

2/28/2025

Dear City Council,

My name is Lauren Brazile, and as a community organizer deeply invested in creating safe and productive spaces for our neighborhood, I feel compelled to address an urgent concern. Over the past several months, our community meetings were once a safe haven for open dialogue, collaboration, and problem-solving have become increasingly hostile and unsafe due to the disruptive actions of Trump supporters.

I am not alone in feeling this way. Many community members, including seniors, young people, and families, have shared with me their discomfort and fear. The aggressive behavior, from yelling and name-calling to outright intimidation, has fundamentally altered the atmosphere of these meetings. What should be a place for constructive engagement has turned into a battleground of chaos and disrespect.

Our community meetings are meant to be a place where every voice matters, a place where residents can share ideas, express concerns, and work together toward solutions. Instead, we are witnessing a space where dialogue is drowned out by disorder, and where participating in civic life feels more like a risk than a right.

The impact of this disruption is real. I have seen dedicated volunteers hesitate to attend meetings. Parents have expressed concerns about bringing their children. Seniors, who have historically been the backbone of these forums, now fear for their safety. The sense of community and inclusion we have worked so hard to build is being undermined, and it must stop.

I am calling on you and the Council-members to take a firm stance against this behavior. Establishing clear guidelines for respectful conduct and ensuring that these guidelines are enforced is not just a procedural necessity it is a matter of safety and dignity for all who attend. We need a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech, threats, and any actions that create an unsafe environment.

These meetings belong to the community- all of us! No one should feel unsafe or unwelcome in a space that is meant to serve us all. By taking action, you can help restore trust and encourage more community members to participate, knowing that their voices will be heard without fear or intimidation.

I am committed to continuing my work in our community, advocating for positive change and supporting our residents. I hope you will join me by ensuring that our community meetings remain a safe and respectful space for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am hopeful for your leadership and a swift resolution to this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Lauren Brazile
Community Organizer