

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [*City Council Members \(All\)](#)
Subject: Social Media Post
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:24:01 PM
Attachments: [JHSocialPost.jpg](#)

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina
Council Member, Ward 3
(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: RStanton@mlive.com
Subject: Fw: Social Media Post
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:52:34 PM
Attachments: [JHSocialPost.jpg](#)

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: *City Council Members (All) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



From: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
To: [Crawford, Tom](#); [Postema, Stephen](#)
Subject: Fw: Social Media Post
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 6:32:26 PM
Attachments: [JHSocialPost.jpg](#)

FYI

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-794-6161
he/him/his

Wear your Mask. That is all.

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: *City Council Members (All) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly

believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: Fwd: Social Media Post
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 6:55:12 PM

Sharing with you as an FYI. If I have not received a response within 24 hours, I will make this an open letter and post it elsewhere. If you want to touch base at any point, feel free to call, but as LGBTQ Liaison, I just don't want you to hear about this for the first time if it hits Mlive.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Radina, Travis" <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Date: April 10, 2021 at 2:24:00 PM EDT
To: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: "City Council Members (All)" <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc'ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not "reply all" in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina
Council Member, Ward 3
(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<https://www.a2gov.org/>



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



1

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



1

From: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Re: Social Media Post
Date: Saturday, April 10, 2021 9:56:58 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Oh goodness. Thanks for letting me know. I can think of a few ways the community may want to get involved/express its outrage if he doesn't respond well.

Speaking of which, I'd reached out to the new president of Jim Toy but never got a response. Is another way than the president email better?

Thanks, Naomi

On Sat, Apr 10, 2021 at 6:55 PM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Sharing with you as an FYI. If I have not received a response within 24 hours, I will make this an open letter and post it elsewhere. If you want to touch base at any point, feel free to call, but as LGBTQ Liaison, I just don't want you to hear about this for the first time if it hits Mlive.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Radina, Travis" <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Date: April 10, 2021 at 2:24:00 PM EDT
To: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: "*City Council Members (All)" <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially

LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[301 E. Huron St.](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI 48104](#)



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



1

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST



1

Like · Reply · Share · 16h

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Re: Social Media Post
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:42:28 AM

Thanks for making all of us aware of this offensive and highly disturbing post.

On Apr 10, 2021, at 1:24 PM, Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3
(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<https://www.a2gov.org/>

<JHSocialPost.jpg>

From: [Katie Scott](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Recent Post on Social Media
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:25:52 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner,

I am writing today about a social media post I recently saw on FB and it appears you have since taken down, however with no comment about the impact of such a post or the content therein. Besides my own opinion about the necessity of a free press and journalism to protect our democracy, the most offensive part of this post was that you deliberately chose to use a quote with an old-fashioned homophobic slur. It's in the first sentence, so I hardly think you could have missed it.

As an elected colleague in the city of Ann Arbor and open member of the LGBTQ community, I am offended, and more so that you would have thought this was even remotely appropriate. I am more than happy to provide a primer on the prejudice that has existed against the gay committee and that still does. It's not a thing of the past, and although you may have "just" been maligning journalists, the quote's derisiveness toward my own community is alarming.

I am pleased it appears you have taken it down, but I urge you to further educate yourself. If it helps, start with what happened to Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. Ask yourself if you want to be part of a legacy that includes transformative culture and freedom or if you want continue to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and a regressive society.

I won't assume to tell you how to respond to the post; I can only hope you do the right thing.

Best,

Commissioner Katie Scott, proud LGBTQ elected official

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 9 Commissioner

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Katie Scott](#)
Subject: RE: Recent Post on Social Media
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:25:00 PM

Dear Ms. Scott,

I didn't take it down, facebook apparently did within a few minutes. In fact, it wouldn't even exist if someone had not made a very deliberate effort to save it, circulate it, and thereby further perpetuate whatever harm people think it may have caused. I certainly don't need any educating on why some people might find that language offensive, even in the narrow context in which it was posted.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

From: Katie Scott <scottk@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Recent Post on Social Media

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner,

I am writing today about a social media post I recently saw on FB and it appears you have since taken down, however with no comment about the impact of such a post or the content therein. Besides my own opinion about the necessity of a free press and journalism to protect our democracy, the most offensive part of this post was that you deliberately chose to use a quote with an old-fashioned homophobic slur. It's in the first sentence, so I hardly think you could have missed it.

As an elected colleague in the city of Ann Arbor and open member of the LGBTQ community, I am offended, and more so that you would have thought this was even remotely appropriate. I am more than happy to provide a primer on the prejudice that has existed against the gay committee and that still does. It's not a thing of the past, and although you may have "just" been maligning journalists, the quote's derisiveness toward my own community is alarming.

I am pleased it appears you have taken it down, but I urge you to further educate yourself. If it helps, start with what happened to Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. Ask yourself if you want to be part of a legacy that includes transformative culture and freedom or if you want continue to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and a regressive society.

I won't assume to tell you how to respond to the post; I can only hope you do the right thing.

Best,

Commissioner Katie Scott, proud LGBTQ elected official

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

District 9 Commissioner

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: RE: Social Media Post
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:33:00 PM

Dear Mr. Radina,

The sincerity of my support for the LGBTQ community is not for you to question. To suggest it is "supposed support" is offensive, to say the least. You don't know the first thing about me, my family, my friends or my behavior outside of what is brought to your attention by people who have nothing better to do than stalk me on social media. The fact that it was screen captured and sent to you in hopes of creating political conflict should tell you all you need know. For transparency you are cc'ing all of council? Of course. Better to let everyone know how terrible you think I am than to just drop me a note asking what's up. Don't you have my phone number? It's public. I have just learned that you also have made a facebook post about this. Again, how is this helping?

Your belief that the Council and community deserve an explanation or apology is just that, your belief. It is not mine. People are free to interpret what I say, in my capacity as a private citizen, however they choose. I did not delete that post, apparently it was deleted automatically and quickly by a facebook algorithm which has no way to differentiate between actual comments, and quotes from a book that has been in constant print since 1972 and has been called "a classic of our time", "one of the few great modern novels" and "a scorching epochal sensation".

As for your reaction, "disgusting and severely inappropriate" is in the eye of the beholder. That language is consistent with my experiences with the media, again, you know nothing about the things that have been said to me by members of the press in private, the insults and threats I have received. In the context of the novel, and in its use of language that quote is entirely appropriate. In context of the thread from which it was extracted, even more so. I suggest you take up your concerns over language with the publisher, maybe you can try and get the book banned. That's all the rage these days in certain circles, isn't it?

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: *City Council Members (All) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>

From: [Katie Scott](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Jason Morgan](#); [Andy LaBarre](#); [Sue Shink](#); [Jason Maciejewski](#); [Shannon Beeman](#); [Caroline Sanders](#); [Ricky L. Jefferson](#); [Justin Hodge](#); [Gregory Dill](#)
Subject: Open Letter to Council
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:33:28 PM
Attachments: [Open Letter to City Council.docx](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Ann Arbor City Council,
Please see the attached letter.
Thank you,
Katie

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 9 Commissioner



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Katie Scott

District 9

220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645

(734) 255-8381 scottk@washtenaw.org

April 11, 2021

Dear Ann Arbor City Council Members,

When I was a sophomore in college, I came back to my dorm room and someone had left a message on my little white board outside my room. Do you remember how people would leave cute messages for us or in those halcyon pre-cell phone days, we'd leave our whereabouts for friends to find us? I recall feeling that little blip of excitement as I could see the white board from down the hall: Who stopped by to see me?

"GO HOME, DYKE," the message read. I remember feeling my face redden. Who else had seen those words? They felt like the dirtiest words I had ever read and at the time, I was very much in the closet myself, not even having a full realization of who I was. I tore down the white board and hustled into my room. It was not the last time I heard a homophobic slur hurled my way or felt the threat of violence because of sexual orientation. Yet now I live in a welcoming community, I have a family who loves and embraces me, and I know the confidence of an almost fifty-year old woman who is comfortable in her own skin. There are places in the world where I do not feel this way, and where leaders in those communities talk about members of the LGBTQ community in a harmful, violent manner.

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots," Hunter S. Thompson wrote in 1971 and it's the quote that Councilmember Hayner choose to represent journalists in a recent post on a Facebook page about Ann Arbor politics. I saw it and stopped dead in my scrolling. I'm not writing today to defend journalism or the necessity of a free press in a democracy, however important I feel this is, I am writing because in 2021 an elected official in our town decided to post a quote that starts with a homophobic slur. I don't care that it was Thompson who wrote it, it was Councilmember Hayner's decision to post it. Is this representative of our city? In my experience, it is not. But this is the representation our city has on council.

There must be reckoning. We have a choice to create a transformative culture here that supports each resident or we have a choice to engage in perpetuating harmful stereotypes and being part of a regressive culture. By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia; it legitimizes it.

I'm here to stand up for the LGBTQ community today. I am here to be visible and say comments like this are absolutely unacceptable. It's time to put away slurs and never, ever again use someone's sexual orientation as an insult.

As a City Council, I urge you to affirm the open and welcoming community we have in Ann Arbor. I ask that you address this homophobia with the same zeal you have had regarding FOIA requests. Please let it be known that we are not community who tolerates homophobia and homophobic insults. I will make sure I do this as elected official for the county, and I remain hopeful that my city council in my beloved Ann Arbor will do the same.

Best,
Katie Scott, proud LGBTQ elected official

From: Rachel Hart Klayman
To: Hayner, Jeff
Cc: CityCouncil
Subject: social media post
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:34:09 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,
Do these social media posts actually belong to you? They are despicable in more ways than one. If you are this lacking in judgment, you are not fit to serve on city council.
Rachel Klayman



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Cc: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Fw: Social Media Post
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:19:58 PM

Mr. Mayor,

Given Mr. Hayner's clear lack of remorse over his use of a quote that included a hateful & homophobic slur used to portray journalists in a negative light on social media, his unwillingness to acknowledge the harm that using such hateful language causes to members of our community, and his expressed refusal to apologize for this behavior, I am referring his response to you for Admin Committee consideration. I will be seeking guidance from Mr. Postema tomorrow re: potential next steps.

As I sought advice from Councilmember Grand, as my ward colleague, I am cc'ing her above as well.

Thank you,
Travis

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:33 PM
To: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: Social Media Post

Dear Mr. Radina,

The sincerity of my support for the LGBTQ community is not for you to question. To suggest it is "supposed support" is offensive, to say the least. You don't know the first thing about me, my family, my friends or my behavior outside of what is brought to your attention by people who have nothing better to do than stalk me on social media. The fact that it was screen captured and sent to you in hopes of creating political conflict should tell you all you need know. For transparency you are cc'ing all of council? Of course. Better to let everyone know how terrible you think I am than to just drop me a note asking what's up. Don't you have my phone number? It's public. I have just learned that you also have made a facebook post about this. Again, how is this helping?

Your belief that the Council and community deserve an explanation or apology is just that, your belief. It is not mine. People are free to interpret what I say, in my capacity as a private citizen, however they choose. I did not delete that post, apparently it was deleted automatically and quickly by a facebook algorithm which has no way to differentiate between actual comments, and quotes from a book that has been in constant print since 1972 and has been called "a classic of our time", "one of the few great modern novels" and "a scorching epochal sensation".

As for your reaction, “disgusting and severely inappropriate” is in the eye of the beholder. That language is consistent with my experiences with the media, again, you know nothing about the things that have been said to me by members of the press in private, the insults and threats I have received. In the context of the novel, and in its use of language that quote is entirely appropriate. In context of the thread from which it was extracted, even more so. I suggest you take up your concerns over language with the publisher, maybe you can try and get the book banned. That’s all the rage these days in certain circles, isn’t it?

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: *City Council Members (All) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not "reply all" in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>

From: [Jason Morgan](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Use of Homophobic Language
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:20:36 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am writing in hopes of better understanding your perspective regarding the use of the word “f****t” on social media. It is my hope that you share my view that we have been able to work well together over these past couple of years. I have appreciated that we’ve been able to work collaboratively, outside of any perceived local political factions, of which I take great care to avoid as much as possible.

It has also been my previous understanding that you are not homophobic, as I have seen you at a number of LGBTQ pride related events and activities.

So I have to ask, what the hell? I genuinely would like to understand why you would use that word in such a derogatory manner? (Even if it is part of a quote)

I have pretty thick skin when it comes to politics and there are few things that phase me when it comes to the general public expressing displeasure toward us elected officials, but use of that homophobic slur by a community leader is incredibly hurtful.

I moved to Ann Arbor a decade ago because I wanted to live in a place that embraces diversity accepts me for who I am as a proud openly-LGBTQ individual. I moved here because I was called f****t too many times where I grew up and I didn’t want to live in a community that made it clear that they hated who I am. I have also had that word yelled out of a moving car window at me here in Ann Arbor while walking down the street holding my boyfriend’s hand after a football game. On that occasion, I said to my boyfriend at the time “they must not be from here because that is not Ann Arbor.” It has stuck with me since that day though, as a constant reminder that simply holding the hand of someone I love may result in hate or potentially violence.

This email perhaps includes a bit more emotion than I had intended. I share this with the hope that it will shed some perspective on just why this word by you as a community leader is particularly hurtful to me personally and to the LGBTQ community.

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Ryan J Stanton](#)
Subject: Fwd: Social Media Post
Date: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:50:16 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Date: April 11, 2021 at 9:34:00 PM EDT
To: "Radina, Travis" <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: Social Media Post

Dear Mr. Radina,

The sincerity of my support for the LGBTQ community is not for you to question. To suggest it is "supposed support" is offensive, to say the least. You don't know the first thing about me, my family, my friends or my behavior outside of what is brought to your attention by people who have nothing better to do than stalk me on social media. The fact that it was screen captured and sent to you in hopes of creating political conflict should tell you all you need know. For transparency you are cc'ing all of council? Of course. Better to let everyone know how terrible you think I am than to just drop me a note asking what's up. Don't you have my phone number? It's public. I have just learned that you also have made a facebook post about this. Again, how is this helping?

Your belief that the Council and community deserve an explanation or apology is just that, your belief. It is not mine. People are free to interpret what I say, in my capacity as a private citizen, however they choose. I did not delete that post, apparently it was deleted automatically and quickly by a facebook algorithm which has no way to differentiate between actual comments, and quotes from a book that has been in constant print since 1972 and has been called "a classic of our time", "one of the few great modern novels" and "a scorching epochal sensation".

As for your reaction, "disgusting and severely inappropriate" is in the eye of the beholder. That language is consistent with my experiences with the media, again, you know nothing about the things that have been said to me by members of the press in private, the insults and threats I have received. In the context of the novel, and in its use of language that quote is entirely appropriate. In context of the thread from which it was extracted, even more so. I suggest you take up your concerns over language with the publisher, maybe you can try and get the book banned. That's all the rage these days in certain circles, isn't it?

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: *City Council Members (All) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Social Media Post

Councilmember Hayner,

It was recently brought to my attention that you shared a disgusting and severely inappropriate quote on facebook disparaging journalists. This quote, which utilizes a highly offensive homophobic slur, is extremely problematic and unbecoming of a Councilmember.

Setting aside your tirade against the free press, the thoughtlessness and disregard you displayed for our LGBTQ residents in sharing such a quote is extremely concerning and hurtful. In 2021, LGBTQ residents – especially LGBTQ youth – in one of the most progressive cities in Michigan should never be subjected to elected officials cavalierly utilizing homophobic slurs to insult their perceived adversaries or to advance a political point of view. It is disappointing. It is harmful. And frankly, it makes me question the sincerity of your supposed support for the LGBTQ community.

While the original post seems to have since been deleted (screenshot attached), I believe that Council and the community deserve an explanation.

Is this quote representative of your own point of view?

Do you believe it is ever appropriate to use homophobic slurs to demean or attack others? To win an argument?

Do you disavow the hate and homophobia on display in the quote you shared, and if so, why would you have ever shared it to begin with?

I am extremely disappointed today, Councilmember. I never thought I would need to send an email like this when joining Council. I hope I never need to again. If you believe it is appropriate, I certainly believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed by the amplification

and validation of such blatant homophobia and hatred.

For transparency, I am cc:ing all of Council. I respectfully ask that others do not “reply all” in violation of OMA.

Sincerely,

--

Travis Radina

Council Member, Ward 3

(he|him|his)

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<https://www.a2gov.org/>

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jason Morgan](#)
Subject: RE: Use of Homophobic Language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 1:46:00 AM

Thanks for writing. Because I have a great deal of respect for you and the work you have done at the County, I am going to take the time to give you an honest answer. The others who are blowing this up in an attempt to make political points have not gotten this type of response, as I have little respect for their obvious divisive tactics.

First of all, let me say that posting that quote (it was a famous quote from a work of fiction, and posted as such with the authors initials) was a very direct response to a very direct question and comment thread about a certain local reporter who seems to have made it his duty to harass, misquote and report on me with extreme bias. In fact, hours before he had just texted me to suggest that any criticism of his “reporting” was perhaps due my suffering from mental illness. This is not the first time he has harassed me by text, nor is it the first time he has crossed the line of journalistic ethics. That is the context of the quote in its original appearance in the novel, the authors expression of frustration with media bias and failures to report facts accurately, and that was my point in posting the quote. I felt the same frustration, that quote sums up exactly how I feel about a certain reporter. They were not my words – I don’t know what doctored images you have seen, I have already seen one cropped and attributing it to me. Obviously it is not something I would say to anybody. I understand it is offensive.

