



March 7, 2025

As an organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and racial and economic justice, we are writing to express our concern about the inappropriate language and behavior that continues to take place during Council Meetings.

Our organization relies on being able to provide public comment or advocate during Council meetings. Our staff, clients, and community partners are exposed to hateful language during these meetings. Vulgar and offensive language does not contribute to resolving the issues at hand. Public meetings should prioritize constructive and meaningful engagement, and this type of behavior must not be normalized in any public forum.

Council Chambers should be a space where all participants feel safe and where respectful dialogue is the standard. We strongly urge Councilmembers to establish and enforce clear standards that would restore order and support a productive environment for public discourse, while also ensuring protection of speakers' rights under the First Amendment and the Brown Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ritu Mahajan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ritu" and last name "Mahajan" clearly distinguishable.

Ritu Mahajan, Directing Attorney
Public Counsel