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Fw: Public Comment on November 19, agenda item 8

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From: David Cary <*****>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2014 4:59 PM
To: Commission, Elections (REG)
Subject: Public Comment on November 19, agenda item 8

To all Commissioners:

Please find attached the prepared remarks that I was expecting to share with you as public comment on agenda item 8 at the November 19 San Francisco Elections Commission meeting. I plan on delivering to the Commission at the next scheduled meeting the petition that is mentioned in the remarks.

On November 19, I had been waiting in the hall for an opportunity to return to the meeting at the end of the closed session portion of agenda item 7. However the end of the closed session was never announced or explicitly indicated, except by commissioners leaving the room after the conclusion of the meeting. Also, the Closed Session sign remained on station at the meeting room entrance until after everyone had left the room. Please accept these written comments as a partial remedy to those problems with the conduct of the meeting.

David Cary

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Thank you President Matthews and Commissioners. My name is David Cary.

I recommend that you commit to reviewing, restoring, and enhancing what have already been demonstrated to be viable better practices and policies for doing election night RCV tallies. I encourage you to commit to making these changes in the first half of 2015, well before next November's election. I am preparing to give you as much encouragement and support as you need to get this right.

A diverse group of San Franciscans are calling for this change. I commend these brave people who are speaking out to tell City Hall powers that change is needed. In particular, with this first, small installment, they are petitioning this commission to:

"Stop Hiding Our Votes. Report full tallies for all RCV contests at least twice on election night: once with the initial release of tallies within an hour after polls close and again at the end of election night processing. Always supply ballot data with RCV tallies to allow independent verification."

A painful part of this for me has been listening to those whose voting participation is already suppressed by their low level of confidence in our political and electoral institutions. The failure of San Francisco Elections to provide some of the most basic and visible support for transparent, credible elections on election night tends to confirm some of their worst fears about the system.

They deserve better and I ask you to do your part to institute improvements.

Thank you.