Now, the quote was immediately removed. It was apparently removed so soon after posting that only a few people saw it – but of course, someone saw fit to amplify the offensive language by sharing it widely on social media, even though it no longer existed on the original post. It was long gone, I am told. Instead of the courtesy of a phone call or email asking “what the hell?” as you have done, a set of posts to social media were made by Travis Radina, Mayor Taylor, Julie Grand, Jen Eyer and others. Because of course they did. I’m not a big fan of phony outrage, but there is plenty of that to go around tonight, mixed with some real outrage, some of which is clearly a result of amped-up social media descriptions of me as an anti-LGBTQ homophobe who goes around calling people names and has set back the cause of human rights 50 years. Distraction is invaluable in politics. We have a FOIA cover-up in city hall, a council member who was partner in an ad agency that by all accounts regularly abused women with her acquiescence, and a series of campaign finance violation complaints and investigations surrounding the mayor and his slate of candidates that look from here like a clear case of corruption.

To again quote Hunter Thompson from the same novel (in continuous print since 1972) “Against that heinous background, my crimes were pale and meaningless”.

I’ve already made a public statement on FB. Those were not my words, those words do not define me, they are not who I am, and I understand that they are considered hurtful by some people. There is nothing to retract because the post was deleated almost immediately. I admit I exercised poor judgement in posting that quote. Anyone who knows me knows that I support any persons right to live any life they choose, as long as they do no harm to others. There is not much else to say.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>

Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:21 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: Use of Homophobic Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am writing in hopes of better understanding your perspective regarding the use of the word “f****t” on social media. It is my hope that you share my view that we have been able to work well together over these past couple of years. I have appreciated that we’ve been able to work collaboratively, outside of any perceived local political factions, of which I take great care to avoid as much as possible.

It has also been my previous understanding that you are not homophobic, as I have seen you at a number of LGBTQ pride related events and activities.

So I have to ask, what the hell? I genuinely would like to understand why you would use that word in such a derogatory manner? (Even if it is part of a quote)

I have pretty thick skin when it comes to politics and there are few things that phase me when it comes to the general public expressing displeasure toward us elected officials, but use of that homophobic slur by a community leader is incredibly hurtful.

I moved to Ann Arbor a decade ago because I wanted to live in a place that embraces diversity accepts me for who I am as a proud openly-LGBTQ individual. I moved here because I was called f****t too many times where I grew up and I didn’t want to live in a community that made it clear that they hated who I am. I have also had that word yelled out of a moving car window at me here in Ann Arbor while walking down the street holding my boyfriend’s hand after a football game. On that occasion, I said to my boyfriend at the time “they must not be from here because that is not Ann Arbor.” It has stuck with me since that day though, as a constant reminder that simply holding the hand of someone I love may result in hate or potentially violence.

This email perhaps includes a bit more emotion than I had intended. I share this with the hope that it will shed some perspective on just why this word by you as a community leader is particularly hurtful to me personally and to the LGBTQ community.

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: [Katie Scott](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Recent Post on Social Media
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:18:29 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Hayner,

If you need the language was offensive and you don't need education on such, why on earth would you ever post something like that?

Best,

Katie

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 9 Commissioner

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:25 PM
To: Katie Scott <scottk@washtenaw.org>
Subject: RE: Recent Post on Social Media

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Scott,

I didn't take it down, facebook apparently did within a few minutes. In fact, it wouldn't even exist if someone had not made a very deliberate effort to save it, circulate it, and thereby further perpetuate whatever harm people think it may have caused. I certainly don't need any educating on why some people might find that language offensive, even in the narrow context in which it was posted.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

From: Katie Scott <scottk@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Recent Post on Social Media

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner,

I am writing today about a social media post I recently saw on FB and it appears you have since taken down, however with no comment about the impact of such a post or the content therein. Besides my own opinion about the necessity of a free press and journalism to protect our democracy, the most offensive part of this post was that you deliberately chose to use a quote with an old-fashioned homophobic slur. It's in the first sentence, so I hardly think you could have missed it.

As an elected colleague in the city of Ann Arbor and open member of the LGBTQ community, I am offended, and more so that you would have thought this was even remotely appropriate. I am more than happy to provide a primer on the prejudice that has existed against the gay community and that still does. It's not a thing of the past, and although you may have "just" been maligning journalists, the quote's derisiveness toward my own community is alarming.

I am pleased it appears you have taken it down, but I urge you to further educate yourself. If it helps, start with what happened to Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. Ask yourself if you want to be part of a legacy that includes transformative culture and freedom or if you want continue to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and a regressive society.

I won't assume to tell you how to respond to the post; I can only hope you do the right thing.

Best,

Commissioner Katie Scott, proud LGBTQ elected official

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 9 Commissioner

From: [Amy Sample](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Disch, Lisa](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Radina, Travis](#); [Song, Linh](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Grand, Julie](#); [Eyer, Jen](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Please resign now
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:11:57 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

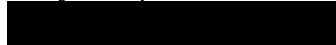
Dear Mr. Hayner,

You represent my ward on the City Council. Your recent use of hate speech on facebook is cause for you to resign. Your defense that it is "in quotes" is ridiculous. If you can't express yourself without invoking homophobic slurs, you are not qualified to represent ALL of our residents. We can all find bad language amongst old writers-- Hunter Thompson died 15 years ago-- so it seems like you had to reach pretty far to get that slur included in your post instead of finding a more recent quote. Please spare me the "...but I have friends..." drill.

As a friend of mine once said to someone making light of that word "It's all fun until a kid kills themselves". You clearly don't appreciate the hate and fear that the LGBTQ live with and it shows in your behavior. You should be condemned by every single member of the City Council and you should resign now. It is the right thing to do.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/facts-about-suicide/>

Amy Sample



A2 MI 48103

https://www.michigandaily.com/ann-arbor/ann-arbor-councilmember-jeff-hayner-defends-posting-homophobic-slur-after-criticism-from-fellow-councilmember/?fbclid=IwAR3teQGA7NCNiNNpI8mSoz8X7BoEKsKZU9OfUwKwfnYcEZEg8tYg-M_IUcE

From: [Martin Slagter](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Request for comment RE: social media comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:29:21 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jeff,

I hope you are doing well. I'm reaching out to ask if you would be able to provide comment/answer a couple of questions regarding the quote and comments you shared on social media that have since been described by at least one council member as "use of a grotesque and highly objectionable quote containing a homophobic slur while attacking journalists on social media." Feel free to shoot me an email or call me at [REDACTED]

I wondered if you wanted to give any explanation or defense of the quote you shared from HST and how you feel about how the quote and your comment are being interpreted? Do you stand by the use of it?

thanks
Martin

From: [Charles Foster](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Comment
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:27:52 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hang in there. Just because someone doesn't agree with you is no reason to resign.
You still have my vote.
Charlie.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Eric Sturgis](#)
Cc: [Grand, Julie](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: LGBTQI Discrimination Twitter Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:51:53 AM

Mr. Sturgis,

As a gay man, I have been a target of homophobic vitriol for most of my life. I have been derisively called a “fag” and “faggot” more times than I can remember. As a result, I don’t need or appreciate a lecture from you about the appropriateness of my outrage when a colleague, with whom I am supposed to work, amplifies a hateful and homophobic slur in the course of deriding others.

Further, I take exception to your ridiculous suggestion that calling out homophobia is political-motivated in any way. First, I do not consider Mr. Hayner my “opponent,” as you suggest. We are colleagues, entrusted by the public to work with one another in the governance of our city. Second, I call out homophobia and bigotry when I see it — even when it comes from friends/colleagues. Similarly, I spoke out when a racist slur was spoken during public comment at one of our meetings. Having a 1st Amendment right to free speech does not entitle one to freedom from consequences for the words spoken.

Finally, while your email is a master class in “whataboutism,” it is harmful to suggest that bad behavior somehow excuses bad behavior and/or makes homophobia less objectionable. If your immediate response to the use of homophobic language is to challenge LGBTQ people for being angry or upset...or to excuse away homophobic slurs as free speech...or to deflect away from the hate speech by pointing to other perceived wrongs...or to, apparently, be more upset with the gay man calling out homophobic language than you are at the individual who used it to begin with, then I would encourage you to reflect on your “support for the LGBTQI community on all accounts,” because to borrow your own phrase, “You’re better than this.”

In the future, and as a Council courtesy, I would also remind you that as a resident of the 1st Ward, your elected representatives on City Council are Jeff Hayner and Lisa Disch. I have included them both in my reply.

Sincerely,
Travis Radina

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:22 AM, Eric Sturgis <> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Radina:

I stand and support the LGBTQI community on all accounts. I was curious as to why you did not call out the Sexual Harassment that occurred at Vanguard, especially to a Queer women Emily Dievendorf? I assume you believe Sexual

Harassment is wrong?

I was surprised that you were not outraged that the Ann Arbor Citizen's Academy has only 1 out of 30 minority members, and one minority member in your Ward was denied, do you have a concern with this?

I was surprised you do not have an outrage with the City Attorney's office knowingly breaking the law? Is this a concern

Lastly, you were quick to defend people's 1st Amendment right to call in and curse at CM Hayner and Ramlawi, but now suddenly people should be silenced?

This sounds like you are using this as a political motive against a political opponent, and I believe that is against Council rules.

You're better than this Travis!!

I hope to see your very public outrage at all of the items mentioned above.

Thank you

--

Eric A Sturgis



From: [Eric Sturgis](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Cc: [Grand, Julie](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: LGBTQI Discrimination Twitter Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:56:51 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for including my council members on the email, I guess they are the only ones that represent me? I stand with those victims of Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, and those who have experienced Homophobic treatment as well. I speak out publicly about all of them because all of them are important.

I will let your 3rd Ward resident no, that you had no comment, when I mentioned as a POC he was denied, and you don't seem to be interested.

Thanks for your time.

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Mr. Sturgis,

As a gay man, I have been a target of homophobic vitriol for most of my life. I have been derisively called a “fag” and “faggot” more times that I can remember. As a result, I don’t need or appreciate a lecture from you about the appropriateness of my outrage when a colleague, with whom I am supposed to work, amplifies a hateful and homophobic slur in the course of deriding others.

Further, I take exception to your ridiculous suggestion that calling out homophobia is political-motivated in any way. First, I do not consider Mr. Hayner my “opponent,” as you suggest. We are colleagues, entrusted by the public to work with one another in the governance of our city. Second, I call out homophobia and bigotry when I see it — even when it comes from friends/colleagues. Similarly, I spoke out when a racist slur was spoken during public comment at one of our meetings. Having a 1st Amendment right to free speech does not entitle one to freedom from consequences for the words spoken.

Finally, while your email is a master class in “whataboutism,” it is harmful to suggest that bad behavior somehow excuses bad behavior and/or makes homophobia less objectionable. If your immediate response to the use of homophobic language is to challenge LGBTQ people for being angry or upset...or to excuse away homophobic slurs as free speech...or to deflect away from the hate speech by pointing to other perceived wrongs...or to, apparently, be more upset with the gay man calling out homophobic language than you are at the individual who used it to begin with, then I would encourage you to reflect on your “support for the LGBTQI community on all accounts,” because to borrow your own phrase, “You’re better than this.”

In the future, and as a Council courtesy, I would also remind you that as a resident of the 1st Ward, your elected representatives on City Council are Jeff Hayner and Lisa Disch. I have included them both in my reply.

Sincerely,
Travis Radina

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:22 AM, Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Radina:

I stand and support the LGBTQI community on all accounts. I was curious as to why you did not call out the Sexual Harassment that occurred at Vanguard, especially to a Queer women Emily Dievendorf? I assume you believe Sexual Harassment is wrong?

I was surprised that you were not outraged that the Ann Arbor Citizen's Academy has only 1 out of 30 minority members, and one minority member in your Ward was denied, do you have a concern with this?

I was surprised you do not have an outrage with the City Attorney's office knowingly breaking the law? Is this a concern

Lastly, you were quick to defend people's 1st Amendment right to call in and curse at CM Hayner and Ramlawi, but now suddenly people should be silenced?

This sounds like you are using this as a political motive against a political opponent, and I believe that is against Council rules.

You're better than this Travis!!

I hope to see your very public outrage at all of the items mentioned above.

Thank you

--

Eric A Sturgis
[REDACTED]

--

Eric A Sturgis
[REDACTED]

From: [Steve Neavling](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Metro Times question about Facebook post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:58:15 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilman Hayner,

This is Steve Neavling with the Detroit Metro Times. I am working on a story about your Facebook post that quotes Hunter S. Thompson. I wanted to get your response to Councilman Radina, who said the post was offensive. Did you intend for the post to offend? What point were you hoping to make with the quote?

I appreciate the feedback. Feel free to respond to me via email or phone at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,
Steve Neavling

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Eric Sturgis](#)
Cc: [Grand, Julie](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: LGBTQI Discrimination Twitter Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:06:21 AM

Please do not speak on my behalf.

Not allowing you to water down or detract from a very real problem about the use of a homophobic slur is not the same having no comment or disinterest in other injustice. Just as it would be highly offensive for you to interrupt a BLM rally and demand that Black speakers answer for all other worldly injustices immediately, or face the consequence of you questioning their motivation or the sincerity behind their outrage, anger and hurt, it is highly offensive that you would demand the same of a gay man who is responding to the use of a homophobic slur.

Please, educate yourself on allyship. It's more than saying you "stand with" someone.

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for including my council members on the email, I guess they are the only ones that represent me? I stand with those victims of Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, and those who have experienced Homophobic treatment as well. I speak out publicly about all of them because all of them are important.

I will let your 3rd Ward resident no, that you had no comment, when I mentioned as a POC he was denied, and you don't seem to be interested.

Thanks for your time.

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Mr. Sturgis,

As a gay man, I have been a target of homophobic vitriol for most of my life. I have been derisively called a "fag" and "faggot" more times that I can remember. As a result, I don't need or appreciate a lecture from you about the appropriateness of my outrage when a colleague, with whom I am supposed to work, amplifies a hateful and homophobic slur in the course of deriding others.

Further, I take exception to your ridiculous suggestion that calling out homophobia is political-motivated in any way. First, I do not consider Mr. Hayner my "opponent," as you suggest. We are colleagues, entrusted by the public to work with one another in the governance of our city. Second, I call out

homophobia and bigotry when I see it — even when it comes from friends/colleagues. Similarly, I spoke out when a racist slur was spoken during public comment at one of our meetings. Having a 1st Amendment right to free speech does not entitle one to freedom from consequences for the words spoken.

Finally, while your email is a master class in “whataboutism,” it is harmful to suggest that bad behavior somehow excuses bad behavior and/or makes homophobia less objectionable. If your immediate response to the use of homophobic language is to challenge LGBTQ people for being angry or upset...or to excuse away homophobic slurs as free speech...or to deflect away from the hate speech by pointing to other perceived wrongs...or to, apparently, be more upset with the gay man calling out homophobic language than you are at the individual who used it to begin with, then I would encourage you to reflect on your “support for the LGBTQI community on all accounts,” because to borrow your own phrase, “You’re better than this.”

In the future, and as a Council courtesy, I would also remind you that as a resident of the 1st Ward, your elected representatives on City Council are Jeff Hayner and Lisa Disch. I have included them both in my reply.

Sincerely,
Travis Radina

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:22 AM, Eric Sturgis
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Radina:

I stand and support the LGBTQI community on all accounts. I was curious as to why you did not call out the Sexual Harassment that occurred at Vanguard, especially to a Queer woman Emily Dievendorf? I assume you believe Sexual Harassment is wrong?

I was surprised that you were not outraged that the Ann Arbor Citizen's Academy has only 1 out of 30 minority members, and one minority member in your Ward was denied, do you have a concern with this?

I was surprised you do not have an outrage with the City Attorney's office knowingly breaking the law? Is this a concern

Lastly, you were quick to defend people's 1st Amendment right to call in and curse at CM Hayner and Ramlawi, but now suddenly people should be silenced?

This sounds like you are using this as a political motive against a political opponent, and I believe that is against Council rules.

You're better than this Travis!!

I hope to see your very public outrage at all of the items mentioned above.

Thank you

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

From: [Eric Sturgis](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Cc: [Grand, Julie](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: LGBTQI Discrimination Twitter Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:10:34 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I find your email to be very offensive as an elected public official. I will be happy to share with the certain residents, and I am not speaking for you. What is your thought on the fact that the Citizen's Academy has only 1 minority out of 30, and a Person of Color applied in the 3rd Ward and was not selected?

I have traveled overseas to work with different minority communities, and for you to imply I am a racist and homophobic is repulsive. I will be sending this to my attorney for review.

Thank you, have a great day.

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 11:06 AM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Please do not speak on my behalf.

Not allowing you to water down or detract from a very real problem about the use of a homophobic slur is not the same having no comment or disinterest in other injustice. Just as it would be highly offensive for you to interrupt a BLM rally and demand that Black speakers answer for all other worldly injustices immediately, or face the consequence of you questioning their motivation or the sincerity behind their outrage, anger and hurt, it is highly offensive that you would demand the same of a gay man who is responding to the use of a homophobic slur.

Please, educate yourself on allyship. It's more than saying you "stand with" someone.

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:56 AM, Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for including my council members on the email, I guess they are the only ones that represent me? I stand with those victims of Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, and those who have experienced Homophobic treatment as well. I speak out publicly about all of them because all of them are important.

I will let your 3rd Ward resident no, that you had no comment, when I mentioned as a POC he was denied, and you don't seem to be interested.

