

From: [Lisa Gillmor](#)
To: [Kirk Vartan](#)
Subject: Re: Statement about Kirk Vartan's title of "Special Advisor to the Mayor"
Date: Sunday, November 6, 2022 9:32:05 AM

Kirk,

Thank you for your email and I am confirming my action to appoint you as my Special Advisor in 2020.

Lisa Gillmor
Mayor

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From: Kirk Vartan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 5, 2022 3:50:18 PM
To: Lisa Gillmor <LGillmor@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Kathy Watanabe <KWatanabe@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Raj Chahal <RChahal@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Karen Hardy <KHardy@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Kevin Park <KPark@Santaclaraca.gov>; Sudhanshu Jain <SJain@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Anthony Becker <ABecker@SantaClaraCA.gov>
Cc: Clerk <Clerk@santaclaraca.gov>; Hosam Haggag <hhaggag@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Statement about Kirk Vartan's title of "Special Advisor to the Mayor"

Mayor and Council,

Since I have not heard back from the city confirming this was forward to all of you, I decided I would send it to you directly as it is very important to me that you receive this information.

Kind regards,

-Kirk

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kirk Vartan [REDACTED]
Subject: Statement about Kirk Vartan's title of "Special Advisor to the Mayor"
Date: November 2, 2022 at 11:18:31 PM PDT
To: "mayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov" <mayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov>, Clerk <clerk@santaclaraca.gov>, Hosam Haggag <hhaggag@santaclaraca.gov>, Manager <Manager@santaclaraca.gov>

Dear Mayor and Council,

After the council meeting on Tues 11/1, I feel it necessary to set the record straight on something council members seem to be focused on. I am not a self-appointed assistant or self-appointed advisor to the Mayor, nor have I ever been. This assertion about me is false and continues to be repeated. I thought it was funny at first, but I now realize this continued accusation may be used to delegitimize my standing in the community.

Not only do some council members repeat this attack on my character when I make a public comment, but even local reporters and publications are parroting the condescending and aggressive intent of this slur. Here is the fact: I was appointed by Mayor Lisa Gillmor in February 2020 (almost a year before the council members making these statements were elected) as “Special Advisor to the Mayor” on small business and worker-owned cooperative initiatives.

Attached is an article from the Silicon Valley Voice/Santa Clara Weekly discussing our co-op and referencing this information (<https://www.svvoice.com/worker-co-op-model-gaining-traction-in-santa-clara>). The continued snide remarks about being “self-appointed” is dishonest and bullying in nature, especially when it is coming from the dais at an official council meeting. I hope in the future the council members will stop focusing on my titles and instead focus on the issues at hand.

I trust this will put this issue to rest.

Kind regards,

Kirk Vartan
GM/Founder, A Slice of New York - a Santa Clara business

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