



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: No Censure Policy
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:12:19 AM

We want the City Council to be examples in our community. Show kindness, collaboration, work toward best for our city and its people-not to censure.

Thank you..June & Aram Darmanian

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 9:17:00 AM

Council

I just heard about a "Censure policy" being proposed by Mr Weinberg and endorsed by Ms Meadows and Ms Fligor. I am simply outraged by their actions considering they were and remain deeply complicit in the endorsement and cover up of racist bigotry, retaliation, and other violations of the 1st Amendment by them and their cohorts formerly on Council and in the City's administration and counsel.

It appears the trio--and those that backed them--need a lesson in civics first. Do they and those they oversee respect the 1st Amendment? other parts of the Constitution and laws of the country, state, and city? Clearly not, as witnessed by the ongoing litigation and decisions by Superior Court Judges concerning the City's routine flouting of the laws and bad faith. And for their violations of law, are they any accountable? No, for it is none other than the public whose tax dollars pay the costs.

Ms Meadows, as Chair of the Planning Commission, was complicit in the cover up of the City's conspiracy to retaliate and maliciously prosecute those who complained about its unequal treatment of homeowners and the unequal enforcement of the laws.

Ms Fligor, as Mayor and Council member, has stonewalled all requests by concerned residents and taxpayers concerning the City's violations of the laws. As did her former cohorts on Council: Ms Bruins, Ms Pepper, Mr Mordo, etc

The trio, led by Mr Weinberg, have shown a penchant to hound and harass Council members who disagree with them, just as their mentor Mr Mordo and Ms Bruins did (see the reporting in the Palo Alto Daily Post). And it continues to this day. Why? Because they are exempt from prosecution under immunity? Because the costs of defending their outrageous conduct are paid by taxpayers?

By even considering this "Censure" policy you are making a mockery of the City and yourself. It's a matter of time before you are held accountable. In matters as unwise as what you are considering it is worth remembering the adage: proceed at your peril for you'd soon be hoist with your own petard.

Sincerely,
Satish Ramachandran

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public comment #8 October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 10:17:32 AM

I am opposed to this needless new proposal regarding City Council actions. Our meetings are already far too long and any action to censor a Council member would just make it worse. The voters already have adequate means to deal with Council members by either the recall process or voting them out at the next election cycle.

Jim Jolly
Panchita Way

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment; City Council](#)
Cc: [Andrea Chelemengos](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 10:47:41 AM

I strongly oppose the proposed censure policy. It will not help out divided city come together. Who would decide what actions deserve censure? Council members!?!?! The Council Norms already provide standards of behavior. If a Council Member violates the Norms, let him or her be reminded of what is acceptable and move on. If any official violates the law, we have remedies for that.

This is just a thinly-veiled excuse for continuing your anti-Asian jihad against Council Member Lee Eng. We all know this came about because Lee Eng had her phone on due to a family emergency. Someone sent her some racist tweets that became a six-month soap opera until the City council passed Resolution 2021-24 which was a shameful attempt to appease the woke mob by throwing Council Member Lee Eng under the proverbial bus.

If the council took its Resolution 2021-17, which condemned intimidation, aggression and violence against Asian-Americans, seriously, this would not have happened. There was no need to revise the Los Altos City Council norms and procedures. I doubt the anti-bias training described in section 6.7 will do anything to fix the damage done by this. These new policies will simply allow council to check a box to make it harder to sue the city.

You fail to realize that Resolution 2021-24 continues to spread misstatements and disingenuous statements, and these procedures won't do anything about it. Council Member Lee Eng did not allege that anyone threatened her or mention anybody by name. However, she had every right to be concerned by the texts that were sent to her. Although the final text in the series reads, "I just want to be clear, this is in no way a threat of any kind. This is me expressing my disappointment," one has to ask why this statement was necessary if the texts in question were unambiguously NOT a threat? Considering recent events around the country, it is reasonable to fear doxxing, vandalism or physical harm. Last year, this happened to the mayors of San Jose and Oakland.