Thanks for your time.

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:

Mr. Sturgis,

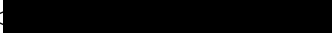
As a gay man, I have been a target of homophobic vitriol for most of my life. I have been derisively called a “fag” and “faggot” more times that I can remember. As a result, I don’t need or appreciate a lecture from you about the appropriateness of my outrage when a colleague, with whom I am supposed to work, amplifies a hateful and homophobic slur in the course of deriding others.

Further, I take exception to your ridiculous suggestion that calling out homophobia is political-motivated in any way. First, I do not consider Mr. Hayner my “opponent,” as you suggest. We are colleagues, entrusted by the public to work with one another in the governance of our city. Second, I call out homophobia and bigotry when I see it — even when it comes from friends/colleagues. Similarly, I spoke out when a racist slur was spoken during public comment at one of our meetings. Having a 1st Amendment right to free speech does not entitle one to freedom from consequences for the words spoken.

Finally, while your email is a master class in “whataboutism,” it is harmful to suggest that bad behavior somehow excuses bad behavior and/or makes homophobia less objectionable. If your immediate response to the use of homophobic language is to challenge LGBTQ people for being angry or upset...or to excuse away homophobic slurs as free speech...or to deflect away from the hate speech by pointing to other perceived wrongs...or to, apparently, be more upset with the gay man calling out homophobic language than you are at the individual who used it to begin with, then I would encourage you to reflect on your “support for the LGBTQI community on all accounts,” because to borrow your own phrase, “You’re better than this.”

In the future, and as a Council courtesy, I would also remind you that as a resident of the 1st Ward, your elected representatives on City Council are Jeff Hayner and Lisa Disch. I have included them both in my reply.

Sincerely,
Travis Radina

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:22 AM, Eric Sturgis
< wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Radina:

I stand and support the LGBTQI community on all accounts. I

was curious as to why you did not call out the Sexual Harassment that occurred at Vanguard, especially to a Queer woman Emily Dievendorf? I assume you believe Sexual Harassment is wrong?

I was surprised that you were not outraged that the Ann Arbor Citizen's Academy has only 1 out of 30 minority members, and one minority member in your Ward was denied, do you have a concern with this?

I was surprised you do not have an outrage with the City Attorney's office knowingly breaking the law? Is this a concern

Lastly, you were quick to defend people's 1st Amendment right to call in and curse at CM Hayner and Ramlawi, but now suddenly people should be silenced?

This sounds like you are using this as a political motive against a political opponent, and I believe that is against Council rules.

You're better than this Travis!!

I hope to see your very public outrage at all of the items mentioned above.

Thank you

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

From: [P. L.](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Cc: [Disch, Lisa](#); [Ali Ramlawi](#); [Jeff Hayner](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Grand, Julie](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#); [Song, Linh](#); [Eyer, Jen](#)
Subject: Travis Radina/Hunter S. Thompson use of "faggot"
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:02:29 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Travis,

As a gay woman, I'm sure you know I've been subject to homophobic vitriol for most of my life, including from people whom you call friends, whose Facebook posts you like, whose Tweets you heart, whose money you took when you ran for office and next to whom you stand in photos, smiling. You may have seen some of it. I no doubt missed your outraged responses to *those* attacks.

The email you sent [below] (forwarded to a neighborhood listserv) brings to mind something Mark Twain wrote, "Politicians are like diapers. They need to be changed often and for the same reasons." Shame on you for treating a resident of Ann Arbor so disrespectfully, and shame on you for thinking you have the right to do so. You don't. Ever. As Mark Twain also wrote, you're the "lowest of the low, who makes the mistake of thinking he is the highest of the high, a politician."

You most certainly **are** there to take lectures from the public. We pay your salary. You most certainly have no business telling anyone who writes to you to complain about something you say in public, a vote you cast, or to express disappointment in your behavior, that they may not communicate with you. You're deluded in your grandeur.

- You have remained silent as multiple media outlets report on Eyer's enabling of the victimization of a dozen women (including a queer woman) by a sexual predator. That's sexist and, frankly, to quote Taylor, "repulsive."
- You remained silent when told that out of 30 people in the present Citizen's Academy 29 are white. That's the behavior of a supporter of institutionalized racism and racist.
- You remained silent as Julie and Chris attacked MLive for reporting and using public records. That's open support of totalitarianism.
- You remained silent as Chris and Julie threatened Tom Crawford in public social media posts by saying he was wrong to adhere to Michigan law and to release a public record. Are you insane? That's support of violating Michigan law. It's silence in the face of the harassment and intimidation of an employee whom you supervise directly.

Using the word "faggot" aimed at an effeminate man (or any man or woman) is reprehensible. Go burn Hunter S. Thompson's publishing house to the ground. Have a book barbeque with Julie and Chris of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" in Burns Park. Pass a symbolic resolution to jail people who use literary quotations you don't like. The First Amendment gives every monster who has harassed you, every monster (including your friends) who have harassed me, and the millions of other LGBTQ people in this country, the freedom to speak against us, insult us and belittle us. I loathe and fear homophobia, but understand the First Amendment. I can also smell political desperation.

Crime. Cover up. Corruption. Faggot. Which word has nothing to do with threats against Tom

Crawford by Chris Taylor, and Julie Grand, illegal withholding of public records by Stephen Postema to benefit Jen Eyer, Mitch Irwin and Jeff Irwin, and a serious crime that was covered up to benefit elected officials?

Next time your friends harass me, I'll look for you to speak up and out against sexism and homophobia aimed at individuals.

No reply is necessary.

Patricia Lesko

As a gay man, I have been a target of homophobic vitriol for most of my life. I have been derisively called a "fag" and "faggot" more times that I can remember. As a result, I don't need or appreciate a lecture from you about the appropriateness of my outrage when a colleague, with whom I am supposed to work, amplifies a hateful and homophobic slur in the course of deriding others.

Further, I take exception to your ridiculous suggestion that calling out homophobia is political-motivated in any way. First, I do not consider Mr. Hayner my "opponent," as you suggest. We are colleagues, entrusted by the public to work with one another in the governance of our city. Second, I call out homophobia and bigotry when I see it — even when it comes from friends/colleagues. Similarly, I spoke out when a racist slur was spoken during public comment at one of our meetings. Having a 1st Amendment right to free speech does not entitle one to freedom from consequences for the words spoken.

Finally, while your email is a master class in "whataboutism," it is harmful to suggest that bad behavior somehow excuses bad behavior and/or makes homophobia less objectionable. If your immediate response to the use of homophobic language is to challenge LGBTQ people for being angry or upset...or to excuse away homophobic slurs as free speech...or to deflect away from the hate speech by pointing to other perceived wrongs...or to, apparently, be more upset with the gay man calling out homophobic language than you are at the individual who used it to begin with, then I would encourage you to reflect on your "support for the LGBTQI community on all

accounts," because to borrow your own phrase, "You're better than this."

In the future, and as a Council courtesy, I would also remind you that as a resident of the 1st Ward, your elected representatives on City Council are Jeff Hayner and Lisa Disch. I have included them both in my reply.

Sincerely,
Travis Radina

From: [Ruth Calhoun](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Apologize
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:13:55 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Mr. Hayner,

This morning, I was shocked to read headlines that a member of my city council used a homophobic slur. It is never okay and I would have thought all local representatives were informed and empathetic enough to understand this. When I searched for your apology, I was further shocked not to find one but rather a condemnation of people who are offended by your actions. You seem completely out of touch with the present and future. Please apologize now for the damage you have done and stop doing more hateful damage.

-Ruth

From: [Evelyn Hollenshead](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Briggs, Erica](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [REDACTED] [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Your Recent Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:21:11 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Gayner,

I hardly know where to begin, but let's begin with your comment to the Michigan Daily that no community members have contacted you over your recent homophobic posts on Facebook. Here I am, a lesbian community member, contacting you! I doubt that I am the first.

I have been a resident of Ann Arbor for my entire life. I went to Pioneer High School where I was called both a dyke and a fag not infrequently. You have no idea how that feels. I'm now raising two great kids with my great wife in this wonderful city, because people grow and change and get better and more careful about how they speak and act. That's what I've seen in our city. I'm sad that the same cannot be said for you.

You say that I should take up my issue with the publisher of HST's book. With all due respect, that's a foolish way to look at anything. You easily could have started your quote after the "faggot" part and everyone would have gotten your point anyway. That leads me to believe that you put it in there specifically to cause shock and hurt. The absolutely most generous reading of your choice is that you didn't think about it, but if that was the case, you would have apologized, which I see you are not doing.

I am CCing my 5th Ward Council reps here. I have had disagreements with them in the past because that's politics! I've never heard them use a vile word to describe me and my community and then double down on said hatred.

As a 5th Ward resident, I will never have the satisfaction of voting you out of office, but I hope that the council will do everything in its power to make sure you have no decision making power over anything that affects the LGBTQ community here in Ann Arbor.

Evelyn Hollenshead
[REDACTED]

From: [Martin Contreras](#)
To: erica@ericafora2.com; [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:16:32 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

Just in case anyone is keeping track I wanted to voice my personal disgust and offense with Jeff Hayner's homophobic slur in his face book post disparaging journalists.

The word faggot for some is as shocking, demeaning, hurtful and offensive now as it was in the 70's especially coming from a straight man elected to political office. If the best Jeff Hayner can do to express his personal disgust with journalists is to use a HST quote disparaging gays than he truly has unthinking prejudices. In truth I question his "genuine" support of the LGBTQ+ community. He should apologize to the LGBTQ community and tender his resignation from city council. We deserve better on city council.

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras

He / Him / His

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>

To: Martin [REDACTED]

Sent: Sun, Apr 4, 2021 8:30 pm

Subject: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/4/21



I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

So often we focus our attention on national politics, but Monday night's City Council agenda demonstrates the power of local government to advance equity, justice, and make a real difference in our day to day lives. Tomorrow Council will be considering actions that will transform our police services, ban discriminatory practices in housing, and enhance tenant rights. There are also smaller, but meaningful actions, like filling sidewalk gaps and making improvements to city code. Not everything will spark your interest, but as you review the agenda and agenda highlights I hope you'll share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/5) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 5th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings ore efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Developing an unarmed public safety response program ([DC-2](#)):** I am proud and excited to co-sponsor this resolution which directs the City Administrator to budget for and develop an unarmed public safety program for the City of Ann Arbor. Currently, police officers are required to respond to 911 calls better suited to mental health, public health, or social service professionals. Because mental health services and 911 dispatch services are provided by the County, this resolution calls on the City Administrator to develop a program in coordination and collaboration with the County and Sherriff's office, in addition to other experts such Ann Arbor's Independent Police Oversight Commission. I have already begun to receive emails

urging that funding for this program come from the police budget (i.e. defund the police). It's important to note that the budget for the police department comes from City's General Fund. The cost of this new program still needs to be determined and certainly the funds for this program are likely to come from the General Fund as well. We may find that traditional police services can be reduced as this program is developed, but the details of the program are still undetermined and impact on police response is unknown. It's important that [critical police services](#) and programs (e.g. special victims unit, detective bureau, traffic enforcement, training) aren't compromised as we work to enhance and improve our response model. As we work to build a more fair and just system, we need to make sure our decisions are [data-driven](#) and rooted in equity.

- **Review of city ordinances related to police enforcement ([DC-5](#)):** On Jan 4, 2021, Governor Whitmer signed into law numerous amendments to the Michigan Compiled Laws which encourage alternatives to arrest and jail detention, eliminate certain mandatory minimums, reclassify low-level misdemeanors as civil infractions, remove unnecessary driver's license suspensions, and revise parole and probation policies to better accomplish the goals of supervision (collectively, "2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation"). This resolution directs the City Attorney's office to review Ann Arbor ordinances that are inconsistent with the 2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation, state/local law, or *are otherwise not in the spirit of progressive criminal justice reform*. I look forward to supporting this resolution and view it not only as a necessary step to ensure Ann Arbor's ordinances are aligned with state law, but also a critical step to ensure our local ordinances are aligned with our values and best practices.
- **Banning housing discrimination based on criminal history ([PH-4 & B-4](#)):** As I've noted in my last two newsletters, Council is considering adopting an ordinance which would ban the use of criminal history in tenant selection in order to give individuals with a criminal record a [fair opportunity](#) to compete for rental housing. Based on the [discussion](#) around the Council table, it appears to have unanimous support. This ordinance was drafted and recommended by the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission (HRC). Council incorporated some small amendments at our last meeting to address the needs of private landlords that accept federal funding. (2nd reading)

Condemning hate and violence directed towards Asian Americans

([DC-4](#)): Since the beginning of the pandemic America has experienced a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, violence, and rhetoric-- more than 30 percent of Asians and Asian Americans report being subjected to discrimination. At 18% of the City's population, Asians and Asian Americans are Ann Arbor's largest racial and ethnic minority. No member of our community should live in fear. This resolution condemns racism and urges residents to report harassment or hate crimes to the AAPD, Human Rights Commission, and/or Michigan Attorney General's Hate Crime Unit. It's easy to think this behavior doesn't happen in Ann Arbor, but we are receiving reports that harassment has been increasing locally as well. Learn [how you can help](#).

- **Enhancing Tenant Rights ([C-1](#))**: The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the period of time that landlords are prohibited from entering leased premises for the purpose of showing the premises to prospective tenants and entering into a lease to rent the premises to another tenant for a subsequent lease period, from 70 to 240 days. This ordinance change has been advocated for by [U-M GEO](#) and endorsed by U-M Central Student Government. The current provision of 70 days was adopted in January 2008 with unanimous support of the City Council-Michigan Student Assembly Committee and landlords engaged in the process. The 70 day provision was actually an amendment to a 90 day provision adopted by Council in March 2006. GEO has urged Council to extend the time period to 240 days over concerns that students are required to renew leases just months after moving into an apartment. I support extending the time period past 70 days, but I also think it is appropriate to engage additional stakeholders (non-student renters and landlords) into this process to ensure the time frame and enforcement tools truly address problems and prevent unintended consequences. 240 days, or eight months, would make most student leases expire in mid-April. This could present additional difficulties for students and landlords seeking fall leases. A more robust community conversation may identify additional issues in the ordinance that warrant revisions. ***Please share your thoughts with me on this issue if you are a renter or landlord.*** (1st reading)
- **Amendments to short-term rental ordinance ([C-4](#) and [C-5](#))**: In September 2020, the City enacted Chapter 97 of the City Code which established requirements for the operation, location, and licensing of short-

term rentals (e.g. AirBNBs). Establishing requirements for short-term rentals was critical, because previously the City had not distinguished between short-term or long-term rentals in our rental ordinances. Among other provisions, the September amendments included provisions that prohibit the operation of short-term rentals in residential zoning districts when the location is not the principal residence of the property owner. Based on the feedback I've heard from residents, I support the prohibition of non owner occupied short-term rentals in residential areas. However, there was one notable legal issue with the change made last September. On a divided vote, City Council banned existing non owner occupied short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. While this might seem ideal for folks that don't view them as an appropriate activity in neighborhoods, that ban was inconsistent with property rights and land use law. When a use is legal, and short-term rentals were legally permitted in our residentially zoned areas, it is impermissible to deny that use retroactively. I have heard concerns that short-term rentals inflate housing prices and deplete housing supply. I share these concerns, but suggest that the September 2020 code changes were not about protecting our housing supply. If they were, they would not have made a distinction about where housing units were located (residential zones vs. mixed use areas). Rather, the code changes began the important process of regulating short-term rentals in our community. If we want to protect our housing supply, we should care about protecting it in *all areas* of the City (downtown, along commercial corridors, and yes, in neighborhoods). To do this, we need to get a handle on how many short-term rentals we have (staff will be presenting us with this data on Monday) and where they are located and then determine the number of short-term rentals and the density of units we are comfortable with in Ann Arbor.

- **Proposed fine reduction for not shoveling ([PH-6 and B-6](#)):** This ordinance amendment would reduce the fine from \$100 to \$60 (+ processing fees) for a first-time violation for a property owner or occupant who fails to shovel snow/ice from their sidewalks. First-time violators currently get a 24-hour grace period to correct issues before fines are assessed and fines can be reduced due to hardship. I asked staff a few questions regarding this proposal, you can read their responses [here](#). Staff suggests that it would be helpful to consider fines and fees in conjunction with the comprehensive review of sidewalk snow removal policies and strategies they are currently conducting at Council's direction

(see my [2/28 newsletter](#)). A report is due to Council September 6th. Since we are past the snow season and staff is undertaking a review, I believe Council should defer action on this item to ensure any ordinance changes we make are aligned with our goals and addressing the problems we're seeking to solve. (2nd reading)

5th Ward Infrastructure Projects on the Consent Agenda

- **Filling sidewalk gaps on Newport and Sunset ([CA-7](#)):** This project includes the construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Newport Road from Downup Circle to Sunset Road, and on the north side of Sunset Road to Brooks Street. In addition to using funds from new sidewalk millage fund, the project will utilize federal funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to offset the local cost of the project. One of the first steps following Council approval will be hold a public meeting to further discuss the project and receive input from the residents.
- **Acquiring easements for the LynAnne-Arbana Sewer Project ([CA-9](#)):** The sanitary sewer line in this project area was constructed in the 1920s to serve the northwest portion of the City. To alleviate capacity constraints, and reduce the potential for sanitary backups into basements, .8 miles of sanitary sewer is scheduled for replacement with a larger diameter sewer. Permanent and temporary easements must be obtained before beginning the sewer replacement work. Additional easement area is required to accommodate the replacement and upsizing of the sewer. Additional project information [here](#).

