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From: Stephen Zendejas [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:28 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>

Subject: Public Comment on Equity and Empowerment Initiative 08/04/20

The issue of systemic racism must be addressed by the city council. As a native Tracy resident who is a non-black person of color, I've had my own profoundly negative experiences in this community where my race played an important role including but not limited to:

1. Racial slurs directed at myself while in public from strangers, including by children.
2. Racial epithets directed at myself by other known persons while attending a public school.
3. Failure to address incidents of racial epithets being directed at myself when reported to school faculty.
4. Accusations by a white Tracy police officer that I committed a crime, and when provided irrefutable proof that I did not, no apology was offered.

The status quo only serves to disincentivize those who have experienced hate incidents from reporting it to the proper authorities. Such a barrier must be broken down if we are to address a very painful subject in our community honestly and effectively. I urge the council to vote in favor of the equity and empowerment initiative and be prepared to take further action.

Sincerely,

Stephen Zendejas

From: Nathan Tran [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Special Meeting

Hello! My name is Nathan Tran, [REDACTED].

The following is my public comment for tonight's special meeting:

I am sure Councilmembers Ransom and Arriola knew the deeply negative reactions that their Equity and Empowerment Initiative would provoke, so I would like to thank them for fighting the right fight.

However, my gratitude and respect does not end there. This initiative could not have been possible without the leadership of some brave young activists, who put aside their summer relaxation plans to cause -- as the late John Lewis would put it -- some good trouble. They led thousands of Tracyites towards action. These Tracyites were young and old, people of color and people of privilege, marching in person and speaking online. They all stood up not just against the murders of George Floyd or Breonna Taylor, but also against the broken systems that enable such acts of White supremacist terrorism to happen.

To reiterate, Ransom and Arriola's Initiative is an important step towards fixing these broken systems. I hear so much talk about how George Floyd died in Minneapolis and not Tracy. But I also hear so many experiences from friends who were unfairly treated not just by Tracy PD, but also by Tracy staffers. I've heard cases of profiling based on the color of one's skin, I've seen cases of negligent city service just because of where someone lives, and I've recently read a case of a local police officer who was secretly part of a White supremacist Facebook group throughout the recent protests.

So yes, it's true: Tracy is not Minneapolis -- let it be clear that Ransom and Arriola are trying to keep it that way. Please keep turning their Initiative into reality. More importantly, please keep bringing Black, Latinx, and other long-marginalized voices to the forefront of our city's policymaking discussions. Thank you.

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From: Dan Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Ralph M. Brown Act

Tracy City Council- It's becoming clearer by the day that certain members of this city council are radical activists, that do not have the best interest of Tracy's citizens at heart. Myself and others will continue to scrutinize the actions of this city council and will work to ensure that the good citizens of this hard working community are aware of their plans and actions. Any movement to use COVID-19 as an excuse to keep our community from knowing what the city council is planning, or not allowing concerned community members to speak their mind, would be quite obviously dishonest. Do not suspend any portion of the Ralph M Brown Act.

Thank you,

Dan

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From: Kritika Singh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Equity and Empowerment Initiative

Hello, the following is my public comment for tonight's special meeting:

Over the past few months, I have been both shocked and amazed by the work put in by several activists and community members in Tracy to address the pressing concerns of systemic racism. I've seen my peers and neighbors lead countless peaceful protests, educate people online, and overall do everything in their power to ensure that what happened in Minnesota NEVER happens in Tracy. But at the end of the day, this cannot be achieved without wide, sweeping reforms from the City of Tracy.

Councilmembers Ransom and Arriola have worked tirelessly to enact these reforms and I would like to extend my appreciation to them for that. Please support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative — it is the first step on a legislative level to maintaining a safe environment for all Tracyites regardless of race, color, class, etc.

Sincerely,
Kritika Singh

From: MJ M [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Equity and Empowerment initiative

Dear City Council,

The fight against police brutality and equality for all is not over. As the youth of Tracy marched in the streets, the city council respected our rights to protest. Mayor Rickman even showed up to one of the protests. To put your money where your mouth is, we are asking you to support the equity and empowerment initiative that will be presented tonight. This initiative is expected to create lots of controversy, but the youth of Tracy stands with those who support the initiative. Please listen to what the initiative has to offer, and I pray you take the next right steps towards making Tracy a better place for marginalized communities.

In Solidarity,

Marc Mariano

From: Sheila Ho [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 6:38:25 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Systemic racism in Tracy

Hi,

I am writing today to express my support in addressing systemic racism in Tracy through the equity and empowerment initiatives. I have been extremely privileged to not fear the police and be able to count on the police should the situation arise. However, that is not the case for Black and Brown people who reside in Tracy, where such an encounter could cause them harm or worse, cost them their lives. Although there is still much to be done with the equity and empowerment initiatives, I think this is a wonderful first step in tackling police bias in our communities and hold them more accountable to their actions, instead of having tax payer money cover their tracks when it really should be going to schools.

In addition, something to think about further is how we can continue to support communities of color and the growing teenagers of color who deserve more funding into programs, such as music and theatre, to better round out their school experiences. I hope this talk will further inspire Tracy to think inside the triangle more and how they can better invest in their community to support communities of color.

Best,
Sheila Ho