A censure policy is sure to invite lawsuits. There is a pending Supreme Court case addressing First Amendment Freedom of Speech vs. Censure Policies. (Wilson vs. Houston Community College System: <https://tinyurl.com/wilsonVhouston>) This case will decide what speech by a Council Member is subject to censure.

Bill Hough
Los Altos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Censure Policy
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 10:59:09 AM

Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

Please put your time and effort into governing our wonderful city instead of worrying about censoring each other.

Sincerely,
Teresa Flory
774 Raymundo Avenue
Los Altos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Censure Policy
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 10:59:53 AM

Dearest Council Members

Please stop bowing to the BLM Marxist agitators. Please drop the idea of this Censure Policy, it is a violation of our 1st Amendment right to Free Speech.

Free Speech isn't always speech we agree with, but it should be protected.

Thanks

Leo Torreano
1011 Covington Road, Los Altos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Censure Policy Item #8 Oct 12 City Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 11:46:09 AM

Dear City Council Members

I am opposed to a Censure Policy in Los Altos. It is meansprited to take punitive action against your colleagues and shows how you don't feel you can work together for the good of the town.

In other towns, Censure Policies require a supermajority to enact, yet the proposal only requires three members of council to censure or take additional punitive action against another council member. At least four members of Council should agree before any punitive action is taken.

The Censure policies in other towns have led to lawsuits, There is a pending suit going to the Supreme Court now. When Sally Meadows and Jonathan Weinberg ran for office they said they wanted fewer lawsuits, yet they are supporting a policy that will invite lawsuits. You are inviting the public to attend Council meetings and ask that a member of Council be censured. At that point, will you fold to the pressures of a special interest group? You don't even require proof of wrongdoing, just opinions.

It appears that the policy will pass, regardless of public input, because you already have the three votes needed, as three of you asked for it to be agendazized, There are many of your constituents that you are ignoring. We are your constituents also and care about the policies that govern Los Altos.

See lawsuit links

https://ballotpedia.org/Braun_v._City_of_Taft

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/supreme-court-to-weigh-when-school-board-censure-of-a-member-violates-the-first-amendment/2021/04>

Earlier this year, when we had the Kenan Moose issue, it was clear that a handful of people wanted to punish Lynette for her legitimate fear when Kenan threatened to put her name all over the newspapers and followed through with his threat. It amazes me that you cannot let this matter drop and you are still looking for ways to punish Lynette Lee Eng.

The day before the Justice Vanguard March in Los Altos, there was a march from San Antonio Rd to Mountain View City Hall by the same group.. A close friend of mine who is a senior citizen, was in his car going to the hospital for shoulder surgery, The mob of protesters crossed over to the wrong side of El Camino and attacked him in his car because he was a white male calling him a racist and slamming their protest signs into his car. The police helped rescue him. How scary !! A Police report was filed. I am not sharing his name as he is still afraid.

Rather than trying to bring unity to our town, you are choosing a path which pits one group against another. How sad.

If you can't trust each other, how can we trust you?

Roberta Phillips

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: censure policy
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 12:13:03 PM

Dear Council;

I can hardly wait for the next election, when the three liberal Democrat majority will be upset by a new member who is Republican. I'm sure there are several issues that the Dems can be censured for, once the balance is 3-2 Republican.

Richard Blanding
21 Marvin Ave.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: "PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 1:08:22 PM

I wish to express my disapproval of the censure policy. Like normal adults you need to discuss, debate, agree/disagree with no room for arbitrary policy of censuring each other lest everyone dislikes everyone else over time. What would happen to our city then when council members are constantly looking for opportunities to censure each other?

Besides, some of the censuring acts may invite lawsuits wasting taxpayers' money and causing delays.