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in

advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.
Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [Lisa Dusseau](#)
To: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Jeff Hayner's Homophobic Slur
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:22:00 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor:

As I am sure you are aware Councilman Hayner (who is one of my representatives) recently used an offensive homophobic slur in a social media post. Instead of apologizing for any harm, he's come up with various excuses like: "I was only quoting someone else", "It wasn't directed at any individual" "It was taken out of context" and most amazingly: "It's not considered a slur any more". Let me assure you Mr. Hayner that as a member of the LGBTQ community, it most certainly is a slur. I would expect that as a public official that he would use more restraint, like if he were to even consider using the "N" word to think better of it. However this was not the case and has not been in the past either. His social media posts are offensive and out of touch with the people he serves. I strongly recommend Mr. Hayner is at least censured for his latest insult. I do not feel that he is a good representative for my community and regret my vote for him.

Regards,
Lisa Dusseau, Ann Arbor, MI

From: [Kate Remen-Wait](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: your offensive language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:58:14 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilperson Hayner,

I am writing to you in direct response to your statement to the Michigan Daily in which you said that you had not been contacted by community members regarding your use of a homophobic slur. I am a community member and I am contacting you and letting you know that I find your language, even when couched in a quotation, offensive and beneath your office. The term you used is neither archaic nor is it rarely heard, as you claim. It is a vivid sign of your straight white male privilege that you refuse to listen to the people who are the targets of such language when they tell you that it is current, common and hurtful.

I ask that at the very least you issue a genuine apology to the LGBTQ+ community. Better yet would be your resignation and recognition that you are unfit for public office.

Sincerely,

Kate Remen-Wait

--

Kate Remen-Wait

pronouns: she/her/hers

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

[REDACTED]

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Evelyn Hollenshead](#)
Cc: [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [REDACTED] [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Re: Your Recent Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:59:39 PM

Dear Ms. Hollenshead,

I share your outrage. My colleague has a history of attacking the press, which I find concerning, but this time CM Hayner's attack used a highly offensive homophobic slur. I am sorry that you should ever feel the need to reach out to your Council members about such a topic, but I am particularly saddened that this language was used by a member of our Council. It doesn't matter that it was a quote. Putting quotation marks around demeaning and offensive language does not give us a free pass to use it. Typically, quotes are used to inspire or make a point more eloquently or persuasively than we could do our own... this quote falls short on all accounts. It was and is offensive language.

Please know that as your representative I condemn this language and this behavior from my colleague.

Sincerely,
Erica

On Apr 12, 2021, at 2:21 PM, Evelyn Hollenshead [REDACTED] wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Gayner,

I hardly know where to begin, but let's begin with your comment to the Michigan Daily that no community members have contacted you over your recent homophobic posts on Facebook. Here I am, a lesbian community member, contacting you! I doubt that I am the first.

I have been a resident of Ann Arbor for my entire life. I went to Pioneer High School where I was called both a dyke and a fag not infrequently. You have no idea how that feels. I'm now raising two great kids with my great wife in this wonderful city, because people grow and change and get better and more careful about how they speak and act. That's what I've seen in our city. I'm sad that the same cannot be said for you.

You say that I should take up my issue with the publisher of HST's book. With all due respect, that's a foolish way to look at anything. You easily could have started your quote after the "faggot" part and everyone would have gotten your point anyway. That leads me to believe that you put it in there specifically to cause

shock and hurt. The absolutely most generous reading of your choice is that you didn't think about it, but if that was the case, you would have apologized, which I see you are not doing.

I am CCing my 5th Ward Council reps here. I have had disagreements with them in the past because that's politics! I've never heard them use a vile word to describe me and my community and then double down on said hatred.

As a 5th Ward resident, I will never have the satisfaction of voting you out of office, but I hope that the council will do everything in its power to make sure you have no decision making power over anything that affects the LGBTQ community here in Ann Arbor.

Evelyn Hollenshead



From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Lisa Dusseau](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner's Homophobic Slur
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:27:17 PM

Dear Lisa,

I understand and share your disappointment. You can trust that there will be an official response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Lisa Dusseau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner's Homophobic Slur

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor:

As I am sure you are aware Councilman Hayner (who is one of my representatives) recently used an offensive homophobic slur in a social media post. Instead of apologizing for any harm, he's come up with various excuses like: "I was only quoting someone else", "It wasn't directed at any individual" "It was taken out of context" and most amazingly: "It's not considered a slur any more". Let me assure you Mr. Hayner that as a member of the LGBTQ community, it most certainly is a slur. I would expect that as a public official that he would use more restraint, like if he were to even consider using the "N" word to think better of it. However this was not the case and has not been in the past either. His social media posts are offensive and out of touch with the people he serves. I strongly recommend Mr. Hayner is at least censured for his latest insult. I do not feel that he is a good representative for my community and regret my vote for him.

Regards,
Lisa Dusseau, Ann Arbor, MI

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Steve Neavling](#)
Subject: RE: Metro Times question about Facebook post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:28:00 PM

Dear Mr. Neavling,

I appreciate your taking the time to write and I understand, but don't share, your interest in this matter. I did not intend to offend anyone, but was merely putting forward the first quote that came to mind, from a favorite author of mine, that summed up my anger at the biased reporting and harassment I and others have been subjected to from a local reporter, in response to a thread on the integrity of our local media. Would you repeatedly text an elected official to complain about their mild criticism of your reporting, and suggest that they "please seek help"? Would you call an elected officials concerns over reporting "your latest bizarre rantings about me"? I certainly hope not. This reporter has done that, and more.

I'm not sure what can be done to remedy the situation, as I have already offered apologies to some, and explanations to others. The post was immediately removed, and would have been but an ill-considered mistake seen by few, had it not been screen captured immediately, and widely circulated and attributed to me, as my own words, out of context. Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect amplifying this for political purposes had on the community, but I certainly recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in the first place, and for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Steve Neavling <steve@metrotimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Metro Times question about Facebook post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilman Hayner,

This is Steve Neavling with the Detroit Metro Times. I am working on a story about your Facebook post that quotes Hunter S. Thompson. I wanted to get your response to Councilman Radina, who said the post was offensive. Did you intend for the post to offend? What point were you hoping to make with the quote?

I appreciate the feedback. Feel free to respond to me via email or phone at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,
Steve Neavling

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Amy Sample](#)
Subject: Re: Please resign now
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 5:36:07 PM

Dear Amy,

I understand and share your disappointment. You can trust that there will be an official response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Amy Sample [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Griswold, Kathy <KGriswold@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Please resign now

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

You represent my ward on the City Council. Your recent use of hate speech on facebook is cause for you to resign. Your defense that it is "in quotes" is ridiculous. If you can't express yourself without invoking homophobic slurs, you are not qualified to represent ALL of our residents. We can all find bad language amongst old writers-- Hunter Thompson died 15 years ago-- so it seems like you had to reach pretty far to get that slur included in your post instead of finding a more recent quote. Please spare me the "...but I have friends..." drill.

As a friend of mine once said to someone making light of that word "It's all fun until a kid kills themselves". You clearly don't appreciate the hate and fear that the LGBTQ live with and it shows in your behavior. You should be condemned by every single member of the City Council and you should resign now. It is the right thing to do.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/facts-about-suicide/>

Amy Sample



A2 MI 48103

https://www.michigandaily.com/ann-arbor/ann-arbor-councilmember-jeff-hayner-defends-posting-homophobic-slur-after-criticism-from-fellow-councilmember/?fbclid=IwAR3teQGA7NCNiNNpI8mSoz8X7BoEKsKZU9OfUwKwfnYcEZEg8tYg-M_IUcE

From: [Russell Stambaugh](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Criticism of Journalists
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:22:06 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

You would probably feel better about yourself if you refrained from making yourself and Ann Arbor City Council look bad by quoting Hunter S Thompson out of context while using an outdated homophobic slur.

When I say 'out of context', I mean that you may recall he was working as a journalist when he made the comment, in addition to being drugged out of his mind during the Vegas trip in question. Your comment lacks even the irony of being self-referential, and comes after 5 years of self-serving attacks on the press by Donald Trump. I'm sure you were not hoping to get the Ann Arbor electorate to think of you as they think of him, despite the fact that is precisely what you have accomplished.

I'm sure you feel that you don't have a homophobic bone in your body when you thoughtlessly used that quote. It may even be true when it washes up on the beach of your next election. For you are certain to hear about it from other Ann Arbor residents next time you have to run.

At any rate, your quote reflects badly not just on you, but on our entire community. I would hate to think I'm sorrier about it than you are.

Candidly,

Russell J Stambaugh, PhD
Third Ward resident

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: RE: Request for comment RE: social media comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:26:00 PM

Dear Mr. Slagter,

I appreciate your taking the time to write and I understand, but don't share, your interest in this matter. I did not intend to offend anyone, but was merely putting forward the first quote that came to mind, from a favorite author of mine, that summed up my anger at the biased reporting and harassment I and others have been subjected to from local reporters and news outlets, in response to a thread on the integrity of our local media. Would you repeatedly text an elected official to complain about their mild criticism of your reporting, and suggest that they "please seek help"? Would you call an elected officials concerns over reporting "your latest bizarre rantings about me"? I certainly hope not. This reporter has done that, and more. You have even played a part in this, for your sensationalized reporting on my expired house permits, and your libelous assertion that I had been fined by the city.

I'm not sure what can be done to remedy the situation, as I have already offered apologies to some, and explanations to others. The post was immediately removed, and would have been but an ill-considered mistake seen by few, had it not been screen captured immediately, and widely circulated and attributed to me, as my own words, out of context. Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect amplifying this for political purposes had on the community, but I certainly recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in the first place, and for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Request for comment RE: social media comments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jeff,

I hope you are doing well. I'm reaching out to ask if you would be able to provide comment/answer a couple of questions regarding the quote and comments you shared on social media that have since been described by at least one council member as "use of a

grotesque and highly objectionable quote containing a homophobic slur while attacking journalists on social media." Feel free to shoot me an email or call me at [REDACTED]

I wondered if you wanted to give any explanation or defense of the quote you shared from HST and how you feel about how the quote and your comment are being interpreted? Do you stand by the use of it?

thanks
Martin

From: [Keith Orr](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Letter regarding Hunter S. Thompson quote
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:30:10 PM
Attachments: [Hayner F Word.pdf](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

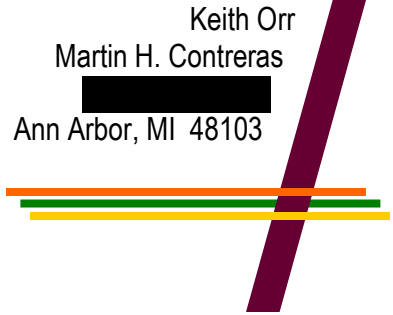
I am attaching a letter voicing my concern over your defense of your facebook post. I hope you will reconsider your defense of that post.

I am copying my 5th ward council members and my mayor to make my elected representatives aware of my concern, as well.

Thank you.

Keith Orr

Keith Orr
Martin H. Contreras
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



April 12, 2021

Councilmember Jeff Hayner

Dear Mr. Hayner,

I am writing regarding your recent post quoting from Hunter S. Thompson. I am concerned about your reasons for standing by the post and am writing in the hopes that you will reconsider your stance.

As I read this, there are four reasons you stand by your post. I believe all four are problematic, but some more than others.

I am quoting someone else, so the use of the word is not my responsibility.

I believe it says a lot about a person whether I choose to quote Hitler or Mahatma Ghandi. The choice of quoting someone is indeed your responsibility. I understand that your target was not members of the LGBTQ community, but the quote essentially says, "I hate the journalists so much that I am going to call them one of the worst things I can think of, and that is a bunch of f*****s." The act of quoting this sentiment speaks volumes to many readers who have been hurt by this word.

I didn't actually call any individual a f**t, so there really is no harm.***

If we substitute the N word, I think we can see this is not the case. If a speaker says to a crowd that "journalists are as bad as n*****s", I think we can see that the speaker has a low opinion of black people, and is using the most hurtful word possible to make the point.

I have friends who are members of the LGBTQ community, so I can't be homophobic.

I'm sorry to point this out, but this is a very tired trope. How often have people said "I have black friends, so I can't be racist". These people usually mean, "I

have black friends who are a lot like me, so I like them, and by extension I can't be racist", even though they don't want other black people moving into their neighborhood and "ruining property values". Homophobia, like racism, is not always overt. After all, to many of us, simply quoting "f****t" the way you did is a homophobic remark. To paraphrase Avenue Q, "We're all a little homophobic".

"F*t" is archaic and not really used as a slur anymore.***

This one is perhaps the most egregious. First, it is very much used to bully, to threaten, and to belittle. I asked my facebook friends who had experienced the use of "f****t" as a slur in the last 3 years (taking a very short view of what might be archaic). Within minutes I had a small crowd worth of raised hands in the comments, with some detailing the very hurtful way this word was used against them. To be clear, these are recent incidents in the Ann Arbor area. It really is not for you to decide what word or words are hurtful to a community to which you do not belong.

The overwhelming number of adolescent suicides are by young members of the LGBTQ community, and the word in question is one of the weapons used that drive them to suicide. Words do matter, and this is a very strong word that should not be dropped casually ... even in a quotation.

I do hope that you will reconsider how painful your post was.

Sincerely,

Keith Orr

From: [timothy dinan](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Bad talk
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:40:32 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Shame on you! You will not get me vote the next time you are up for re-election, and I am currently going door to door in my neighborhood, letting people know what kind of homophobic person you are. Resign NOW!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Keith Orr](#)
Subject: RE: Letter regarding Hunter S. Thompson quote
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:41:00 PM

Dear Mr. Orr,

Thank you for writing. Somehow in opening your email the attachment was unable to open, so I have not read it and not certain what you mean by "defense of that post". Be that as it may, I will say that I'm not entirely sure what can be done to remedy the situation, as I have already offered apologies to some, and explanations to others. The post was immediately removed, and would have been an ill-considered mistake seen by few, had it not been screen captured immediately, and widely circulated and attributed to me, as my own words, out of context. Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect that others amplifying and sharing this had on the community, but I certainly recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in the first place, and for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Keith Orr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:30 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Letter regarding Hunter S. Thompson quote

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am attaching a letter voicing my concern over your defense of your facebook post. I hope you will reconsider your defense of that post.

I am copying my 5th ward council members and my mayor to make my elected representatives aware of my concern, as well.

Thank you.

Keith Orr

From: [Jack Teener](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: deplorable language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:15:47 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi councilmember Hayner,

I am a lifelong ward 2 resident, a grad student at U of M, and proud gay man. I just needed to let you know that your handling of the situation regarding the quote you posted on facebook is incredibly harmful and your hesitancy to make real amends for your choices is disappointing.


I've been paying attention, as I know so many have, to your choices in the aftermath of the incident. Lying about how long the post was up (you said 10 minutes, but it was 16 hours!), saying people who are offended by the language "want to be offended by it", and claiming you support people's right to "choose" whatever lifestyle they want. First, I have yet to see any sort of real apology for the harm that word can cause in our community when brought forth by a public figure. Second, my sexuality is not a choice, period. What's even more horrible, you defended the language by saying it is an "archaic" phrase-unacceptable when myself and others I know have been on the receiving end of multiple hate-fueled uses of the word within this City.

Frankly, it is symptomatic of abusers to cause damage and gaslight others into believing they are the ones perpetuating harm to themselves. It is toxic and it is up to YOU and absolutely no one else to take full, honest responsibility for what you did and make amends. You can call yourself an ally all you want, but your actions speak louder than your words and right now, your track record is not in your favor. LGBTQIA people face systemic violence and hatred and you are woefully ignorant (at BEST) to how language can play a serious part in this.

I genuinely hope you learn from this experience and make amends, but I expect that you won't and will continue to double down on your defensive and toxic gaslighting. I just wish we could expect better from our elected leaders.

Best,
Jack

--

Jack Teener (he/him/his)
MS Sustainable Systems, MS Energy Systems Engineering
University of Michigan Class of 2022


I acknowledge and recognize that the land in this region of Michigan was originally called Michigami and belongs to the Anishinaabek, the People of Three Fires: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi as well as the Meskwahkiasahina (Fox), Peoria and Wyandot. I am honored to be a guest on this land.

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jack Teener](#)
Subject: RE: deplorable language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 8:13:00 PM

Dear Mr. Teener,

Thank you for writing and I will get right to the point. I don't know what all is circulating out there about me and about what I may or may not have said. I was told by a page moderator that my post was removed almost immediately, I had no idea how long it was up. Clearly I am mistaken about that and unfortunately have shared that mistake many times over. There is no retracting that but thank you for correcting me and telling me of my error.

As to the quote, those were not my words, and I understand that they are considered hurtful. I recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in posting them in any context, and I apologize for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Obviously I am no wordsmith. I did not mean to suggest that people choose one life over another; I was trying to say that I have always supported and defended anyone's ability to live a life free from fear, harassment, prejudice, inequality or hatred. I am struggling to find a statement to express fully my sincere regret for my actions. You have certainly given me some better ideas and direction, and for that I am grateful.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jack Teener [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: deplorable language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi councilmember Hayner,

I am a lifelong ward 2 resident, a grad student at U of M, and proud gay man. I just needed to let you know that your handling of the situation regarding the quote you posted on facebook is incredibly harmful and your hesitancy to make real amends for your choices is disappointing.

