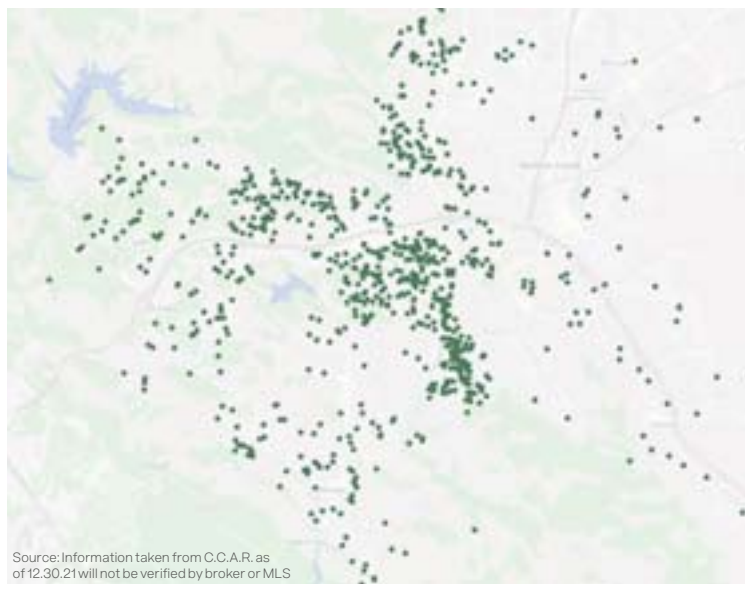




See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
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## Gerringer gears up to take new position as Lafayette mayor



Photo provided

**New Lafayette Mayor Teresa Gerringer**

By Lou Fancher

In the weeks prior to commencing her term in 2022 as the city's new mayor, Teresa Gerringer could be resting up. But that is hardly what this longtime community leader and Lafayette City Council member since 2018 ever seems to do.

Gerringer has served on the Lafayette Community Foundation Board, including a term as president; was a Charter member of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center Foundation Board; and has represented the council on regional boards including the Contra Costa Transportation Authority; California Cities East Bay Division Executive Board; CalCities Communica-

tions, Transportation and Public Works Policy Committee; and the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority/Recycle SMART, among others. Her volunteer and professional education advocacy and policy work includes local, regional and state leadership roles. Gerringer currently serves as Communications Director, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, District 3, having previously served as District Director, California State Senate Seventh District. Gerringer and her husband and their two daughters have lived in Lafayette since 1995.

Gerringer says she has been a public servant for most of her adult life and her over 18 years serving on the Lafayette School District governing board – four times as board president – guides her processes. “Listening to and working with others to identify and solve problems is the common thread in my professional and volunteer service.” She has served with the community to raise capital campaign funds to build the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, advocated for increased funding for education at the state and federal level while helping to pass local revenue measures to fund improvements to school facilities and bridge gaps in program funding, and coordinated collaborative partnering with Contra Costa Transit Authority and local schools to bring the Street Smarts traffic safety program to Lafayette.

Gerringer says foundational to all

city council efforts will be “strong collaboration, coalition building and partnerships; and identification and use of available resources that include but are not limited to funding, city staffing, and community volunteers.” Of utmost importance, she says achieving the council’s stated goals and priorities (available for all to view on the city’s website) will require “continued robust, authentic community engagement.”

Lamorinda Weekly asked Gerringer to speak specifically to five areas of interest: transportation safety, implementing the Vision Zero policy, enhancing wildfire and emergency preparedness, the ongoing response to Covid-19, and updating elements of the General Plan.

Gerringer noted that the council and residents have made transportation safety a priority over the last several years, and it will continue to be a top priority in the 2022. “Thanks to the Lafayette Transportation and Circulation Commission, school leaders and parents, city staff and consultants, site visits at our schools and review of previous plans and studies is underway to identify near-term and long-term solutions to improve safety for all modes of transportation around our schools,” Gerringer said. “Some improvements have already begun to be implemented, with more to come in early 2022.”

She noted that at its November meeting, the council adopted a Vision Zero policy affirming the commitment

to make safety a priority throughout Lafayette. “Staff is in the process of putting out a Request for Proposals for a consultant to work with a Vision Zero Task Force made up of committed stakeholders including residents, staff, public agency partners, law enforcement, experts, and others to develop a Vision Zero Plan,” Gerringer said. “Vision Zero emphasizes making systemic change based on data to create an environment where human mistakes on our roads do not cause death or severe injury and works to protect our most vulnerable road users. We will use the city’s many communications channels to ensure that the community has every opportunity to learn more about Vision Zero and to be part of the implementation process.”

As for emergency preparedness, Gerringer said, “Working with our partners and our residents, we made great progress around our goal to enhance wildfire and emergency preparedness and fuel mitigation. I want to thank all residents for taking personal responsibility for vegetation cleanup and creating defensible spaces around their properties, and to forming Firewise neighborhoods. I look forward to us taking a proactive approach to review our tree protection ordinances to ensure that we are not creating barriers to enhanced fuel mitigation measures.”

... continued on Page A9

## New LPIE executive director named



Elizabeth Horpedahl

Photo provided

The Lafayette Partners in Education Executive Director Search Committee announced Dec. 20 that Elizabeth Horpedahl is LPIE’s new executive director. Horpedahl will step into “a healthy, thriving organization where the stage is set to take us to the next level of strategic growth and impact,” according to 2021-22 LPIE President Danielle Gallagher.

With over a decade of experience in philanthropy, Horpedahl is passionate about con-

necting donors with opportunities to enhance education and student success, Gallagher said. “Elizabeth has led development programs at education organizations throughout California, from large public institutions such as UC Berkeley, to community nonprofits based in San Diego and Oakland schools. Elizabeth has deep experience partnering with community members to improve educational systems and student outcomes. She has built development depart-

ments from the ground up, significantly diversifying support and increasing long-term funding. Her mission-driven approach is based on listening deeply and building community.”

Horpedahl received a bachelor’s degree in politics from UC Santa Cruz, and holds a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and an Excellence in Fundraising Certificate from UC Berkeley.

She lives in Oakland with her husband, two kids (ages 14 and 11), three cats, a dog, and four chickens.

“After a rigorous search, our committee is confident about Elizabeth stepping into this role and we could not be more thrilled to welcome her to the LPIE team when she starts on Jan. 10,” Gallagher said. “Please make sure to stop by the LPIE office at 3450-A Golden Gate Way and introduce yourself, or email Elizabeth at elizabeth@lpie.org.”

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