

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 2, 1993

OPPOSITION TO RECALL

CC-6  
CC-18

Alice Woollett, 1011 Pinot Noir, Lodi, made several comments regarding the recall and her experience in participating in a recall effort in the past. Ms. Woollett also presented each Council Member with a wrapped gift.

June 8, 1993

Mr. Editor:

The enclosed "Letter to the Editor", addressing the Lodi City Council was read by me at their meeting on June 2, 1993. I know in the reading additions were made and due to a time limit many omissions. I have been asked to have it submitted to both the Lodi News-Sentinel and the Stockton Record to be published in its entirety.

Thank You,

*Mary Alice Woollett*

Mary Alice Woollett

Mary Alice Woollett  
1011 Pinot Noir Dr.  
Lodi, CA. 95240  
209-334-1265

Editor: Addressed to the Lodi City Council

Mr. Mayor, Councilmen, City Manager and Staff:, I am here tonite in opposition to recalls! Years ago, I managed the office of one of the largest recalls in Northern California. I participated because of moral issues. However, the main reason was of a business nature. This recall was financed and run by business people, industry, farmers and other interested citizens like myself. We had plenty of money, volunteers and the support of local newspapers. We had no trouble collecting more signatures than required to proceed with a recall. Actually, we had enough signatures to win the recall. We lost! Why! Many people that signed the petition, either didn't go to the polls or voted against the recall. Their reasoning, we should be given the right to recall, but the person being recalled should have the same right to serve his term. Interesting!

During that recall, I was constantly harassed and threatened. Most nights, I needed a police escort home from our office. All our efforts were a great waste of taxpayer's money, as well as, the money, time and energy spent by the recall committee.

The benefactor of a recall is the newspaper, which unfairly, takes money from both sides, and then prints editorials and recommendations favoring only one side. Is this fair when we have just one newspaper! If all this "recalling" gets serious, I would like to see our local newspaper ignore the subject completely, or at least stay neutral. Let those involved get the "word" out via community gatherings. Those interested could attend, ask questions and then make up their own minds.

For those thinking this council is much different from many others, think again! Just a few years ago, when Kandy Snider, Fred Reid and Evelyn Olson took office, they made it clear

Jim Pinkerton would never be mayor as long as they were on the council. They played "Musical Chairs" with the "seat" of mayor. David Hinchman replaced Bob Murphy two years later and he joined their "game".

Bob Murphy had two remaining years as councilman before Mr. Hinchmans election, and should have had his turn being mayor, but he was given the "token" title of Mayor pro-tem for both those years.

When Jim Pinkerton decided not to seek another term on the council and try for the assembly, he was handed the gavel. They allowed him to be mayor. There is not much honor serving as mayor when attained via the "good Buddy System".

Someday, when the mayor is elected by the voters, it will be a more meaningful office. It seems to me that when the gavel gets into the hands of some people, it literally goes to their heads.

At least one good thing has come from the last seven months of council meetings, you now have the attention of the people that elected you. More people are becoming involved and are attending meetings or watching you on T.V.. However, many are watching just for comedic intertainment!

Before the last election, you, Phil Pennino, Randy Snider, Jack Sieglock and Steve Mann "campaigned" either openly or behind the scenes against Mr. Davenport. You never intended to accept him! The shameless display of rolling eyes, shaking heads and sharp retorts, clearly show your discourtesies toward Mr. Davenport.

Your voting against motions made by Mr. Davenport, if they hadn't died for lack of a second, reminds me of the years Jim Pinkerton also faced the same treatment.

Mr. Mayor, since you and our councilmen show disrespect for Mr. Davenport, Mr. Peterson and his staff are also showing their contempt. Why, what is going on that the voters should know about?

I was very aware of your quick decision to hold Public Forums on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings immediately following Mr. Davenports informing you he had prior commitments on both nights. However, he did attend some of those meetings and I saw his wife in attendance at all forums and am sure she kept her husband informed. For the most part, those meetings were boring! The one thing I learned from them, was the many "Kingdoms" it takes to run our City, and how many assistants in each "Kingdom" and the great amount of money needed for their survival.

Finally, I am embarrassed at the way this council has not worked together! I believe in young people in leadership rolls, out so far you have disappointed me. You are all acting very immature.

I have noticed the F.O.T. buttons and lemon drops on display, and I now wish to give you each a gift that represents how you portray yourselves to me. I included you, Mr. Peterson, but frankly, I couldn't afford presents for all your staff and their many assistants.

Thank you for your time.

( I gave out five pacifiers and one cigar-hopefully, separating the man from the boys. Guess who got the cigar!)

P.S. I would like to make a plea that all recalls be dropped-- if not let them "die for lack of a second", In other words, don't sign any petitions!

*Mary Alice Woollett*  
Mary Alice Woollett

# Cable-rate cuts now in hands of viewers

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — After years of congressional battles and months of rule writing by the Federal Communications Commission, it is now up to cable TV customers and local governments to make sure rates are reduced and service is improved starting this summer.

That's because the cable TV law and FCC regulations implementing it, which become effective June 21, require cities and other local governments that franchise cable systems — plus subscribers themselves — to act before changes and rates can be ordered.

"The hidden issue is whether the cities rise to the occasion and really bring home the bacon," said Gene Kimmelman, legislative director for the Consumer Federation of America.

Cities must seek certification as regulators from the FCC before seeking to implement the new rules. If they don't become certified, cable companies could slip partially or completely through the regulatory scheme leaving current rates untouched, Kimmelman and others said.

The FCC adopted a complex set of regulations — more than 500 pages long — that could cut cable TV rates by 10 percent or more for all levels of cable service on 75 percent of the nation's 11,000 cable systems. The exception: premium and pay-per-view channels.

The regulations also control the fees cable operators can charge for installation, remote controls, converter boxes and second TV-set hookups.

Other regulations, effective July 1, govern cable-system office hours, telephone availability, installations, system outages, service calls, billing and refund policies.

But the FCC left it up to the cities to implement the rates for equipment and basic-cable service — local broadcast stations and public, educational and governmental stations — and oversee service standards.

Before customers get those benefits, cities must file, starting June 21, to become certified by the FCC as regulators for their local systems and adopt procedures for implementing the regulations and standards.

The FCC also retained control of rates for cable-service levels higher than basic. To gain rate reductions at those levels, subscribers or cities must petition the FCC directly, starting June 21.

Topping it off is the complexity of the new regulations, which set a maximum per-channel charge, or "benchmark," based on a particular system's number of total channels, cable network stations, subscribers and other variables.

"Organizations like ours are trying to decipher exactly what the rules say," said Anna Ferrera, the telecommunications expert for the National League of Cities. "It's taking some time."

While the regulations may be complex, local governments have to act for their constituents to get the benefits, Kimmelman said.

*I would like to see this issue addressed by our City!*  
*Alice Wadlett*