

Monday March 17, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am urgently advocating for the implementation of a boundary that prohibits language which is undeniably disruptive and harmful. This measure is essential to protect our collective rights to engage in our civic duties without the fear of intimidation through hate speech. Hate speech has no place in the Council Chambers. Our public spaces should serve as forums where we uplift and support our communities. It is crucial that we recognize that such language is no longer permissible in today's climate, and it is past time for us to take a firm stance against it.

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is not wasted. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,

Bailey Swain

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