

February 27, 2025

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Restoring Order and Respect in Council Meetings

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

For years, I have worked directly with families across Los Angeles—families who face daily struggles tied to poverty, housing instability, access to healthcare, and systemic inequities. As a behavioral health professional, I have sat with parents who fear for their children’s safety, elders who feel unseen by policymakers, and entire communities that hesitate to engage with local government because they believe their voices won’t matter. This fear isn’t just imagined—it is reinforced when public forums meant to serve the people instead become spaces of hostility, spectacle, and disruption.

I have attended and watched City Council meetings with the hope of seeing democracy in action. Instead, I have witnessed behavior that silences rather than amplifies community concerns. From hate speech, xenophobia, and disorderly conduct, the chaos in these meetings only serves to push away those who are already hesitant to step forward. If working-class families, undocumented Angelenos, and vulnerable communities do not feel safe to participate, then who does this space truly serve?

How much longer must we tolerate this? City Council Chambers belong to the people—not to those who seek to intimidate, grandstand, or derail necessary conversations. I urge the Council to take action by enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Without order, these meetings fail their core purpose: to uplift and represent the voices of all Angelenos, not just those willing to shout the loudest.

Our city is facing real crises—housing, healthcare, public safety, and economic stability. Every minute wasted in disorder is a minute stolen from finding real solutions. I urge you to restore integrity and ensure that public participation remains safe, respectful, and meaningful. The people of Los Angeles deserve no less.

Sincerely,

César Reséndiz, M.A.