Pls. run the council in a civil manner with citizens in mind. Pls. run the council like thousands of corporations with executives & small/large boards where members put their viewpoints, debate and agree on the best course forward at the end.

Hope my comments are taken in good spirit.

Thanks, PK Dubey
Citizen of Los Altos Hills

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 1:17:40 PM

No Censure Policy, please. That will not help get things done. We want our council to communicate and support each other, not attack each other.

Betty Christopher

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment #8, Oct. 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:50:21 PM

I am definitely against the idea of council members being able to censor other council members. This seems like much too divisive a practice to even consider.

I have been a resident of Los Altos for 40 years.

Sebina Hobson
81 Sunkist Lane

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: "PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 3:24:45 PM

I oppose this measure. I have watched with sadness as our nation becomes so split apart and I would hate to see it in Los Altos.

Anne Connell
608 Spargur Drive

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:42:40 PM

Dear Mayor Fligor and Council Members.

We do not need a Censure Policy in Los Altos. We need to unite Los Altos - not divide it.

Our city council needs to work together for the benefit of all Los Altos. We do not need nor want separate factions on our city council, looking for reasons to smear council members that they disagree with. Remember that all council members were duly elected by Los Altos residents.

A Censure Policy is a BAD BAD BAD idea.

Thank you.

Sandra Salinger
Los Altos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 8 - OCTOBER 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 7:04:24 PM

Hello Mayor Fligor, Vice Mayor Enander, Councilmembers Lee Eng, Meadows and Weinberg,

I am strongly in favor of the City Council having the ability to censure Councilmembers who have repeatedly violated laws, ordinances and Council Norms and Procedures without any consequences. I ask you to adopt the proposed Censure Policy.

Without relitigating history, we have seen repeated violations of the Brown Act and Los Altos City Council Norms that have gone without consequence, including electronic communications with others in the middle of a City Council meeting (as documented by multiple public records requests), as well as disrespecting members of the public. It would be great if we could trust all of our Councilmembers to follow the law and the Council Norms, but sadly, that has not been the case.

I believe it's important to have consequences when a Councilmember repeatedly ignores our laws and policies, and this Censure Policy, while only a slap on the wrist, provides some method for the rest of the City Council to hold their peers accountable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe

.....

Joe Beninato

[REDACTED]


From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 5:15:06 PM

City Council Persons:

This censure proposal is for the birds. Please vote it down.

Don't focus on censure, focus on working together.

Bill Daley, Los Altos Resident

From: 
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Censure policy
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 8:50:13 AM

This policy is designed to bully each other. It is gross, and it shouldn't be happening in any government. Period.

You should all be deeply ashamed to even have this on the agenda.

With zero respect left for anyone in Los Altos city government,
Liz Roberts
Los Altos

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:28:57 AM

Donna and John Shoemaker of 437 West Portola Avenue, Los Altos strongly oppose this policy. The standards of behavior are avowed... and enough. Please do not waste our time and taxpayer money dividing the people of Los Altos! This proposed policy serves no purpose other than to divide and censure or treasured freedom of speech. What would be next? Stop this NOW!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:28:59 AM

I reviewed the proposed Censure Policy and I think it is a bad idea.

If in one council member's opinion, another council member behavior warrants sanction, what gives you the right to censure?

You are elected to be leaders of this community. Leaders apply influence and negotiate to lead. Leaders rarely use blunt instruments to punish. If a member is acting illegally, you know what to do. If a member is not following established and documented process, kindly remind him/her and make sure the process is understood and/or strengthen the documentation. Whether you find a behavior agreeable or not, you have to assume each council member acts in the interests of citizens. If a behavior unreasonably wasted time and resources, you document this behavior and make sure Los Altos citizens know about it, its impact, and definitely remind them in the next election cycle.

Regards,
Kester Fong
1560 Oak Ave

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 8 October 12, 2021
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:47:06 AM

Council Members:

The antagonism on our city council is palpable. Now some of you want to make it worse by creating a formal censure policy. It's as if you want to lie in wait for another council member to say or do something you can find fault with so you can attack. It is hardly conducive to a free interchange of ideas and productive discussions.