I've been paying attention, as I know so many have, to your choices in the aftermath of the incident. Lying about how long the post was up (you said 10 minutes, but it was 16 hours!), saying people who are offended by the language "want to be offended by it", and claiming you support people's right to "choose" whatever lifestyle they want. First, I have yet to see any sort of real apology for the harm that word can cause in our community when brought forth by a public figure. Second, my sexuality is not a choice, period. What's even more horrible, you defended the language by saying it is an "archaic" phrase- unacceptable when myself and others I know have been on the receiving end of multiple hate-fueled uses of the word within this City.

Frankly, it is symptomatic of abusers to cause damage and gaslight others into believing they are the ones perpetuating harm to themselves. It is toxic and it is up to YOU and absolutely no one else to take full, honest responsibility for what you did and make amends. You can call yourself an ally all you want, but your actions speak louder than your words and right now, your track record is not in your favor. LGBTQIA people face systemic violence and hatred and you are woefully ignorant (at BEST) to how language can play a serious part in this.

I genuinely hope you learn from this experience and make amends, but I expect that you won't and will continue to double down on your defensive and toxic gaslighting. I just wish we could expect better from our elected leaders.

Best,
Jack

--

Jack Teener (he/him/his)
MS Sustainable Systems, MS Energy Systems Engineering
University of Michigan Class of 2022

[REDACTED]

I acknowledge and recognize that the land in this region of Michigan was originally called Michigami and belongs to the Anishinaabek, the People of Three Fires: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi as well as the Meskwahkiasahina (Fox), Peoria and Wyandot. I am honored to be a guest on this land.

From: [leslie sobel](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#); [ICE Bill Worzel](#)
Subject: Bigoted language is not acceptable
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 8:14:11 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner-

We are residents of the 1st Ward and are writing to you to express our displeasure with your citing Hunter S Thompson's ugly language to describe the press. It is ironic that you say you rate a free pass because it was a quotation but no one forced you to quote him and post that language. Had you used a quotation with any number of other equally ugly insults you wouldn't even attempt such a specious explanation. "Faggot" is most emphatically still used as an ugly pejorative today despite what you claim. LGBTQIA people are assaulted, discriminated against and murdered all too frequently still. We expect our elected officials to model better behavior rather than using language that inspires hatred. You are not a private person since you are an elected official. Since you feel that impinges on your ability to say vile things without public response we suggest you resign and become a private citizen once again.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sobel
Bill Worzel

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Amy Sample](#)
Subject: Re: Please resign now
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:23:23 PM

Thank you for writing.

From: Amy Sample [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Griswold, Kathy <KGriswold@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Please resign now

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

You represent my ward on the City Council. Your recent use of hate speech on facebook is cause for you to resign. Your defense that it is "in quotes" is ridiculous. If you can't express yourself without invoking homophobic slurs, you are not qualified to represent ALL of our residents. We can all find bad language amongst old writers-- Hunter Thompson died 15 years ago-- so it seems like you had to reach pretty far to get that slur included in your post instead of finding a more recent quote. Please spare me the "...but I have friends..." drill.

As a friend of mine once said to someone making light of that word "It's all fun until a kid kills himself". You clearly don't appreciate the hate and fear that the LGBTQ live with and it shows in your behavior. You should be condemned by every single member of the City Council and you should resign now. It is the right thing to do.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/facts-about-suicide/>

Amy Sample
[REDACTED]

A2 MI 48103

https://www.michigandaily.com/ann-arbor/ann-arbor-councilmember-jeff-hayner-defends-posting-homophobic-slur-after-criticism-from-fellow-councilmember/?fbclid=IwAR3teQGA7NCNiNNpI8mSoz8X7BoEKsKZU9OfUwKwfnYcEZEg8tYg-M_IUcE

From: Grand, Julie
To: Rachel Hart Klayman
Subject: Re: social media post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:31:45 PM

Thank you for writing, Rachel.

From: Rachel Hart Klayman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,
Do these social media posts actually belong to you? They are despicable in more ways than one. If you are this lacking in judgment, you are not fit to serve on city council.
Rachel Klayman



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rachel Klayman](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Re: social media post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:44:14 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Not my most eloquent message, but I wrote it in the heat of the moment! So infuriating. Thanks for your response, Julie.

On Apr 12, 2021, at 9:31 PM, Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for writing, Rachel.

From: Rachel Hart Klayman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,
Do these social media posts actually belong to you? They are despicable in more ways than one. If you are this lacking in judgment, you are not fit to serve on city council.
Rachel Klayman

<IMG_9132.jpg>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathleen Davis](#)
To: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Questions from a new constituent
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:47:29 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Elizabeth,

My family moved into a house on [REDACTED] in August last year and we recently got your flyer on our door. Thanks for getting in touch. We are new to Ann Arbor and there are a few questions I have been wanting to ask:

1. I love that Ann Arbor is a very eco conscious city, but I'm appalled at the amount of plastic bags used in all the stores (and that the use of reusable bags has been suspended due to COVID when there has been shown to be very little if any virus transmission on surfaces). Has Ann Arbor ever considered a plastic bag ban/tax? While they can be controversial, they are effective (and can be a good source of revenue). We moved from NYC, which had recently pass a plastic bag ban that met a lot of opposition at 1st (New Yorkers hate being told what to do more than anyone else!) but ended up being a pretty smooth transition. Here's more info:
<https://www.clf.org/blog/the-truth-about-plastic-bag-bans/>
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>

2. I read the Mlive article about Jeff Hayner and I, like many citizens, am appalled at his attacks on the concept of a free press and use of hate speech. Are there actions that the city government can take? It's shameful that he would be allowed to continue to serve the city for behavior that would get him fired from most other jobs.
<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/ann-arbor-council-member-draws-criticism-defends-use-of-quote-with-homophobic-slur>

Thanks for your time and attention.

Best,
Kate

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:07:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further we can arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Steve Neavling](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:08:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [*City Council Members \(All\)](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:08:10 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: Statement on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:09:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Rachel Klayman](#)
Subject: Re: social media post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:09:07 PM

There's no need to qualify your response. It's infuriating.

From: Rachel Klayman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:44 PM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Not my most eloquent message, but I wrote it in the heat of the moment! So infuriating. Thanks for your response, Julie.

On Apr 12, 2021, at 9:31 PM, Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for writing, Rachel.

From: Rachel Hart Klayman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,
Do these social media posts actually belong to you? They are despicable in more ways than one. If you are this lacking in judgment, you are not fit to serve on city council.
Rachel Klayman

<IMG_9132.jpg>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: deplorable language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:09:44 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Hayner, Jeff
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 8:14 PM
To: Jack Teener <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: deplorable language

Dear Mr. Teener,

Thank you for writing and I will get right to the point. I don't know what all is circulating out there about me and about what I may or may not have said. I was told by a page moderator that my post was removed almost immediately, I had no idea how long it was up. Clearly I am mistaken about that and unfortunately have shared that mistake many times over. There is no retracting that but thank you for correcting me and telling me of my error.

As to the quote, those were not my words, and I understand that they are considered hurtful. I recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in posting them in any context, and I apologize for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Obviously I am no wordsmith. I did not mean to suggest that people choose one life over another; I was trying to say that I have always supported and defended anyone's ability to live a life free from fear, harassment, prejudice, inequality or hatred. I am struggling to find a statement to express fully my sincere regret for my actions. You have certainly given me some better ideas and direction, and for that I am grateful.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jack Teener <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: deplorable language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi councilmember Hayner,

I am a lifelong ward 2 resident, a grad student at U of M, and proud gay man. I just needed to let you know that your handling of the situation regarding the quote you posted on facebook is incredibly harmful and your hesitancy to make real amends for your choices is disappointing.

I've been paying attention, as I know so many have, to your choices in the aftermath of the incident. Lying about how long the post was up (you said 10 minutes, but it was 16 hours!), saying people who are offended by the language "want to be offended by it", and claiming you support people's right to "choose" whatever lifestyle they want. First, I have yet to see any sort of real apology for the harm that word can cause in our community when brought forth by a public figure. Second, my sexuality is not a choice, period. What's even more horrible, you defended the language by saying it is an "archaic" phrase- unacceptable when myself and others I know have been on the receiving end of multiple hate-fueled uses of the word within this City.

Frankly, it is symptomatic of abusers to cause damage and gaslight others into believing they are the ones perpetuating harm to themselves. It is toxic and it is up to YOU and absolutely no one else to take full, honest responsibility for what you did and make amends. You can call yourself an ally all you want, but your actions speak louder than your words and right now, your track record is not in your favor. LGBTQIA people face systemic violence and hatred and you are woefully ignorant (at BEST) to how language can play a serious part in this.

I genuinely hope you learn from this experience and make amends, but I expect that you won't and will continue to double down on your defensive and toxic gaslighting. I just wish we could expect better from our elected leaders.

Best,
Jack

--

Jack Teener (he/him/his)
MS Sustainable Systems, MS Energy Systems Engineering
University of Michigan Class of 2022

██████████ / ██████████

I acknowledge and recognize that the land in this region of Michigan was originally called Michigami and belongs to the Anishinaabek, the People of Three Fires: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi as well as the Meskwahkiasahina (Fox), Peoria and Wyandot. I am honored to be a guest on this land.

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Katie Scott](#)
Subject: RE: Recent Post on Social Media
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:10:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Katie Scott <scottk@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Recent Post on Social Media

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner,

I am writing today about a social media post I recently saw on FB and it appears you have since taken down, however with no comment about the impact of such a post or the content therein. Besides my own opinion about the necessity of a free press and journalism to protect our democracy, the most offensive part of this post was that you deliberately chose to use a quote with an old-fashioned homophobic slur. It's in the first sentence, so I hardly think you could have missed it.

As an elected colleague in the city of Ann Arbor and open member of the LGBTQ community, I am offended, and more so that you would have thought this was even remotely appropriate. I am more than happy to provide a primer on the prejudice that has existed against the gay committee and that still does. It's not a thing of the past, and although you may have "just" been maligning journalists, the quote's derisiveness toward my own community is alarming.

I am pleased it appears you have taken it down, but I urge you to further educate yourself. If it helps, start with what happened to Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. Ask yourself if you want to be part of a legacy that includes transformative culture and freedom or if you want continue to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and a regressive society.

I won't assume to tell you how to respond to the post; I can only hope you do the right thing.

Best,

Commissioner Katie Scott, proud LGBTQ elected official

Katie Scott

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

District 9 Commissioner

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Amy Sample](#)
Subject: RE: Please resign now
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:11:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Amy Sample <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Griswold, Kathy <KGriswold@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Please resign now

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

You represent my ward on the City Council. Your recent use of hate speech on facebook is cause for you to resign. Your defense that it is "in quotes" is ridiculous. If you can't express yourself without invoking homophobic slurs, you are not qualified to represent ALL of our residents. We can all find bad language amongst old writers-- Hunter Thompson died 15 years ago-- so it seems like you had to reach pretty far to get that slur included in your post instead of finding a more recent quote. Please spare me the "...but I have friends..." drill.

As a friend of mine once said to someone making light of that word "It's all fun until a kid kills themselves". You clearly don't appreciate the hate and fear that the LGBTQ live with and it shows in your behavior. You should be condemned by every single member of the City Council and you should resign now. It is the right thing to do.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/facts-about-suicide/>

Amy Sample



A2 MI 48103

https://www.michigandaily.com/ann-arbor/ann-arbor-councilmember-jeff-hayner-defends-posting-homophobic-slur-after-criticism-from-fellow-councilmember/?fbclid=IwAR3teQGA7NCNiNNpI8mSoz8X7BoEKsKZU9OfUwKwfnYcEZeg8tYg-M_IUcE

From: Hayner, Jeff
To: Rachel Hart Klayman
Subject: RE: social media post
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:11:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Rachel Hart Klayman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:34 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,
Do these social media posts actually belong to you? They are despicable in more ways than one. If you are this lacking in judgment, you are not fit to serve on city council.
Rachel Klayman



Jeff Hayner
"journalists"



Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Jeff Hayner

"The press is a gang of cruel faggots. Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits—a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the sidewalk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage."

-HST

Like · Reply · Share · 16h



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: RE: Request for comment RE: social media comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:12:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Request for comment RE: social media comments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jeff,

I hope you are doing well. I'm reaching out to ask if you would be able to provide comment/answer a couple of questions regarding the quote and comments you shared on social media that have since been described by at least one council member as "use of a grotesque and highly objectionable quote containing a homophobic slur while attacking journalists on social media." Feel free to shoot me an email or call me at [REDACTED]

I wondered if you wanted to give any explanation or defense of the quote you shared from HST and how you feel about how the quote and your comment are being interpreted? Do you stand by the use of it?

thanks
Martin

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Evelyn Hollenshead](#)
Subject: RE: Your Recent Comments
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:13:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Evelyn Hollenshead [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; [REDACTED] Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Subject: Your Recent Comments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Gayner,

I hardly know where to begin, but let's begin with your comment to the Michigan Daily that no community members have contacted you over your recent homophobic posts on Facebook. Here I am, a lesbian community member, contacting you! I doubt that I am the first.

I have been a resident of Ann Arbor for my entire life. I went to Pioneer High School where I was called both a dyke and a fag not infrequently. You have no idea how that feels. I'm now raising two great kids with my great wife in this wonderful city, because people grow and change and get better and more careful about how they speak and act. That's what I've seen in our city. I'm sad that the same cannot be said for you.

You say that I should take up my issue with the publisher of HST's book. With all due respect, that's a foolish way to look at anything. You easily could have started your quote after the "faggot" part and everyone would have gotten your point anyway. That leads me to believe that you put it in there specifically to cause shock and hurt. The absolutely most generous reading of your choice is that you didn't think about it, but if that was the case, you would have apologized, which I see you are not

doing.

I am CCing my 5th Ward Council reps here. I have had disagreements with them in the past because that's politics! I've never heard them use a vile word to describe me and my community and then double down on said hatred.

As a 5th Ward resident, I will never have the satisfaction of voting you out of office, but I hope that the council will do everything in its power to make sure you have no decision making power over anything that affects the LGBTQ community here in Ann Arbor.

Evelyn Hollenshead



From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Ruth Calhoun](#)
Subject: RE: Apologize
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:13:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Ruth Calhoun [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Apologize

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Mr. Hayner,

This morning, I was shocked to read headlines that a member of my city council used a homophobic slur. It is never okay and I would have thought all local representatives were informed and empathetic enough to understand this. When I searched for your apology, I was further shocked not to find one but rather a condemnation of people who are offended by your actions. You seem completely out of touch with the present and future. Please apologize now for the damage you have done and stop doing more hateful damage.

-Ruth

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Keith Orr](#)
Subject: RE: Letter regarding Hunter S. Thompson quote
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Keith Orr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:30 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Letter regarding Hunter S. Thompson quote

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am attaching a letter voicing my concern over your defense of your facebook post. I hope you will reconsider your defense of that post.

I am copying my 5th ward council members and my mayor to make my elected representatives aware of my concern, as well.

Thank you.

Keith Orr

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Contreras](#)
Subject: RE: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Martin Contreras [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:16 PM
To: erica@ericafora2.com; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

Just in case anyone is keeping track I wanted to voice my personal disgust and offense with Jeff Hayner's homophobic slur in his face book post disparaging journalists.

The word faggot for some is as shocking, demeaning, hurtful and offensive now as it was in the 70's especially coming from a straight man elected to political office. If the best Jeff Hayner can do to express his personal disgust with journalists is to use a HST quote disparaging gays than he truly has unthinking prejudices. In truth I question his "genuine" support of the LGBTQ+ community. He should apologize to the LGBTQ community and tender his resignation from city council. We deserve better on city council.

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras

He / Him / His

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>

To: Martin <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sun, Apr 4, 2021 8:30 pm

Subject: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/4/21

I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

So often we focus our attention on national politics, but Monday night's City Council agenda demonstrates the power of local government to advance equity, justice, and make a real difference in our day to day lives. Tomorrow Council will be considering actions that will transform our police services, ban discriminatory practices in housing, and enhance tenant rights. There are also smaller, but meaningful actions, like filling sidewalk gaps and making improvements to city code. Not everything will spark your interest, but as you review the agenda and agenda highlights I hope you'll share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/5) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 5th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings more efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Developing an unarmed public safety response program ([DC-2](#)):** I am proud and excited to co-sponsor this resolution which directs the City

Administrator to budget for and develop an unarmed public safety program for the City of Ann Arbor. Currently, police officers are required to respond to 911 calls better suited to mental health, public health, or social service professionals. Because mental health services and 911 dispatch services are provided by the County, this resolution calls on the City Administrator to develop a program in coordination and collaboration with the County and Sheriff's office, in addition to other experts such as Ann Arbor's Independent Police Oversight Commission. I have already begun to receive emails urging that funding for this program come from the police budget (i.e. defund the police). It's important to note that the budget for the police department comes from City's General Fund. The cost of this new program still needs to be determined and certainly the funds for this program are likely to come from the General Fund as well. We may find that traditional police services can be reduced as this program is developed, but the details of the program are still undetermined and impact on police response is unknown. It's important that [critical police services](#) and programs (e.g. special victims unit, detective bureau, traffic enforcement, training) aren't compromised as we work to enhance and improve our response model. As we work to build a more fair and just system, we need to make sure our decisions are [data-driven](#) and rooted in equity.

