

San Jose Inside

The Process For Replacing Terry Gregory

By [Dave Cortese](#) / January 20, 2005

Now that Terry Gregory's resignation is a fait accompli, San Joseans may breath a collective sigh of relief representing one long, drawn out victory for good government. Former Mayor Tom McEnery first made the call for a censure investigation publicly last Fall. I followed his lead by making a formal request of the council to open a censure investigation—it died for a lack of support. Now, several months later, with the investigation finally completed, it has ended in a resignation. But resignation is just the “end of the beginning” of the Gregory saga. The council must now put into play the process for selecting his replacement. So don't relax just yet. In fact the code word for good government advocates should be BEWARE. Let me explain.

The city charter says: “...the Council shall either fill the vacancy by appointment by a majority of its remaining members, or call an election for the purpose of filling such vacancy.”

This vacancy should and must be filled by an election. The council majority, as most outside observers are aware, is a strict voting block. No voting block (especially one which pledges strict allegiance to an outside interest) should be allowed to handpick elected officials. To allow any council voting block to railroad such a process would be to extend its leverage well beyond the limits of good government. So again, BEWARE. Any movement in the direction of a quick appointment should be met with a huge public outcry. That may well be the only thing that will stop it.

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