

Dear Stephanie,

Would you kindly email the following letter to the city manager, to the mayor, police chief, and council members, please? Also include this in the agenda packet for tomorrow night's council meeting, Tuesday, February 4. I would like to make sure that each person gets a copy. Thank you very much for your help. We appreciate it. Please confirm receipt of this email.

Dane and Kahni Horton

To the city manager, the mayor, police chief, and council members:

With deepest consideration and respect to all concerned, we need a return to civil discourse and a standard for behavior in the city council meetings. Although we did not initially see the problem with Zoom calls, we soon realized that those calls enable personal attacks and public shaming toward at least three of the council members. Those calling in as well as certain members of the audience are emboldened to violate the rules of decorum by making rude, obnoxious, loud accusations, and comments that stir up people who wish to remain civil. Having Interested parties email their remarks and addressing them in the council meeting is an excellent idea because it is more concise and has given the person making this suggestion or complaint a chance to evaluate and think their words through without a lot of personal emotion, meltdowns, and drama. We have personally witnessed someone in the audience at a council meeting, physically stand over and harass another person in the audience whom he disagreed with to the point that it required a police officer to remove that person from the premises. This threatening behavior must not be acceptable. People need to learn once again how to have civil discourse and how to speak to each other with respect in person. Technology, meaning Zoom calls, does not accomplish this and creates cyber bullying; driving citizens apart. We also experienced two women behind us using vile and vulgar language towards Jeff Wan, calling him nasty names as he was speaking. This behavior is unacceptable. In addition to these comments, we appreciate the council members and city manager attending to the real issues that Clayton is facing regarding the maintenance of our city. Decline is a choice. When Landscape, streets and weeds are not attended to in Clayton, there are serious consequences. We appreciate that most of you chose to make those issues your top priority, instead of claiming moral virtue to advance your own agenda. Not on the list would be why which city employee left for whatever reason. No one cares. Turnover is not an issue for most people in Clayton and it would be very difficult to find someone who wants an investigation of that issue. Please spend time investigating the person or persons responsible for inviting Black Lives Matter and other thugs into our town, causing neighbors and business owners to board up the town for approximately two weeks while the protests were going on. There were false rumors of racism, police, profiling, and calling our city a "sundown" town. This was a disastrous turning point in our sweet, friendly and welcoming city. This threatening and hostile activity violated the majority of the citizens desire to maintain our small town charm, which is the reason most of us moved here many years ago. We also do not want our town turned into a "gay Mecca" as has been mentioned as a goal of one of the recently transplanted neighbors.

We must stop tolerating the intolerable and pretending that this behavior is our

new normal. No more sweeping these issues under the rug.

We also support the flying of the national stars and stripes flag, the California state flag, Clayton city flag if we get one, and the MIA/POW flag on city property and also at the middle school.

The new city manager may not realize that the council voted on a six color rainbow flag to be flown during the entire month of June some years ago. But the following year, that flag was swapped out for a political progressive flag. We do not support a political flag flying from government property.

The practice of flying a political flag from government property has got to stop. It only caused divisiveness and animosity among Clayton residents that we had previously not experienced.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and your efforts to correct them.

Dane and Kahni Horton


Clayton, California