- **Review of city ordinances related to police enforcement ([DC-5](#)):** On Jan 4, 2021, Governor Whitmer signed into law numerous amendments to the Michigan Compiled Laws which encourage alternatives to arrest and jail detention, eliminate certain mandatory minimums, reclassify low-level misdemeanors as civil infractions, remove unnecessary driver's license suspensions, and revise parole and probation policies to better accomplish the goals of supervision (collectively, "2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation"). This resolution directs the City Attorney's office to review Ann Arbor ordinances that are inconsistent with the 2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation, state/local law, or *are otherwise not in the spirit of progressive criminal justice reform*. I look forward to supporting this resolution and view it not only as a necessary step to ensure Ann Arbor's ordinances are aligned with state law, but also a critical step to ensure our local ordinances are aligned with our values and best practices.
- **Banning housing discrimination based on criminal history ([PH-4 & B-4](#)):** As I've noted in my last two newsletters, Council is considering adopting an ordinance which would ban the use of criminal history in

tenant selection in order to give individuals with a criminal record a [fair opportunity](#) to compete for rental housing. Based on the [discussion](#) around the Council table, it appears to have unanimous support. This ordinance was drafted and recommended by the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission (HRC). Council incorporated some small amendments at our last meeting to address the needs of private landlords that accept federal funding. (2nd reading)

- **Condemning hate and violence directed towards Asian Americans (DC-4):** Since the beginning of the pandemic America has experienced a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, violence, and rhetoric-- more than 30 percent of Asians and Asian Americans report being subjected to discrimination. At 18% of the City's population, Asians and Asian Americans are Ann Arbor's largest racial and ethnic minority. No member of our community should live in fear. This resolution condemns racism and urges residents to report harassment or hate crimes to the AAPD, Human Rights Commission, and/or Michigan Attorney General's Hate Crime Unit. It's easy to think this behavior doesn't happen in Ann Arbor, but we are receiving reports that harassment has been increasing locally as well. Learn [how you can help](#).
- **Enhancing Tenant Rights (C-1):** The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the period of time that landlords are prohibited from entering leased premises for the purpose of showing the premises to prospective tenants and entering into a lease to rent the premises to another tenant for a subsequent lease period, from 70 to 240 days. This ordinance change has been advocated for by [U-M GEO](#) and endorsed by U-M Central Student Government. The current provision of 70 days was adopted in January 2008 with unanimous support of the City Council-Michigan Student Assembly Committee and landlords engaged in the process. The 70 day provision was actually an amendment to a 90 day provision adopted by Council in March 2006. GEO has urged Council to extend the time period to 240 days over concerns that students are required to renew leases just months after moving into an apartment. I support extending the time period past 70 days, but I also think it is appropriate to engage additional stakeholders (non-student renters and landlords) into this process to ensure the time frame and enforcement tools truly address problems and prevent unintended consequences. 240 days, or eight months, would make most student leases expire in mid-April. This could present additional difficulties for students and landlords seeking

fall leases. A more robust community conversation may identify additional issues in the ordinance that warrant revisions. ***Please share your thoughts with me on this issue if you are a renter or landlord.*** (1st reading)

- **Amendments to short-term rental ordinance** ([C-4](#) and [C-5](#)): In September 2020, the City enacted Chapter 97 of the City Code which established requirements for the operation, location, and licensing of short-term rentals (e.g. AirBNBs). Establishing requirements for short-term rentals was critical, because previously the City had not distinguished between short-term or long-term rentals in our rental ordinances. Among other provisions, the September amendments included provisions that prohibit the operation of short-term rentals in residential zoning districts when the location is not the principal residence of the property owner. Based on the feedback I've heard from residents, I support the prohibition of non owner occupied short-term rentals in residential areas. However, there was one notable legal issue with the change made last September. On a divided vote, City Council banned existing non owner occupied short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. While this might seem ideal for folks that don't view them as an appropriate activity in neighborhoods, that ban was inconsistent with property rights and land use law. When a use is legal, and short-term rentals were legally permitted in our residentially zoned areas, it is impermissible to deny that use retroactively. I have heard concerns that short-term rentals inflate housing prices and deplete housing supply. I share these concerns, but suggest that the September 2020 code changes were not about protecting our housing supply. If they were, they would not have made a distinction about where housing units were located (residential zones vs. mixed use areas). Rather, the code changes began the important process of regulating short-term rentals in our community. If we want to protect our housing supply, we should care about protecting it in *all areas* of the City (downtown, along commercial corridors, and yes, in neighborhoods). To do this, we need to get a handle on how many short-term rentals we have (staff will be presenting us with this data on Monday) and where they are located and then determine the number of short-term rentals and the density of units we are comfortable with in Ann Arbor.
- **Proposed fine reduction for not shoveling** ([PH-6](#) and [B-6](#)): This ordinance amendment would reduce the fine from \$100 to \$60 (+ processing fees) for a first-time violation for a property owner or occupant

who fails to shovel snow/ice from their sidewalks. First-time violators currently get a 24-hour grace period to correct issues before fines are assessed and fines can be reduced due to hardship. I asked staff a few questions regarding this proposal, you can read their responses [here](#). Staff suggests that it would be helpful to consider fines and fees in conjunction with the comprehensive review of sidewalk snow removal policies and strategies they are currently conducting at Council's direction (see my [2/28 newsletter](#)). A report is due to Council September 6th. Since we are past the snow season and staff is undertaking a review, I believe Council should defer action on this item to ensure any ordinance changes we make are aligned with our goals and addressing the problems we're seeking to solve. (2nd reading)

5th Ward Infrastructure Projects on the Consent Agenda

- **Filling sidewalk gaps on Newport and Sunset ([CA-7](#)):** This project includes the construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Newport Road from Downup Circle to Sunset Road, and on the north side of Sunset Road to Brooks Street. In addition to using funds from new sidewalk millage fund, the project will utilize federal funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to offset the local cost of the project. One of the first steps following Council approval will be hold a public meeting to further discuss the project and receive input from the residents.
- **Acquiring easements for the LynAnne-Arbana Sewer Project ([CA-9](#)):** The sanitary sewer line in this project area was constructed in the 1920s to serve the northwest portion of the City. To alleviate capacity constraints, and reduce the potential for sanitary backups into basements, .8 miles of sanitary sewer is scheduled for replacement with a larger diameter sewer. Permanent and temporary easements must be obtained before beginning the sewer replacement work. Additional easement area is required to accommodate the replacement and upsizing of the sewer. Additional project information [here](#).

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment](#)

[option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.

[Learn More](#)



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [timothy dinan](#)
Subject: RE: Bad talk
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM


I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

-----Original Message-----

From: timothy dinan <>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Bad talk

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Shame on you! You will not get me vote the next time you are up for re-election, and I am currently going door to door in my neighborhood, letting people know what kind of homophobic person you are. Resign NOW!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Lisa Dusseau](#)
Subject: RE: Jeff Hayner's Homophobic Slur
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Lisa Dusseau [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:22 PM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner's Homophobic Slur

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor:

As I am sure you are aware Councilman Hayner (who is one of my representatives) recently used an offensive homophobic slur in a social media post. Instead of apologizing for any harm, he's come up with various excuses like: "I was only quoting someone else", "It wasn't directed at any individual" "It was taken out of context" and most amazingly: "It's not considered a slur any more". Let me assure you Mr. Hayner that as a member of the LGBTQ community, it most certainly is a slur. I would expect that as a public official that he would use more restraint, like if he were to even consider using the "N" word to think better of it. However this was not the case and has not been in the past either. His social media posts are offensive and out of touch with the people he serves. I strongly recommend Mr. Hayner is at least censured for his latest insult. I do not feel that he is a good representative for my community and regret my vote for him.

Regards,
Lisa Dusseau, Ann Arbor, MI

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Russell Stambaugh](#)
Subject: RE: Criticism of Journalists
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Russell Stambaugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Criticism of Journalists

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

You would probably feel better about yourself if you refrained from making yourself and Ann Arbor City Council look bad by quoting Hunter S Thompson out of context while using an outdated homophobic slur.

When I say 'out of context', I mean that you may recall he was working as a journalist when he made the comment, in addition to being drugged out of his mind during the Vegas trip in question. Your comment lacks even the irony of being self-referential, and comes after 5 years of self-serving attacks on the press by Donald Trump. I'm sure you were not hoping to get the Ann Arbor electorate to think of you as they think of him, despite the fact that is precisely what you have accomplished.

I'm sure you feel that you don't have a homophobic bone in your body when you thoughtlessly used that quote. It may even be true when it washes up on the beach of your next election. For you are certain to hear about it from other Ann Arbor residents next time you have to run.

At any rate, your quote reflects badly not just on you, but on our entire community. I would hate to think I'm sorrier about it than you are.

Candidly,

Russell J Stambaugh, PhD
Third Ward resident

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Kate Remen-Wait](#)
Subject: RE: your offensive language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:14:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Kate Remen-Wait [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: your offensive language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilperson Hayner,

I am writing to you in direct response to your statement to the Michigan Daily in which you said that you had not been contacted by community members regarding your use of a homophobic slur. I am a community member and I am contacting you and letting you know that I find your language, even when couched in a quotation, offensive and beneath your office. The term you used is neither archaic nor is it rarely heard, as you claim. It is a vivid sign of your straight white male privilege that you refuse to listen to the people who are the targets of such language when they tell you that it is current, common and hurtful.

I ask that at the very least you issue a genuine apology to the LGBTQ+ community. Better yet would be your resignation and recognition that you are unfit for public office.

Sincerely,
Kate Remen-Wait

--

Kate Remen-Wait
pronouns: she/her/hers

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
[REDACTED]

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [P. L.](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:18:00 PM

Dear Ms. Lesko,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jack Eaton](#); [Anne Bannister](#)
Subject: Comments on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:19:00 PM

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jack Teener](#)
Subject: RE: deplorable language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:20:00 PM

Dear Mr. Teener,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jack Teener <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: deplorable language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi councilmember Hayner,

I am a lifelong ward 2 resident, a grad student at U of M, and proud gay man. I just needed to let you know that your handling of the situation regarding the quote you posted on facebook is incredibly harmful and your hesitancy to make real amends for your choices is disappointing.

I've been paying attention, as I know so many have, to your choices in the aftermath of the incident. Lying about how long the post was up (you said 10 minutes, but it was 16 hours!), saying people who are offended by the language "want to be offended by it", and claiming you support people's right to "choose" whatever lifestyle they want. First, I have yet to see any sort of real apology for the harm that word can cause in our community when brought forth by a public figure. Second, my sexuality is not a choice, period. What's even more horrible, you defended the language by saying it is an "archaic" phrase- unacceptable when myself and others I know have been on the receiving end of multiple hate-fueled uses of the word within this City.

Frankly, it is symptomatic of abusers to cause damage and gaslight others into

believing they are the ones perpetuating harm to themselves. It is toxic and it is up to YOU and absolutely no one else to take full, honest responsibility for what you did and make amends. You can call yourself an ally all you want, but your actions speak louder than your words and right now, your track record is not in your favor. LGBTQIA people face systemic violence and hatred and you are woefully ignorant (at BEST) to how language can play a serious part in this.

I genuinely hope you learn from this experience and make amends, but I expect that you won't and will continue to double down on your defensive and toxic gaslighting. I just wish we could expect better from our elected leaders.

Best,
Jack

--

Jack Teener (he/him/his)
MS Sustainable Systems, MS Energy Systems Engineering
University of Michigan Class of 2022

██████████ / ██████████

I acknowledge and recognize that the land in this region of Michigan was originally called Michigami and belongs to the Anishinaabek, the People of Three Fires: Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi as well as the Meskwahkiasahina (Fox), Peoria and Wyandot. I am honored to be a guest on this land.

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jason Morgan](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:21:00 PM

Dear Jason,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Scot Greig](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:22:00 PM

Dear Scot,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Rebecca](#)
Subject: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:23:00 PM

Dear Ms. Arends,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Jason Morgan](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Use of Homophobic Language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:25:37 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I really appreciate you taking the time to respond and share additional perspective on this.

I can't speak to any of the response from others regarding your comments, but I think a clear statement needs to be made by you and council reiterating part of what you've shared with me and specifically noting that usage of that word and what it means does not reflect our city and that using sexual orientation as an insult should never happen in our community. I think that may be the piece that is actually more significant than even use of the word "f****t", is that the quote you used is saying that reporters are a gang of cruel f****ts as a primary insult. (I have to admit here, I am even uncomfortable typing the word out as it was used in a pretty rough and frequent manner when I was a kid)

I hear what you are saying in your email, that those words don't define you and you are not homophobic, but as you already know, when it comes to working in the public, the words we say often have far more meaning and impact than we intend them to. I don't want to try to tell you anything you already know – but I do know that it would be impactful for the community to hear you simply share a clear unqualified message that you apologize for using that language and using sexual orientation as an insult, regardless of the context. I believe we also need to find some additional way to make clear to LGBTQ residents that Ann Arbor is the safe and welcoming city that we know it to be.

Perhaps you've already done this or are planning to, I don't always keep up reading social media during the workday, but wanted to be sure to respond here with my thoughts. Again, I appreciate you responding and hope that you'll hear my thoughts here based on how I am feeling mostly just as a city resident rather than being associated with any sort of politics. I would share these same thoughts with you if you were my best friend or otherwise.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan
Commissioner | Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 1:46 AM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: RE: Use of Homophobic Language

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for writing. Because I have a great deal of respect for you and the work you have done at the County, I am going to take the time to give you an honest answer. The others who are blowing this up in an attempt to make political points have not gotten this type of response, as I have little respect for their obvious divisive tactics.

First of all, let me say that posting that quote (it was a famous quote from a work of fiction, and posted as such with the authors initials) was a very direct response to a very direct question and comment thread about a certain local reporter who seems to have made it his duty to harass, misquote and report on me with extreme bias. In fact, hours before he had just texted me to suggest that any criticism of his "reporting" was perhaps due my suffering from mental illness. This is not the first time he has harassed me by text, nor is it the first time he has crossed the line of journalistic ethics. That is the context of the quote in its original appearance in the novel, the authors expression of frustration with media bias and failures to report facts accurately, and that was my point in posting the quote. I felt the same frustration, that quote sums up exactly how I feel about a certain reporter. They were not my words – I don't know what doctored images you have seen, I have already seen one cropped and attributing it to me. Obviously it is not something I would say to anybody. I understand it is offensive.

Now, the quote was immediately removed. It was apparently removed so soon after posting that only a few people saw it – but of course, someone saw fit to amplify the offensive language by sharing it widely on social media, even though it no longer existed on the original post. It was long gone, I am told. Instead of the courtesy of a phone call or email asking "what the hell?" as you have done, a set of posts to social media were made by Travis Radina, Mayor Taylor, Julie Grand, Jen Eyer and others. Because of course they did. I'm not a big fan of phony outrage, but there is plenty of that to go around tonight, mixed with some real outrage, some of which is clearly a result of amped-up social media descriptions of me as an anti-LGBTQ homophobe who goes around calling people names and has set back the cause of human rights 50 years. Distraction is invaluable in politics. We have a FOIA cover-up in city hall, a council member who was partner in an ad agency that by all accounts regularly abused women with her acquiescence, and a series of campaign finance violation complaints and investigations surrounding the mayor and his slate of candidates that look from here like a clear case of corruption.

To again quote Hunter Thompson from the same novel (in continuous print since 1972) "Against that heinous background, my crimes were pale and meaningless".

I've already made a public statement on FB. Those were not my words, those words do not define

me, they are not who I am, and I understand that they are considered hurtful by some people. There is nothing to retract because the post was deleted almost immediately. I admit I exercised poor judgement in posting that quote. Anyone who knows me knows that I support any persons right to live any life they choose, as long as they do no harm to others. There is not much else to say.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Use of Homophobic Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am writing in hopes of better understanding your perspective regarding the use of the word "f****t" on social media. It is my hope that you share my view that we have been able to work well together over these past couple of years. I have appreciated that we've been able to work collaboratively, outside of any perceived local political factions, of which I take great care to avoid as much as possible.

It has also been my previous understanding that you are not homophobic, as I have seen you at a number of LGBTQ pride related events and activities.

So I have to ask, what the hell? I genuinely would like to understand why you would use that word in such a derogatory manner? (Even if it is part of a quote)

I have pretty thick skin when it comes to politics and there are few things that phase me when it comes to the general public expressing displeasure toward us elected officials, but use of that homophobic slur by a community leader is incredibly hurtful.

I moved to Ann Arbor a decade ago because I wanted to live in a place that embraces diversity accepts me for who I am as a proud openly-LGBTQ individual. I moved here because I was called f****t too many times where I grew up and I didn't want to live in a community that made it clear that they hated who I am. I have also had that word yelled out of a moving car window at me here in Ann Arbor while walking down the street holding my boyfriend's hand after a football game. On that occasion, I said to my boyfriend at the time "they must not be from here because that is not Ann Arbor." It has stuck with me since that day though, as a constant reminder that simply holding the hand of someone I love may result in hate or potentially violence.

This email perhaps includes a bit more emotion than I had intended. I share this with the hope that it will shed some perspective on just why this word by you as a community leader is particularly hurtful to me personally and to the LGBTQ community.

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jason Morgan](#)
Subject: RE: Use of Homophobic Language
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:31:00 PM

Jason, thanks for writing. I have tried to boil down all my concerns and what I have learned into a succinct statement and I have been sharing it with anyone who writes. While at first I tried responding to each person in a unique and personal way it is impractical and subject to risk of further offense (I have learned) so I have decided to release this one general apology. People can take it for what it's worth, I assure you it is heartfelt and sincere. I thought you were the first person I sent it to but I re-send it below in case I did not. Answering about one every 5 minutes tonight.

