

## Communication from Public

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**Council File No:** 16-1104-S3

**Comments for Public Posting:** For the hate speech motion, I do have a few thoughts I would like to share before the vote on Friday. First off, some of the speech I hear during public comment is absolutely racist, sexist, and generally hateful and I and I sure hope most other people do not appreciate having to hear this hate speech at pretty much every meeting. That said, I am concerned with this motion that while I feel like you kind of are maybe at least to an extent doing this with a good hearted intent to at least try to reduce some of the hate speech heard at City Council meetings, the simple truth is that this is very unlikely to survive an almost certain legal challenge. As the City Attorney's office has repeatedly stated over the years, including at very recent meetings, one of the things about the 1st Amendment is that this kind of speech is still protected speech, as much as the general public does not want to hear it and do not condone this kind of language, and it is very likely that the outcome of this battle you're trying to fight here is that the people who come to City Council meetings to say all this hateful stuff will sue you, win in court, get a big payday from taxpayer funds, and then be further emboldened to say hateful shit at meetings now that they've won. This is unfortunately the most likely outcome. In addition, I'm concerned that you're going to use this as a slippery slope to start banning other language that isn't necessarily hate speech but is simply just things you don't want people talking about. You'll start with things like banning the N and C words, which are just hateful and don't have a place in providing input to the Council, and then you'll move on to just general censorship of topics that you don't like, whether what the person is saying is actually hateful or not. All the whole, you'll refuse to do anything about the hateful stuff many members of the Council have said, and of course there's still the systemic racism and sexism that still continues to this day in the policies you implement and I'm sure you have no plans to do anything about that. Or how the city's homelessness policy is inherently anti-Unhoused