

I am writing as a deeply concerned citizen who seeks to be civically engaged but is increasingly disheartened by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The hostility, racial undertones, and blatant disregard for community voices—particularly those of people of color—have turned these forums into spaces of intimidation rather than progress.

America's long history of racism has often been masked under political decorum, but with Trump back in the conversation, it has become more blatant, more emboldened, and more dangerous. What we are witnessing in our city council meetings is not just disruptive antics; it is the open face of systemic oppression that has set Black and Brown communities back generations. Instead of constructive dialogue on policies that impact our neighborhoods, we are forced to endure hateful rhetoric that mocks our right to demand a better quality of life.

How much longer do we have to tolerate this? Council Chambers should be a place where real concerns are addressed—not where racism and divisiveness are given a platform to fester. This is our space—a space for the people—and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take immediate action by enforcing expectations for respectful discourse and denouncing all forms of hate speech in public forums. Our voices matter. Our concerns matter. And our children deserve a thriving, equitable future just as much as anyone else.

Silence in the face of this growing hostility is complicity. We just want to live, and it is time for those in power to stand on the right side of history.

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**Let's Heal, Let's Build.**