

December 3, 2022

Letter of Appreciation for Mayor Alison Kerr

Mayor Kerr;

Four years ago, we watched as you shared your grand vision for DRO, promising a brighter tomorrow by including all of us, bringing us all together recognizing our gifts and talents, you drew our neighbors out of their comfort zones, You invited all of us, to be part of a better DRO by creating Parks, Arts and Recreation Committees and even our own Sustainable DRO and Butterfly Gardens. All the new policies, as well as all the very programs envisioned and executed by you, including flying the 1st Pride flag, showed us that we were correct in choosing you as our Mayor. Yes, Mayor Kerr, you ignited us. You awakened the potentials of our sleepy town. You advanced us and brought us into the spotlight and limelight of the Peninsula with your wonderful ideas of inclusion.

You guided us through a pandemic with emails and phone calls to each DRO resident, and creating a monthly Mayor's Newsletter, not only to be transparent, but also to keep us informed, and to inquire if there was anything we needed or if you could be of service. In many cases, you allocated and deployed resources to our neighbors in need. You successfully collaborated, advocated and pleaded with state and federal partners and created new ways of engaging, informing and governing, all to safeguard to neighbors you serve. Local government was the first line of defense against COVID-19, and you WERE our local government. You spoke truth, you were transparent and you made yourself readily available to every resident. You took the time to listen, even when others were not in agreement with your vision.

You carried the mantle of leadership as if it weighed nothing, but we saw how it was very heavy at times as you were concerned about your residents. Yet, we saw you soar as an eagle, as you rose to the occasion, even though you were berated and verbally abused by those who refused to catch a glimpse of your vision or profusely disagree merely because they felt they had a right to. Yet, you displayed the grace, patience and strength, knowing this was not about you, but rather you were SERVING US AS A WHOLE and wanted to make a difference for ALL OF US.

No one ever said that leading a city is easy--it's not. In fact, it can be frightening, exasperating, challenging, harrowing, and exhausting. But again, you stepped up to the occasion. You see, as you helped develop the Butterfly Gardens with your very gifted team, many of us watched as you emerged from your own cocoon, your protective casing and emerge as our beauty Butterfly. The cocoon should have been your protective casing, but here in DRO, we saw the cocoon represented those trying to hold you back and hold you hostage to OLD ways of governing,

Yet, through it all, you stood tall and you recognized the challenge of leadership and showed us how and what true leadership is: it's to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not a bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly."

Mayor Kerr, It was always clear, that you loved this city and valued your constituents, wanting nothing but the BEST for them. THANK YOU for your amazing contributions to our city and THANK YOU for caring so much about our little city. You and your leadership style will be profusely missed.

Always with kind regards
Frederica Jones

Dear Mayor, City Council and Staff:

It is with mixed feelings that I write this letter. I will miss greatly having Alison Kerr as our mayor. Alison Kerr is the embodiment of a community builder. She has brought our little city of Del Rey Oaks so many opportunities for residents to be engaged and participate in, not only city functionings and projects, but she has encouraged joyous collaboration.

She didn't tell us what to do, she encouraged us in what to do, creating community for people to solve problems together. In my view, this is the greatest gift Alison Kerr has brought forth to the city of Del Rey Oaks.

Sincerely,

Susan Ragsdale-Cronin

Karen Minami

From: City of Del Rey Oaks California <delreyoaks-ca@municodeweb.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 3, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Karen Minami
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

CAUTION: This email is from outside the City of Del Rey Oaks. Do NOT click LINKS or open ATTACHMENTS unless you are sure it is safe.

Submitted on Saturday, December 3, 2022 - 5:56pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 104.185.43.120

Submitted values are:

First Name MARY
Last Name SOLSENG
Email marseng@att.net
Question/Comment
Hii Karen,
Please include the following in the December agenda packet.

I write to thank Mayor Alison Kerr for her service. I believe our City is in much better shape than prior to her election. Further, I believe her ability to assimilate huge amounts of data concerning the issues that came before the council, combined with her determined and dignified leadership, has made Del Rey Oaks a better City and community to live in. Thank-you Alison.

I also write to encourage the Council to adopt a special election to fill the seat vacated when Mayor-elect Donaldson assumes office. I realize Special Elections are costly. However, I believe representation by elected officials is critical at all levels of government in order to maintain a (small "d") democracy.

Thank you,
Mary Solseng
14 Hillwil Place.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.delreyoaks.org/node/7/submission/5124>

December 7, 2022

I am writing to express my appreciation and gratitude for Mayor Kerr as she leaves office. Her hard work and tireless dedication made our little city of Del Rey Oaks financially sound and more cohesive, and helped connect us to the larger Monterey Peninsula community.

One of the things she has been recognized for is increasing citizen involvement. I personally became involved in Sustainable Del Rey Oaks thanks to Alison, and was always impressed in our monthly meetings by her active engagement. She had excellent, concrete ideas and suggestions, which helped push us forward. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious.

Just out walking the dog, whenever we'd bump into Alison she would invariably greet us and stop for an engaging chat, neighbor to neighbor. She'd ask about our travels, how retirement was going. I always felt seen and known. That's a rare quality.

I would say I will miss Alison, but I fully trust she will continue to be involved in the work of our little community. I know how much she cares.

Sincerely,

Anne Canright
830 Altura Place