This proposal is petty and spiteful and reflects poorly on you. It's not what your constituents want you to spend time on when there are so many issues of real importance facing the city.

It's bad enough we have residents – and even commissioners – making snarky comments to and about council members at meetings and in the press. That's free speech and anyone who holds office has to suffer the slings and arrows of public vitriol.

In spite of the divisiveness of today's politics, I would like to think the elected leaders of Los Altos could behave in a more collegial way. You are supposed to be working together for the public good, not looking for flaws in each other. Is it so hard to forgive mistakes or misstatements? To recognize that you each have different personalities, different approaches, different behaviors? Can you not make allowances – and hope others will make allowances for you?

Instead of censure policy, how about operating under the Golden Rule, perhaps the most universal ethical tenet in human history? Is that too much to ask?

Pat Marriott

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: "PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 12:08:20 PM

I am 100% AGAINST our board enacting a censure policy. Why don't you people learn to get along and work things out with each other.

Suzanne Holland

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:04:08 PM

I am embarrassed to be a resident of Los Altos when I see the topic of "censure policy" listed on the agenda for a city council meeting. What were we thinking when we elected these people to serve our city ? Perhaps we should make " tongue removal " part of the swearing in ceremony for new council members. That would both solve the censure problem and shorten the length of the council meetings.

This is really disappointing..... (and maybe you will censure this also)

Michael D. Menning
1318 Rossway Court
Los Altos, California

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Censure Policy Item #8 Oct 12,2021 Council Meeting
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 6:47:19 PM

Dear Council Members

The Censure policy make absolutely no sense.It puts talented Council Members at a big disadvantage and should not be allowed.

Sincerely

Wally Palmer

Los Altos resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: "PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 6:54:59 PM

Dear City Council,

I received an email about council members entertaining the idea of "censoring" fellow members. Open and candid discussion is a hallmark of a democratic society and any attempt to stifle any such discussion is an anathema to a free and open society. The Council already has a "how" someone is to conduct themselves at a meeting but we should never stifle "what" someone says. Remember, we still live a free and democratic society, let's keep it that way.

Thank you.

Steve Schaper

1250 Miraflores Way, Los Altos, CA 94024

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:20:09 PM

I would like to express strenuous opposition and vote against the proposed CENSURE POLICY in LOS ALTOS! I am told this is being proposed by Council Member Jonathan Weinberg, supported by Council Member Sally Meadows and Mayor Neysa Fligor.

It is hard to imagine a more divisive and polarizing policy to bring to our town. What is the purpose of something like this except to indulge in adult bullying of people we do not like, and/or avoid civil debate and discussion but instead mob people into submission? How is this useful or healthy for our town? Not only is it against the sentiment of free speech and expression, a foundational element of our democracy, it will lead to a divided town and polity.

I am simply amazed that the mayor of this town would be pushing for something like this. What is the agenda behind something like this? Please defeat this policy and nip such anti-democratic ideas and thoughts in the bud.

Thanks!

