



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laguna Niguel City Council Announces New Mayor Pro Tem and Decision to Fill Existing City Council Vacancy Through Individual Appointment

Laguna Niguel, CA – At the Tuesday, April 18, 2023, City Council Meeting, the Laguna Niguel City Council selected Stephanie Oddo to serve as the City's Mayor Pro Tem.



Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Oddo was elected to the City Council in November 2022 for a four-year term. "I am truly honored and humbled to be selected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow City Council colleagues for placing their trust and confidence in my leadership," said Mayor Pro Tem Oddo. "I understand the significance of this position and take my responsibilities very seriously. I am committed to working diligently and collaboratively with my colleagues to serve our amazing residents and make a positive impact on our city's future." Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Oddo will serve in this role through November 2023.

In addition, the City Council voted to fill the existing City Council vacancy (Rischi Paul Sharma resigned on April 6, 2023) through the appointment of an individual member of the community. The City Council directed staff to initiate an application process similar to the City Commission and Committee recruitment and appointment process. The City Clerk's Office will coordinate the application process, with the application period opening on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 and closing at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023. It is expected that the City Council will select applicants to be interviewed at the May 2, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting; followed by applicant interviews and the appointment of an individual to fill the City Council vacancy during a May 10, 2023, Special City Council Meeting.

"Initiating the application process to appoint an individual to fill the City Council vacancy is in the best interest of our city. Not only will a Special Election cost the City approximately \$100,000, but it will also leave the City without a fifth City Council Member for a prolonged period of 7 months," said Mayor Kelly Jennings. "By opting to appoint an individual, we can ensure that the City Council will continue to function effectively. I am confident that we will receive applications from highly qualified candidates who possess the skills necessary to serve the City compassionately, and with distinction."

The individual that is ultimately appointed to fill the existing City Council vacancy will serve as a City Council Member for the remainder of the unexpired term through December 2024.

To be considered for appointment to the City Council, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, reside within the city limits of Laguna Niguel, and be registered to vote in the City of Laguna Niguel. Interested applicants must submit a fully completed application and a Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interests.

For more information and to access the 'Application for Appointment to the Laguna Niguel City Council' please visit www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/cityclerk.

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