

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following is public comment received by the City Clerk's Office. Members of the public may bring to the Council's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please be advised that, according to State law, the City Council is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period.

Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy.

From: Bill Hough

To: <u>City Council; Public Comment</u>
Cc: <u>Andrea Chelemengos</u>

Subject: public comment on items not on the November 9 agenda

**Date:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 6:58:38 PM

Renaming the Censure Policy the "Accountability Policy" is an attempt to put lipstick on a pig. This policy 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: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/wilsonVhouston">https://tinyurl.com/wilsonVhouston</a>.) This case will decide what speech by a Council Member is subject to censure.

Bill Hough Los Altos