

March 5, 2025

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

As a Black man who wants to continue to be civically engaged in my community, I find it disheartening to see the language and behavior at Los Angeles City Council meetings. Instead of being a space where people can come together to voice their concerns over real issues, these meetings have become increasingly more hostile environments filled with hateful speech and chaos from members of the public. The way people speak and act in that space doesn't just discourage participation—it actively pushes people away.

Council Chambers should be a place where all voices are heard, not a stage for disrespect and disruption. This is the people's space and we demand a better environment for the sake of local democracy.

I'm calling on Councilmembers to take real action. There needs to be clear expectations for respect and professionalism, and those standards need to be enforced. Everyone in our community should feel safe and empowered to participate without fear of hostility or intimidation.

Sincerely,

Justin Blakely,

A Concerned Citizen

JustinBlakely1@gmail.com

(323) 884-6758