

**From:** [HAROLD KWALWASSER](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Gurney](#); [Neysa Hinton](#); [Diana Rich](#); [Patrick Slayter](#); [Unanswered Connections](#); [una.glass.seb@sonic.net](mailto:una.glass.seb@sonic.net)  
**Cc:** [Mary Gourley](#); [Info@CoMission.Group](mailto:Info@CoMission.Group)  
**Subject:** Funding of Co-mission  
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I am writing in support of the continued funding of Co-mission.

First, I know I need to introduce myself to at least those members of the Council who do not know me. I have a significant background in government. I was the Fire Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles, the General Counsel of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Deputy General Counsel/Legal Counsel for the US Department of Defense, a staffer for four different United States Senators and the Director of Policy at the Democratic National Committee. I believe I understand something of how a government needs to run. In addition, I ran my own political consulting firm for several years; we worked on fifty-seven different campaigns, many for US Senator or House or state governor.

I have had exposure to Co-mission over the last several months. I am one of the members of the Sebastopol Rotary who proposed the community needs summit that is now in the process of being arranged for May. Craig Litwin and other members of Co-mission have played an extraordinarily useful role in our work.

Here is why I see their great value to the City of Sebastopol: I love Sebastopol. It is a throwback - the small town that is close-knit and active. There are not many such towns left in America. Most of them have become bedroom communities or simply been absorbed into an urban megalopolis. Their people commute to other places to work - or to live. Many of the towns that have not faced such a fate have simply faded. Not only is Sebastopol close-knit, it is prosperous.

In short, it has demands that few places in America still face. That is, you are blessed with both prosperity and close-knit, conscientious citizens. The question is how do you respond to the kind of focus on city business that few other towns still have.

You need intensive support to do outreach, respond to queries, run commissions and generally deal with keeping the community informed - and satisfied. That requires good quality staff, or someone who can substitute for that staff. I expect the economics of Sebastopol are such that utilizing full-time city employees to meet these needs is economically not realistic. Contracting out can be cost-effective.

From what I've seen, Co-mission provides those services efficiently and effectively. I do not want to comment on their cost since I have not studied alternatives that the City may have. However, the work is needed, and they do it well.

On those grounds I would recommend the City continue to work with Co-mission.

Respectfully,

Harold Kwalwasser