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

IF you would like to talk about this more or have any questions please let me know and we can arrange a time to get together.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:26 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Use of Homophobic Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I really appreciate you taking the time to respond and share additional perspective on this.

I can't speak to any of the response from others regarding your comments, but I think a clear statement needs to be made by you and council reiterating part of what you've shared with me and specifically noting that usage of that word and what it means does not reflect our city and that using sexual orientation as an insult should never happen in our community. I think that may be the piece that is actually more significant than even use of the word "f****t", is that the quote you used is

saying that reporters are a gang of cruel f****s as a primary insult. (I have to admit here, I am even uncomfortable typing the word out as it was used in a pretty rough and frequent manner when I was a kid)

I hear what you are saying in your email, that those words don't define you and you are not homophobic, but as you already know, when it comes to working in the public, the words we say often have far more meaning and impact than we intend them to. I don't want to try to tell you anything you already know – but I do know that it would be impactful for the community to hear you simply share a clear unqualified message that you apologize for using that language and using sexual orientation as an insult, regardless of the context. I believe we also need to find some additional way to make clear to LGBTQ residents that Ann Arbor is the safe and welcoming city that we know it to be.

Perhaps you've already done this or are planning to, I don't always keep up reading social media during the workday, but wanted to be sure to respond here with my thoughts. Again, I appreciate you responding and hope that you'll hear my thoughts here based on how I am feeling mostly just as a city resident rather than being associated with any sort of politics. I would share these same thoughts with you if you were my best friend or otherwise.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 1:46 AM

To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>

Subject: RE: Use of Homophobic Language

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for writing. Because I have a great deal of respect for you and the work you have done at the County, I am going to take the time to give you an honest answer. The others who are blowing this up in an attempt to make political points have not gotten this type of response, as I have little respect for their obvious divisive tactics.

First of all, let me say that posting that quote (it was a famous quote from a work of fiction, and posted as such with the authors initials) was a very direct response to a very direct question and comment thread about a certain local reporter who seems to have made it his duty to harass,

misquote and report on me with extreme bias. In fact, hours before he had just texted me to suggest that any criticism of his “reporting” was perhaps due my suffering from mental illness. This is not the first time he has harassed me by text, nor is it the first time he has crossed the line of journalistic ethics. That is the context of the quote in its original appearance in the novel, the authors expression of frustration with media bias and failures to report facts accurately, and that was my point in posting the quote. I felt the same frustration, that quote sums up exactly how I feel about a certain reporter. They were not my words – I don’t know what doctored images you have seen, I have already seen one cropped and attributing it to me. Obviously it is not something I would say to anybody. I understand it is offensive.

Now, the quote was immediately removed. It was apparently removed so soon after posting that only a few people saw it – but of course, someone saw fit to amplify the offensive language by sharing it widely on social media, even though it no longer existed on the original post. It was long gone, I am told. Instead of the courtesy of a phone call or email asking “what the hell?” as you have done, a set of posts to social media were made by Travis Radina, Mayor Taylor, Julie Grand, Jen Eyer and others. Because of course they did. I’m not a big fan of phony outrage, but there is plenty of that to go around tonight, mixed with some real outrage, some of which is clearly a result of amped-up social media descriptions of me as an anti-LGBTQ homophobe who goes around calling people names and has set back the cause of human rights 50 years. Distraction is invaluable in politics. We have a FOIA cover-up in city hall, a council member who was partner in an ad agency that by all accounts regularly abused women with her acquiescence, and a series of campaign finance violation complaints and investigations surrounding the mayor and his slate of candidates that look from here like a clear case of corruption.

To again quote Hunter Thompson from the same novel (in continuous print since 1972) “Against that heinous background, my crimes were pale and meaningless”.

I’ve already made a public statement on FB. Those were not my words, those words do not define me, they are not who I am, and I understand that they are considered hurtful by some people. There is nothing to retract because the post was deleted almost immediately. I admit I exercised poor judgement in posting that quote. Anyone who knows me knows that I support any persons right to live any life they choose, as long as they do no harm to others. There is not much else to say.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:21 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Use of Homophobic Language

directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

I am writing in hopes of better understanding your perspective regarding the use of the word “f****t” on social media. It is my hope that you share my view that we have been able to work well together over these past couple of years. I have appreciated that we’ve been able to work collaboratively, outside of any perceived local political factions, of which I take great care to avoid as much as possible.

It has also been my previous understanding that you are not homophobic, as I have seen you at a number of LGBTQ pride related events and activities.

So I have to ask, what the hell? I genuinely would like to understand why you would use that word in such a derogatory manner? (Even if it is part of a quote)

I have pretty thick skin when it comes to politics and there are few things that phase me when it comes to the general public expressing displeasure toward us elected officials, but use of that homophobic slur by a community leader is incredibly hurtful.

I moved to Ann Arbor a decade ago because I wanted to live in a place that embraces diversity accepts me for who I am as a proud openly-LGBTQ individual. I moved here because I was called f****t too many times where I grew up and I didn’t want to live in a community that made it clear that they hated who I am. I have also had that word yelled out of a moving car window at me here in Ann Arbor while walking down the street holding my boyfriend’s hand after a football game. On that occasion, I said to my boyfriend at the time “they must not be from here because that is not Ann Arbor.” It has stuck with me since that day though, as a constant reminder that simply holding the hand of someone I love may result in hate or potentially violence.

This email perhaps includes a bit more emotion than I had intended. I share this with the hope that it will shed some perspective on just why this word by you as a community leader is particularly hurtful to me personally and to the LGBTQ community.

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: [Jason Morgan](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:31:17 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you! Please feel free to disregard most of the email I just sent you then. I noticed your email here immediately after clicking send.

I was suggesting that something directly along these lines would be very helpful.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jason Morgan](#)
Subject: RE: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:46:00 PM

Whoops crossing messages I just replied again. As for a general statement from council my understanding is Kathy Griswold has introduced one to admin committee for next week's meeting agenda, so at least that will give us an opportunity to do just what you suggest, which I hope will help.

I don't know who else to share this with, but after years of advocacy for the now-named LGBTQ community, going way back to the Act-Up days, and having cultivated friendships lasting just as long with members of the LGBTQ community, that I now enjoy the privilege of being surrounded by LGBTQ friends who are by and large finally unencumbered by the trials that effect younger folks, folks who don't live in progressive communities, folks who haven't had the chance to become themselves, to be successful in business, and to live lives relatively untouched by hatred, bigotry, prejudice, and fear. My old age and experience had isolated me from the struggles that I now once again recognize are very real for many LGBTQ people. For failing those people I am ashamed.

Jeff Hayner

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you! Please feel free to disregard most of the email I just sent you then. I noticed your email here immediately after clicking send.

I was suggesting that something directly along these lines would be very helpful.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan
Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Jason Morgan](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:58:28 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

This is a really thoughtful response and I appreciate it.

It certainly helps me understand more of your perspective. I think you're right that the simple apology is probably the best approach for most people but I appreciate knowing it.

Thanks again,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:46:55 PM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: RE: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Whoops crossing messages I just replied again. As for a general statement from council my understanding is Kathy Griswold has introduced one to admin committee for next week's meeting agenda, so at least that will give us an opportunity to do just what you suggest, which I hope will help.

I don't know who else to share this with, but after years of advocacy for the now-named LGBTQ community, going way back to the Act-Up days, and having cultivated friendships lasting just as long with members of the LGBTQ community, that I now enjoy the privilege of being surrounded by LGBTQ friends who are by and large finally unencumbered by the trials that effect younger folks, folks who don't live in progressive communities, folks who haven't had the chance to become themselves, to be successful in business, and to live lives relatively untouched by hatred, bigotry, prejudice, and fear. My old age and experience had isolated me from the struggles that I now once again recognize are very real for many LGBTQ people. For failing those people I am ashamed.

Jeff Hayner

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you! Please feel free to disregard most of the email I just sent you then. I noticed your email here immediately after clicking send.

I was suggesting that something directly along these lines would be very helpful.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan
Commissioner | Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Ricky L. Jefferson](#)
To: [Katie Scott](#); [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Jason Morgan](#); [Andy LaBarre](#); [Sue Shink](#); [Jason Maciejewski](#); [Shannon Beeman](#); [Caroline Sanders](#); [Justin Hodge](#); [Gregory Dill](#)
Subject: Re: Open Letter to Council
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:06:49 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Very appropriate letter Katie!!!

Ricky Jefferson
Washtenaw County Commissioner
[REDACTED]

If we can assist every child in reaching their full potential, for example, by keeping them in school, we can help to prevent youth from entering into a system that costs everyone in our community.
www.opportunitywashtenaw.org

From: Katie Scott <scottk@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 9:33 PM
To: CityCouncil@a2gov.org <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Jason Morgan](mailto:JasonMorgan@washtenaw.org) <morganj@washtenaw.org>; [Andy LaBarre](mailto:AndyLaBarre@washtenaw.org) <labarrea@washtenaw.org>; [Sue Shink](mailto:SueShink@washtenaw.org) <shinks@washtenaw.org>; [Jason Maciejewski](mailto:JasonMaciejewski@washtenaw.org) <maciejewskij@washtenaw.org>; [Shannon Beeman](mailto:ShannonBeeman@washtenaw.org) <beemans@washtenaw.org>; [Caroline Sanders](mailto:CarolineSanders@washtenaw.org) <sandersc@washtenaw.org>; [Ricky L. Jefferson](mailto:RickyLJefferson@washtenaw.org) <jeffersonr@washtenaw.org>; [Justin Hodge](mailto:JustinHodge@washtenaw.org) <hodgej@washtenaw.org>; [Gregory Dill](mailto:GregoryDill@washtenaw.org) <dillg@washtenaw.org>
Subject: Open Letter to Council

Dear Ann Arbor City Council,
Please see the attached letter.
Thank you,
Katie

Katie Scott
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
District 9 Commissioner

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: RE: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:28:00 AM

Dear Travis,

I'm sort of surprised Jason shared that but it doesn't matter as we all know too well anything we say on email is subject to FOIA and public exposure. I have been sharing that brief apology I sent you – actually you got the first one – in response to many emails I have received, and I also put it online, such as that is. I began by responding individually to people's specific concerns but found that my responses were also inadvertently upsetting or offending people as I am not fully aware of course of each residents particular concerns, background, path etc. Trying was making it worse.

IN any event, I hope to encompass in that brief statement my genuine consideration of the results of my actions and the effect they had on feelings of others. I've been harangued since even before the very first day I took office, as you are no doubt aware, so I am used to hostile and hurtful words, even coming from those in positions of authority. Most people do not experience that, are not used to that, and so it did not take too much reflection to understand that in or out of context, that post – just the words themselves – could have that same negative effect on readers – especially readers and folks in still-marginalized groups who HAD experienced that.

I understand my initial response to you was sort of cavalier and maybe even seemed callous – and this in no way diminishes my responsibility for what I did – but when I saw that my post – which I was told had long since been removed – was being passed around by some like a political trophy and, naturally, being used to rile up as many people as possible to call for my resignation, etc. I was more than a little upset that someone, anyone, had not just picked up the phone and called me and said “what the hell?” as soon as they saw it. It wouldn't have been any better for me, the damage was done, but it might have limited the exposure and repetition and generally reduced the harm out in the community. Maybe not, probably not, who knows? People are struggling right now so everything is amplified just by the condition we find ourselves in. I let that anger, I guess it was, form that response. That was uncalled for. I don't even want to read what I wrote, I'm sure it's embarrassing.

I saw that CM Griswold is bringing some sort of resolution for a general declaration of consideration of all people or some such thing to admin for possible inclusion on the April 19th agenda. Maybe this will give me opportunity to continue correcting my mistake, and by extension council an opportunity to reiterate our belief that Ann Arbor should be considered a port in the storm, so to speak, for anyone who needs shelter or support. For now I'm going to stick with that short apology in hopes of limiting whatever harm I did, as explained above. I don't disagree that a more considered and focused apology is in order, but I'm going to need some time to get that right. I am quite certain I do not have a complete understanding of the nuances of contemporary language in use especially in LGBTQ youth communities which I think are the most deserving of my consideration from what you are saying. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

From: Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:39 AM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook

CM Hayner,

Thank you for sharing this statement. I am grateful to see that you have reversed course and now acknowledge the harm that the words you shared can cause to members of the LGBTQ community.

You are right in that I do not know everything about your history, your relationships, etc., but though our past conversations I do know that there are many LGBTQ people that you love and care about. That is why it was especially shocking and harmful to see you use the word you did.

As I have shared with others in the aftermath of this incident, I have been subjected to homophobia and hatred for much of my life. I have been called a f*g more times than I care to remember and I have witnessed far too much casual homophobia to be silent when I see derogatory/homophobic terms used to demean others.

It is because of these experiences that I stayed in the closet as long as I did (not coming out until after college). It is why at a particularly low moment in my youth, I briefly considered hurting myself. And it is why I still instinctively code switch, to this day, depending on the company I am in or the places I visit.

While these experiences have also helped me develop a pretty thick skin, to see f****t casually shared by someone I'm supposed to work with — an elected community leader — and for that same person not to immediately acknowledge the harm it can cause to others really hurt and angered me, because I know, first hand, the power that word has and the pain it can cause. And when shared, especially in a negative & derisive context, it could be pushing another young LGBTQ child deeper into the closet. It could be pushing another LGBTQ child closer to self-loathing or, god-forbid, self-harm. It could pushing another LGBTQ child to deny or hate who they are. And I don't believe kids growing up in 2021 should have to deal with the same name-calling and casual homophobia that I experienced for most of my life.

I share all of this because I hope it helps you to understand why my condemnation of that word's use was so forceful, and why my hurt/anger only intensified with each of your subsequent refusals to acknowledge the harm it can/does cause (which, frankly, caused more harm), even as some of your more ardent political supporters chose to begin attacking me for being angry/upset or questioning my sincerity.

All of that said, I am not the person who most needs to hear your apology. While I do appreciate

your willingness to apologize now, as I stated in my initial letter to you, "I believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed..." At the time, you disagreed. If, upon reflection over the past 24 hours, you have had a change of heart, I do sincerely hope that you will consider apologizing publicly to them as well.

For what it is worth, Commissioner Morgan shared with me your much more heartfelt and personal apology to him. That is the type of apology that can begin to bridge divides, repair damage done, and foster greater understanding. I hope you will give consideration to sharing it with others as well.

Sincerely,
Travis

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further we can arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jason Morgan](#)
Subject: RE: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:33:00 AM

Thanks, of course, I'm getting all sorts of hostility for being insincere. I guess those go in the "I tried" file.

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 11:58 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

This is a really thoughtful response and I appreciate it.

It certainly helps me understand more of your perspective. I think you're right that the simple apology is probably the best approach for most people but I appreciate knowing it.

Thanks again,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan
Commissioner | Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County, Michigan
www.washtenaw.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:46:55 PM
To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>
Subject: RE: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Whoops crossing messages I just replied again. As for a general statement from council my understanding is Kathy Griswold has introduced one to admin committee for next week's meeting

agenda, so at least that will give us an opportunity to do just what you suggest, which I hope will help.

I don't know who else to share this with, but after years of advocacy for the now-named LGBTQ community, going way back to the Act-Up days, and having cultivated friendships lasting just as long with members of the LGBTQ community, that I now enjoy the privilege of being surrounded by LGBTQ friends who are by and large finally unencumbered by the trials that effect younger folks, folks who don't live in progressive communities, folks who haven't had the chance to become themselves, to be successful in business, and to live lives relatively untouched by hatred, bigotry, prejudice, and fear. My old age and experience had isolated me from the struggles that I now once again recognize are very real for many LGBTQ people. For failing those people I am ashamed.

Jeff Hayner

From: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>

Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:31 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Jeff,

Thank you! Please feel free to disregard most of the email I just sent you then. I noticed your email here immediately after clicking send.

I was suggesting that something directly along these lines would be very helpful.

Thanks,

-Jason

--

Jason Morgan

Commissioner | Board of Commissioners

Washtenaw County, Michigan

www.washtenaw.org

From: "Hayner, Jeff" <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM

To: Jason Morgan <morganj@washtenaw.org>

Subject: Remarks on Facebook

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jason,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:39:23 AM

CM Hayner,

Thank you for sharing this statement. I am grateful to see that you have reversed course and now acknowledge the harm that the words you shared can cause to members of the LGBTQ community.

You are right in that I do not know everything about your history, your relationships, etc., but though our past conversations I do know that there are many LGBTQ people that you love and care about. That is why it was especially shocking and harmful to see you use the word you did.

As I have shared with others in the aftermath of this incident, I have been subjected to homophobia and hatred for much of my life. I have been called a f*g more times than I care to remember and I have witnessed far too much casual homophobia to be silent when I see derogatory/homophobic terms used to demean others.

It is because of these experiences that I stayed in the closet as long as I did (not coming out until after college). It is why at a particularly low moment in my youth, I briefly considered hurting myself. And it is why I still instinctively code switch, to this day, depending on the company I am in or the places I visit.

While these experiences have also helped me develop a pretty thick skin, to see f****t casually shared by someone I'm supposed to work with — an elected community leader — and for that same person not to immediately acknowledge the harm it can cause to others really hurt and angered me, because I know, first hand, the power that word has and the pain it can cause. And when shared, especially in a negative & derisive context, it could be pushing another young LGBTQ child deeper into the closet. It could be pushing another LGBTQ child closer to self-loathing or, god-forbid, self-harm. It could pushing another LGBTQ child to deny or hate who they are. And I don't believe kids growing up in 2021 should have to deal with the same name-calling and casual homophobia that I experienced for most of my life.