Reena Kapoor
1927 Annette Ln
Los Altos, CA 94024

~~~~~

---

*Reena Kapoor*



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT item #8, Oct 12 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 9:01:39 AM

---

**I would like to express strong opposition and vote against the proposed CENSURE POLICY in LOS ALTOS! I am told this is being proposed by Council Member Jonathan Weinberg, supported by Council Member Sally Meadows and Mayor Neysa Fligor.**

Instead of working together, and finding common ground to make policies, elected officials shall now start bullying each other, making us all more divisive and polarizing.

What is the purpose of something like this? It is to avoid civil debate and discussion but instead mob people into submission. Not only is it against the sentiment of free speech and expression, a foundational element of our democracy, it will lead to a divided town and polity.

I am simply amazed that the mayor of this town would be pushing for something like this. What is the agenda behind something like this? Please defeat this policy and nip such anti-democratic ideas and thoughts in the bud.

--

Anurag Wadehra  
1927 Annette Lane  
Los Altos CA 94024

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 8:35:36 AM

---

*I would like to express strenuous opposition and vote against the proposed CENSURE POLICY in LOS ALTOS! I am told this is being proposed by Council Member Jonathan Weinberg, supported by Council Member Sally Meadows and Mayor Neysa Fligor.*

*It is hard to imagine a more divisive and polarizing policy to bring to our town. What is the purpose of something like this except to indulge in adult bullying of people we do not like, and/or avoid civil debate and discussion but instead mob people into submission? How is this useful or healthy for our town? Not only is it against the sentiment of free speech and expression, a foundational element of our democracy, it will lead to a divided town and polity.*

*I am simply amazed that the mayor of this town would be pushing for something like this. What is the agenda behind something like this? Please defeat this policy and nip such anti-democratic ideas and thoughts in the bud.*

-----

Thanks!

Anu

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Council meeting of October 12, 2021 Item #8: Council Member Censure Policy  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 9:39:52 AM

---

Dear Mayor Fligor and Members of the City Council,

*"Accountability  
the quality or state of being [accountable](#)  
especially : an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to  
account for one's actions  
//public officials lacking accountability"  
Merriam-Webster*

What is the value of having Codes of Ethics and Values if there is not accountability? Violations of agreed values injure the good name of the City and undermine the effectiveness of the City Council as a whole.

Any number of jurisdictions in California from City of Santa Clara to City of Laguna Beach to Riverside operate under policies of admonition and censure to ensure accountability.

We teach our children that consequences matter. We should expect the same accountability and transparency from our public officials.

The Los Altos Community Voices Steering Committee (LACV) supports the adoption of a censure policy and hopes that current and future City Councils will never have cause to invoke it.

Robin Abrams, Curtis Cole, Kim Cranston, Cathy Lazarus, Bill Sheppard, Marie Young

LACV Steering Committee

Sent by  
Kim  
--  
Kim Cranston  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com); [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Censure yourselves  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 11:25:47 AM

---

Dear City Council,

We are disgusted and highly disappointed by this movement to allow the censuring (public shaming) of other council members. **It shows a lack of respect and class from the people we elected to represent us and it is absolutely not how we want Los Altos leadership to be portrayed.**

I was raised to “Praise in public, criticize in private” and have always lived by that rule. As public figures, you most certainly should align with this practice. Unfortunately, I am breaking my rule by writing this very public letter but only because our attempts to privately reach you have failed.

This move to adopt a policy of censure (aka accepted bullying) calls for the retelling of an incident that happened several months ago during an online city council meeting that now needs to be addressed.

Mayor Fligor publicly chastised and shamed Council member Eng for defending her position against being bullied by a resident. Fligor’s demeaning remarks we’re also supported by Council members Meadows and Weinburg. Their attacks were cringeworthy for all who witnessed them.

The Mayor’s lack of professionalism was apparent to all who believe that politeness is the chief sign of culture. It is only those who with low self esteem and prejudice who resort to behavior like this.

*In the 30 years we’ve lived here we’ve never seen anyone speak so poorly to another member of the council, it was a appalling.....and now you want that behavior to become the accepted norm?*

Many of us watching we’re so disgusted by Mayor Fligor’s behavior that we turned off the broadcast and began discussing how we could recall her, along with Council members Meadows and Weinberg. That discussion has amped up with the proposal of this Censure policy.

