27/23 Council Agenda
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 1:15:40 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing as an individual (and not on behalf of the Public Art Commission) regarding Item 5 (Titled: Adopt an Ordinance to Expand the Human Relations Commission from Five to Seven Members) for the city council meeting on Monday, 3/27/23.

This proposal partially revises [the City Council's June 2020 action](#) (Titled: Adoption of an Ordinance to Reduce the Number of Human Relations Commission (HRC) and Public Art Commission (PAC) Members From Seven to Five) and restores the number of HRC members. Since the City Council's June 2020 action impacted both the HRC and PAC, I respectfully request that the City Council expands Item 5 to equally increase the membership for both the City's HRC and PAC from 5 to 7 members.

I am proud of Palo Alto's diversity, and reducing the PAC size from 7 to 5 members has inevitably reduced the diversity of views on the PAC. PAC historically has had no problems recruiting members, members volunteer their time, and a reduction from 7 to 5 in the past few years has not reduced the number of meetings, meeting time, or staff time to support the commission, which were the goals of the City Council's June 2020 action. In fact, the reduced Commission size has resulted in a loss of institutional knowledge and threatened balanced oversight.

I urge the council to expand Item 5 of tonight's city council agenda to increase the membership for both the City's HRC and PAC from five to seven members.

Sincerely,
Hsinya Shen