From:
To:

Public Comment

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA - 3/9/2021

Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 1:47:42 PM

I would like to submit this letter for public comment for items not on the agenda for the 3/9/2021 Los Altos City Council Meeting. I understand that this will be distributed to the City Council members prior to the meeting and be included in the public record for the meeting. I hope that Councilmember Lee Eng takes the time to read this, as I am unsure from her lack of response or attention during public comments in past meetings if she is even listening to her constituents that call in.

I am writing and speaking to ask Councilmember Lee Eng to apologize to Kenan Moos for her actions on Nov. 24 wrongfully criminalizing a young black member of our community. Or if she feels that she can't handle criticism or disappointment from her constituents, she has the option to resign.

I would like to remind Ms. Lee Eng that Asian Americans like her and me have benefited immensely from the Civil Rights movement fought by Black Americans. I wouldn't be here in the US if not for the Immigration Act of 1965, which was a direct result of the Civil Rights movement, and which banned racial discrimination in immigrant visas, enabling my parents to come to this country.

Similarly, I wouldn't have been able to attend the fantastic public schools where I grew up, or have my kids attend our incredible Los Altos public schools had it not been for Brown vs. Board of education.

Lastly, neither I nor CM Lee Eng would have been able to vote, much less run or win elections, had it not been for the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was enacted after "Bloody Sunday" - March 7. 1965, which was the march from Selma to Montgomery, the anniversary of which was just 2 days ago.

All minorities have benefitted from these laws fought for by Black Americans, yet we still continue to have biases against them; we even have biases against those with darker skin in our own ethnic groups. I know growing up I was fed many false stereotypes about Black Americans. And I had to actively work to unlearn those and learn the true history. And I work hard to be anti-racist, but I know that I may make hurtful mistakes. What I can do is own up to them and apologize and do better. If CM Lee Eng wants to fight for racial justice, like she claims on her website, she needs to own up to the fact that her actions were racially biased, apologize, and take bias training to understand and grow from her mistake.

Thank you, Renee Rashid Resident of Los Altos From:
To:
Public Comment

Subject: White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, by Peggy McIntosh

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:09:45 PM

Good Evening Mayor Fligor, Vice Mayor Enander, Councilmember Meadows, Councilmember Weinberg and Councilmember Lee Eng,

I thank you for the opportunity to continue to share my thoughts on the events of the November 24th City Council meeting and the erroneous judgement made and expressed by Councilmember Lee Eng during a public meeting.

I support the request by Kenan Moos and the Moos Family for an expressed apology by Councilmember Lee Eng.

As I have stated in a previous email to Council, there were three violations also committed by Councilmember Lee Eng. I encourage the Council to cite these violations with a resolution admonishing Councilmember Lee Eng for breaking Council Norms. At the very least, such a statement would make it clear to all that this behavior shall not continue by elected or appointed officials during a Public or Closed Meeting.

In 1989 Peggy McIntosh, an Antiracism Activist and Senior Research Scientist of the Wellesley Centers for Women, published "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" which first appeared in Peace and Freedom Magazine, July/August, 1989, pp. 10-12 listing over 50 questions for white people to ask themselves to help understand the meaning of white privilege. I would like to ask you all to take a few minutes and consider 10 questions I selected from McIntosh's list. Answering 'yes' to any of these indicates white privilege:

- 1. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
- 2. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
- 3. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
- 4. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.
- 5. I can be pretty sure that my children's teachers and employers will tolerate them if they fit school and workplace norms; my chief worries about them do not concern others' attitudes towards their race.
- 6. If I declare there is a racial issue at hand, or there isn't a racial issue at hand, my race will lend me more credibility for either position than a person of color will have.
- 7. I can choose to ignore developments in minority writing and minority activist programs, or disparage them, or learn from them, but in any case, I can find ways to be more or less protected from negative consequences of any of these choices.
- 8. My culture gives me little fear about ignoring perspectives and powers of people of other races.
- 9. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.
- 10. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in 'flesh' color and have them more or less match my skin.

Check <u>here</u> for a more complete list.

Thank you for your attention.

Tanya Maluf

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept." ---Angela Davis