When you engage in negative behavior, you don’t succeed in making the other person look bad, you only make yourself look bad. All the law degrees or initials after your name cannot give you class and respect. You have earn that.

**Remember, life is a big mirror, what you put out to others bounces right back to**

**you, which is what's happening to you now.**

We will see all three of you removed before we allow you to adopt this policy and drag our city down any further than you already have.

Regards,  
Harrison Family

**From:** [becky sarabia](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT Item #8, October 12, 2021"  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 12:27:15 PM

---

Hello there:

I would like to give my opinion about this censure policy coming up. It is embarrassing to me as a Los Altos resident. We already have 2 processes in place for bad behavior. Censuring is divisive and obviously relates to the Lynette Eng incident. This only keeps dividing residents and I think it is petty to go forward on this. Lynette Eng was elected by the voters of Los Altos. Learn how to work together.

I agree with Pat Marriott: “ make the norms reasonable so they ensure respect for all. If anyone violates them, point it out.” You can read the rest of her comments in the Daily Post of Oct. 7th.

And as Pat said...you guys need more teamwork! Stop wasting time on this and get to work on other important items that need to be addressed.

Thank you,

**From:** [dayita bhat](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Item#8 October 12  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:13:29 PM

---

I absolutely oppose censure.

There are already codes of conduct that are to be maintained.  
Censuring will create the stifling of voices, put an end to open, honest raising of issues/concerns, and divide our town.

Thank you  
Dayita Bhat  
Sent from my iPad



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT Item 8 October 12, 2021 -- 2nd comment  
**Date:** Thursday, October 7, 2021 2:13:08 PM

---

Council Members:

Councilman Weinberg says “It is necessary for the city to have a logical censure policy in order for the residents ... to know and understand that their elected officials are responsible and accountable.”

There has been no public outcry for this policy. Residents through the years have held our councils to be responsible and accountable without a formal censure policy. When we see problems, we speak up. We don’t need council members to police each other. That’s our role as citizens.

It would be helpful to understand why three council members think this policy is needed. Please provide examples of actions you would “admonish” or “censure.” For instance:

- During the Measure A activities, then-Councilwoman Bruins told seniors they were not allowed to wear a No on A button in the senior center. She was wrong. She apologized. Would she have been censured?
- The senior commission and the parking committee were disbanded several years ago because they supposedly violated the Brown Act. Two council members sat on the parking committee. Would they have been censured?
- Councilman Weinberg and Councilwoman Meadows made false statements about what Scott Spielman had or had not done as a PARC commissioner. Apologies were made, but Spielman lost his seat on the commission because of the allegations. Would they have been censured?
- Councilwoman Lee Eng was genuinely fearful after reading what she perceived as an intimidating text from Keenan Moos during a council meeting. Her reaction was influenced by RACIST stickers defacing her lawn signs, plus news reports of two mayors’ homes vandalized by protestors.



<https://sanjosespotlight.com/protesters-vandalize-san-jose-mayors-house/>

*Protesters vandalized San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo's downtown home after protesting the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Photo by Luke Johnson.*



<https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/Vandals-cover-Oakland-Mayor-Libby-Schaaf-s-home-15423622.php#photo-19708544>

*A group of people vandalized Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf's home early Tuesday morning, spraypainting graffiti and setting off fireworks in the street, according to neighbors. Photo by Luke Johnson.*

Lee Eng saw no reason to apologize for her reaction, though she was relentlessly badgered for months to do so. Should she have been censured?

The draft policy says there would be investigations if charges are made. Who would conduct the investigations? The police? Paid consultants? Who would be completely neutral and trustworthy?

This policy is fraught with opportunities for political posturing and baseless challenges to target or cancel someone and create negative publicity – even if the complaints come to nothing. We have already seen examples from council coalitions past and present. The city could also waste time and money “investigating” he said/she said charges. And it could lead to lawsuits.

Weinberg says this policy brings Los Altos in line with other jurisdictions, yet of 101 towns and cities in the Bay Area, only three have censure policies.

Please think carefully about what you're doing, because you have opened a huge can of worms and set residents against one another yet again. Proposing this policy does you no credit. Adopting it would haunt your legacy.

Sincerely,

Pat Marriott