

Mayor and Council,

As a resident of Tracy for the last 20+ years I have yet to attend a City Council meeting, like a lot of residents, I was a quiet observer having a few complaints here and there, but nothing that truly warranted confronting public speaking fears and stepping to this podium...until now. I feel compelled to speak to the 5 of you in hopes that you'll listen to the silent majority.

You have an opportunity to right a wrong after reading the Grand Jury Report published on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The City is hemorrhaging money at the fault of our City Attorney, in the way of lawsuits, legal fees for outside council, and now what looks like burdening the City with hiring someone to evaluate the Code of Conduct and correct the changes made by the current City Attorney giving herself entirely too much power.

From reviewing the MOU's for city staff, the highest cost of living increase is 3.5%, yet you authorized giving your City Attorney a raise of 8% on the heels of her practicing law for an entire month without her license to do so. Please explain how that is fair and equitable to your staff, the people who do the actual, boots-on-the-ground work?

I understand wanting to give her a chance, and trusting her guidance, but her guidance has landed this City with another Grand Jury investigation and multiple lawsuits. It is okay to admit that you made an error, in fact, this makes you human and more relatable to the people of this community who you are supposed to serve. Digging your heels into the ground and standing by the decision to continue her employment with the City, shows that you are not in this for us, you are in this for your own ego's and your pride is clouding your judgement. This will be on my mind, as well as others, when we head to the polls in November.

My other area of concern comes from the Business Tax, Measure B, that your constituents voted in at a 72% voter approval! That is nearly unheard of today, to have over 70% of the voting community in agreement to increase a tax. Instead of sticking to your initial, unanimous vote, and upholding the majority rule, you are pandering to the top elite who don't want to pay their fair share but want to take all the benefits of having their business in our community. In addition, the businesses that are expressing their opposition to this tax increase, do not actually live in this city, they are just housing their business here. They do not have a personal stake in the revenue this city brings in, their concerns are to their investors and their pockets, and not the voting residents within this city, your city, the city you were voted to represent its best interest, not the interests of the big businesses of this city.

This business tax reduced my expenses as a small business, as it did for a vast majority of my fellow small business owners. This Measure did exactly what it was designed to do, and now you want to change it. Why? Is it because it's election time and these top elite businesses are funding your campaigns? I cannot imagine why you would take the side of 20-25 companies, and not the 72% of VOTING Tracy Residents, it doesn't make sense.

Now you have decided to extend the moratorium for an additional 10+ months, so now the City isn't receiving ANY business tax revenue. To recap, you have continued to employ a City Attorney who is hemorrhaging this city of its funds, while simultaneously shutting off the flow of one of the revenue streams into the city. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my viewpoint and I hope that if you hear nothing else, you'll hear my words, and they will resonate within you.