

**From:** [City Council](#)  
**To:** [Eduardo Montesino](#); [Vanessa Quiroz](#); [Maria Orozco](#); [Kristal Salcido](#); [Casey Clark](#); [Jimmy Dutra](#); [Ari Parker](#); [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** FW: City of Watsonville Meeting- Public Comment Agenda Item 9.a  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:10:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-vsogtr4u.png](#)  
[Outlook-rd53n2ft.png](#)  
[Outlook-zojp3wmr.png](#)  
[Outlook-qtfvjino.png](#)  
[Outlook-alvgmplx.png](#)  
[Outlook-pdgin5i2.png](#)  
[Outlook-ff0be1z0.png](#)

---

**From:** Maya Peterson <MayaP@cabinc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:09:40 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** City Council <citycouncil@watsonville.gov>  
**Subject:** City of Watsonville Meeting- Public Comment Agenda Item 9.a

Good Afternoon,

The City of Watsonville City Council Meeting Agenda would not allow me to submit public comment via the online portal. ***Please accept the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County's public comment on Agenda Item 9.a:***

Dear Mayor and Watsonville City Council Members,

The Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) urges your Council to support amending the City Charter to allow all City residents to serve on City board and commissions, regardless of their voter registration status. We request that the Watsonville City Council adopt the original subcommittee and staff recommendation, which extends eligibility for board and commission appointments to all City residents. As we understand, there is no legal, state, federal, or local barrier to adopt this inclusive and equitable approach.

Our City of Watsonville is made up of a diverse group of community members and it is our vision that everyone, regardless of voter status, has an opportunity to participate in shaping the city's future. It is your responsibility to support what is in the best interest of EVERYONE who makes up our community. This is a wonderful opportunity to give voice to segments of Watsonville who have been traditionally overlooked. Allowing voters to decide to expand boards and commissions to all residents of the city, regardless of voter registration, empowers us to create a unified City and support civic engagement like we have NEVER done before. This is a groundbreaking opportunity that is based on our City values of Character, Compassion and Communication and we urge you to allow the community to vote on the direction that is best for our future.

As the County's designated anti-poverty community action agency, CAB strongly believes in the values of equity, inclusion, and service. The decisions made by these bodies affect all

residents, whether they are registered voters or not, so it is essential that everyone has the opportunity to be represented and to participate. This change will enhance community and civic engagement and ensure the inclusion of diverse voices. Thank you for considering this important issue of equity and inclusion.

In Community,

MariaElena De La Garza, CEO  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Thank you!

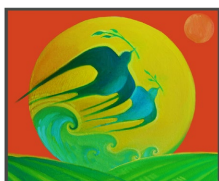
**Maya Peterson**

Administrative Support Specialist

**Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.**

406 Main Street, Suite 311, Watsonville, CA 95076

Office: 831.535.1395



Community Action Board  
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