I share all of this because I hope it helps you to understand why my condemnation of that word's use was so forceful, and why my hurt/anger only intensified with each of your subsequent refusals to acknowledge the harm it can/does cause (which, frankly, caused more harm), even as some of your more ardent political supporters chose to begin attacking me for being angry/upset or questioning my sincerity.

All of that said, I am not the person who most needs to hear your apology. While I do appreciate your willingness to apologize now, as I stated in my initial letter to you, "I believe you owe a full and unwavering apology to our community, but especially to the LGBTQ residents who are harmed..." At the time, you disagreed. If, upon reflection over the past 24 hours, you have had a change of heart, I do sincerely hope that you will consider apologizing publicly to them as well.

For what it is worth, Commissioner Morgan shared with me your much more heartfelt and

personal apology to him. That is the type of apology that can begin to bridge divides, repair damage done, and foster greater understanding. I hope you will give consideration to sharing it with others as well.

Sincerely,
Travis

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:07 PM, Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further we can arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Rebecca](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:58:10 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Hayner,

I'll admit I flinched when I read it, as I've only seen it used in movies by others, accompanied by frustrated emotions in highly-charged situations where it was intended to shame the recipient.

However, given our extensive time volunteering together over the years, I knew that your intention was to stay true to the entirety of the quote, as you've often encouraged me personally to remain squarely within the bounds of accuracy, no matter how tempting or advantageous it would be to frame my message regarding anti-graffiti measures. You often encouraged me to remain scientific and neutral as much as possible, and to maintain integrity in my research methods. One of the phrases I've heard you use often was, "So is that really true? Can it be shown? Where is the empirical data?"

Thank you for this statement reflecting on how others who don't know you may have felt emotionally wounded by that word in a context unknown to you, and that when you used it, they may have felt traumatic recall of times they heard it prior. For example, when I hear the words whore, slut, prostitute, sex-worker for example, I feel emotional pain for the fact people like our current prosecutor cannot acknowledge these people are human trafficking victims, and are being *prostituted* and are not *working* in any proper definition of the word. His ignorance of the lived experience of the vulnerable women and sometimes men shows and reflects his inability to see the staggering inequalities in society that make "sex-work" a false narrative.

I think it might be similar.

I appreciate your humility, swift action and sensitivity to others.

I know we've shared similar confusion over the selective reporting or flat-out inaccuracies in our local press and how frustrating it can be to have words omitted and your character assailed. We both value integrity much higher than material gains, so an injury like that is particularly undermining to our shared goals, career wise, and as parents. I do agree with your sentiments that the local press is deeply flawed in their processes.

That is also why, in addition to meeting your many LGBTQAI friends of the years, I understood your context and motives.

I would advise that those who will not seek to have a one-on-one conversation with you may not have advocacy and educating you as their true intent. Actions speak louder than words, don't they?

As an aside, you're doing excellent job serving our ward. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Rebecca

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:23 PM, Hayner, Jeff <jhayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Arends,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 7:32:23 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1

Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1
Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayne Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3

Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4
Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5

James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Jill Pritts](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Jeff Hayner homophobic anti-journal quote
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:05:38 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Words do have power and do have meaning and the words you use to represent yourself and attack others can have long lasting impact on those around us.

I find it ironic that in a condemnation of journalists who use words to represent the world, Jeff Hayner chose a disgusting and vile quote from Hunter S. Thompson which utilized a homophobic slur to denigrate others.

In a world and country where hate crimes are rising, and in a city where we pride ourselves on caring about others, I urge you to censure Mr. Hayner for comments he initially defended when called up and explained to why these words were hurtful.

Jill Pritts
Ann Arbor resident

From: [Anne Bannister](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Jack Eaton](#); [Frank Wilhelm](#); [Rita Mitchell](#)
Subject: Re: Comments on Facebook
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:34:53 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hang in there, Jeff! Many of us appreciate all you're doing and have done. Your statement is excellent. Let's move on to \$50K++ for Center of City!!

Would you sponsor a resolution to include \$50K+ in the FY22 budget, to accommodate open space for the future 1000 new bedrooms downtown at the Y-Lot and DTE/The Standard?

Would it help if I sent a draft resolution, using language from last April's [Resolution to Accept the Final Report of the Center of the City Task Force](#)?

Walk in the knowledge that you have a strong record of accomplishments! -- Anne

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 10:19 PM Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

--

Anne Bannister



From: [Steve Neavling](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Metro Times question about Facebook post
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:27:41 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilman Hayner,

I really appreciate your response. Thanks so much for getting back to me.

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 4:28 PM Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Neavling,

I appreciate your taking the time to write and I understand, but don't share, your interest in this matter. I did not intend to offend anyone, but was merely putting forward the first quote that came to mind, from a favorite author of mine, that summed up my anger at the biased reporting and harassment I and others have been subjected to from a local reporter, in response to a thread on the integrity of our local media. Would you repeatedly text an elected official to complain about their mild criticism of your reporting, and suggest that they "please seek help"? Would you call an elected officials concerns over reporting "your latest bizarre rantings about me"? I certainly hope not. This reporter has done that, and more.

I'm not sure what can be done to remedy the situation, as I have already offered apologies to some, and explanations to others. The post was immediately removed, and would have been but an ill-considered mistake seen by few, had it not been screen captured immediately, and widely circulated and attributed to me, as my own words, out of context. Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect amplifying this for political purposes had on the community, but I certainly recognize and take responsibility for my poor judgement in the first place, and for any harm that may have come from my actions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Steve Neavling <steve@metrotimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Metro Times question about Facebook post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilman Hayner,

This is Steve Neavling with the Detroit Metro Times. I am working on a story about your Facebook post that quotes Hunter S. Thompson. I wanted to get your response to Councilman Radina, who said the post was offensive. Did you intend for the post to offend? What point were you hoping to make with the quote?

I appreciate the feedback. Feel free to respond to me via email or phone at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Steve Neavling

From: [BRANDY Sinco](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Homophobic Posting
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:38:24 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner:

I am a resident of the first ward, registered Democrat, and a survivor of homophobic bullying and harassment. I am shocked and concerned that your posting will encourage uncivil behavior towards lgbt persons. Based on my experience, hostility begins with making derogatory comments, thinking such comments are funny, and then the derogatory comments escalate into violence.

Although I was born female, I have been mistaken for a guy and called a faggot. I have had to physically defend myself against school bullies. At various jobs, co-workers have called me derogatory names for an androgynous person and I had to use a self-defense technique to disarm a harasser who used to hit me over the head with a pad of paper. In contrast, I have also had the experience of working at UM, where using terms like faggot was not considered a joke and the anti-harassment policies made a world of difference. For the first time in my life, I was treated with respect and was able to have a job where I could contribute to society, afford a humble home, and drive a humble car.

I respectfully request that you publicly apologize for using the hateful term, faggot, in reference to journalists. This is language that I would have expected to hear at a Trump rally, not from a member of the Ann Arbor City Council. The term, faggot, originated from the pieces of wood that were used to burn gay men at the stake long ago. (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_\(slang\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_(slang))) It is a wood filled with hate and contempt, and is often associated with threats of physical violence. I urge you to use respectful language towards all minorities and set a future example for respectful behavior.

In addition, I am thankful for UM's attempt to get their community to use respectful gender pronouns. Based on my experience, being mistaken for the wrong gender can lead to hostile behavior from others.

Respectfully,
Brandy Sinco

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0362

[REDACTED]

From: [BRANDY Sinco](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Homophobic Posting
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:45:06 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Representative Disch and Mayor Taylor:

As a survivor of homophobic school bullying and work place harassment, I am concerned that Mr. Hayner's comments might lead to a local violent incident. I respectfully request that the City Council and the Ann Arbor Democratic Party dissociate themselves from Mr. Hayner's comments. My letter to him is below. Thanks for taking the time to read my comments.

Respectfully,
Brandy Sinco

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0362
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

Dear Mr. Hayner:

I am a resident of the first ward, registered Democrat, and a survivor of homophobic bullying and harassment. I am shocked and concerned that your posting will encourage uncivil behavior towards LGBT persons. Based on my experience, hostility begins with making derogatory comments, thinking such comments are funny, and then the derogatory comments escalate into violence.

Although I was born female, I have been mistaken for a guy and called a faggot. I have had to physically defend myself against school bullies. At various jobs, co-workers have called me derogatory names for an androgynous person and I had to use a self-defense technique to disarm a harasser who used to hit me over the head with a pad of paper. In contrast, I have also had the experience of working at UM, where using terms like faggot was not considered a joke and the anti-harassment policies made a world of difference. For the first time in my life, I was treated with respect and was able to have a job where I could contribute to society, afford a humble home, and drive a humble car.

I respectfully request that you publicly apologize for using the hateful term, faggot, in reference to journalists. This is language that I would have expected to hear at a Trump rally, not from a member of the Ann Arbor City Council. The term, faggot, originated from the pieces of wood that were used to burn gay men at the stake long ago. (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_\(slang\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_(slang))) It is a word filled with hate and contempt, and is often associated with threats of physical violence. I urge you to use respectful language towards all minorities and set a future example for respectful behavior.

In addition, I am thankful for UM's attempt to get their community to use

respectful gender pronouns. Based on my experience, being mistaken for the wrong gender can lead to hostile behavior from others.

Respectfully,

Brandy Sinco

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0362

[REDACTED]

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [BRANDY Sinco](#)
Subject: Re: Homophobic Posting
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:56:44 PM

Dear Ms. Sinco,

Thank you for your letter. I agree with you about the gravity of Mr. Hayner's comments. I have posted on Facebook about his remarks (Mr. Hayner has also apologized on FB). I expect there will be some kind of official response at our next City Council meeting.

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: BRANDY Sinco [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: Homophobic Posting

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Representative Disch and Mayor Taylor:

As a survivor of homophobic school bullying and work place harassment, I am concerned that Mr. Hayner's comments might lead to a local violent incident. I respectfully request that the City Council and the Ann Arbor Democratic Party dissociate themselves from Mr. Hayner's comments. My letter to him is below. Thanks for taking the time to read my comments.

Respectfully,
Brandy Sinco

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0362
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

Dear Mr. Hayner:

I am a resident of the first ward, registered Democrat, and a survivor of homophobic bullying and harassment. I am shocked and concerned that your posting will encourage uncivil behavior towards lgbt persons. Based on my experience, hostility begins with making derogatory comments, thinking such comments are funny, and then the derogatory comments escalate into violence.

Although I was born female, I have been mistaken for a guy and called a

faggot. I have had to physically defend myself against school bullies. At various jobs, co-workers have called me derogatory names for an androgynous person and I had to use a self-defense technique to disarm a harasser who used to hit me over the head with a pad of paper. In contrast, I have also had the experience of working at UM, where using terms like faggot was not considered a joke and the anti-harassment policies made a world of difference. For the first time in my life, I was treated with respect and was able to have a job where I could contribute to society, afford a humble home, and drive a humble car.

I respectfully request that you publicly apologize for using the hateful term, faggot, in reference to journalists. This is language that I would have expected to hear at a Trump rally, not from a member of the Ann Arbor City Council. The term, faggot, originated from the pieces of wood that were used to burn gay men at the stake long ago. (Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_\(slang\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faggot_(slang))) It is a word filled with hate and contempt, and is often associated with threats of physical violence. I urge you to use respectful language towards all minorities and set a future example for respectful behavior.

In addition, I am thankful for UM's attempt to get their community to use respectful gender pronouns. Based on my experience, being mistaken for the wrong gender can lead to hostile behavior from others.

Respectfully,

Brandy Sinco

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0362

[REDACTED]

From: [Joe Schoch](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: Statement regarding CM Hayner
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:32:10 PM
Attachments: [Press Release - CM Hayner.pdf](#)


This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

Attached, you will find a statement from the Jim Toy Community Center in response to CM Hayner's choice of words on social media.

Thank you for your time,
Joe

--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride
joes@jimtoycenter.org




JIM TOY COMMUNITY CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.O. Box 1152, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

(734) 274-9551

www.jimtoycenter.org

April 13, 2021

Dear Fellow Ann Arbor Residents,

It is with profound concern that we write to you to address the homophobic slur by Ann Arbor Councilmember Jeff Hayner, D-Ward 1. As some of you are aware, this past Saturday, Councilmember Hayner posted a homophobic slur trying to disgrace journalists and the press on Facebook.

While Hayner quoted excerpts from Hunter S. Thompson's 1971 novel, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," – we want to make it clear that word choice matters. His now deleted post referred to journalists as a "gang of cruel (f*****s)."

We find Councilmember Hayner's quote choice very concerning and not representative of our mission or city values. As a public servant, reporting to constituents, we believe the Councilmember must take accountability for his actions. Simply defending choices by claiming that you have friends who are members of the LGBTQ+ community is not good enough. A group of your constituents are offended and deserve a sincere apology.

At the Jim Toy Community Center, our mission is to "build an inclusive community where people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are visible and live together in equality, respect, and happiness." Councilmember Hayner's post is anything but respectful.

It is important to note that we as a board of directors come from all different walks of life – i.e. background, age group, gender, and community, etc. Let it be known that we strongly condemn Ann Arbor Councilmember Jeff Hayner's choice to use a homophobic slur.

We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around words and word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

Sincerely,

Joe Schoch, President

Diana Cass, Vice President

Robert Joerg, Treasurer

Sindhu Sreedhar, Secretary

Elizabeth Janovic, Member At Large

Leigh Greden, Member At Large

Jelani McGadney, Member At Large

From: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Kathleen Davis](#)
Subject: RE: Questions from a new constituent
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:10:00 PM

Hi!

Welcome to Ann Arbor! This past year has surely been a strange time to be discovering a new city...

In answer to questions:

YES, Ann Arbor has attempted a ban on plastic bags. When we tried that (I would have to look up when that was—it would have been more than two years ago), the state legislature actually passed a state law BANNING local municipalities from legislating in that way. Ridiculous, of course. The state of Michigan has tended to have a legislature that is significantly more conservative than Ann Arbor and so the plastic ban issue is one of several examples where the state has intervened to prevent local governments from regulating. When I introduced legislation locally to regulate short term rentals (AirBnB), there was some anxiety that the state was preparing to pass laws to prevent local regulation (!). This is a problem. Like you, I've been in communities that ban the free distribution of the single use plastic bags, it does seem like a really obvious thing to do. Unfortunately, we can't do it.

Re: Jeff Hayner, for whatever it's worth, he has apologized more directly and clearly since the news stories were published. It concerns me a lot that he did not have the common sense to recognize how inappropriate this was, what an ugly impression it makes (and the horrifying message it sends to so casually use this language that is so hurtful). I only know Jeff as a colleague, but I do know that he has lived in town for a very long time, has a long history of DJ'ing at drag shows, gay clubs, and generally just having a very diverse and inclusive social circle. I share that only because this particular incident was stunning to me, in the context of what I do know of him. I would encourage you to reach out to him directly with these concerns. I believe it would be good for him to hear it from more members of the community:

jhayner@a2gov.org

Council did recently pass a new set of rules, to penalize Council members for critical comments directed at other Council members, but they were challenged by the ACLU as infringing on free speech. The rules have not been amended yet to address these concerns, so it is possible that someone might try to utilize them in this case. Given ACLU concerns (and the very real slippery slope of this approach), I'm not sure I would line up in support of that, though.

Elizabeth

From: Kathleen Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>
Subject: Questions from a new constituent

Hi Elizabeth,

My family moved into a house on [REDACTED] in August last year and we recently got your flyer on our door. Thanks for getting in touch. We are new to Ann Arbor and there are a few questions I have been wanting to ask:

1. I love that Ann Arbor is a very eco conscious city, but I'm appalled at the amount of plastic bags used in all the stores (and that the use of reusable bags has been suspended due to COVID when there has been shown to be very little if any virus transmission on surfaces). Has Ann Arbor ever considered a plastic bag ban/tax? While they can be controversial, they are effective (and can be a good source of revenue). We moved from NYC, which had recently pass a plastic bag ban that met a lot of opposition at 1st (New Yorkers hate being told what to do more than anyone else!) but ended up being a pretty smooth transition. Here's more info:
<https://www.clf.org/blog/the-truth-about-plastic-bag-bans/>
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>

2. I read the Mlive article about Jeff Hayner and I, like many citizens, am appalled at his attacks on the concept of a free press and use of hate speech. Are there actions that the city government can take? It's shameful that he would be allowed to continue to serve the city for behavior that would get him fired from most other jobs.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/ann-arbor-council-member-draws-criticism-defends-use-of-quote-with-homophobic-slur>

Thanks for your time and attention.

Best,
Kate

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Jill Pritts](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner homophobic anti-journal quote
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:07:35 PM

Thank you for writing, Jill. This evening, the Council Administration Committee voted 4-1 to recommend a resolution to council that would remove CM Hayner from all committee and commission assignments until the first meeting in December.

All the best,
Julie

From: Jill Pritts [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:05 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner homophobic anti-journal quote

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Words do have power and do have meaning and the words you use to represent yourself and attack others can have long lasting impact on those around us.

I find it ironic that in a condemnation of journalists who use words to represent the world, Jeff Hayner chose a disgusting and vile quote from Hunter S. Thompson which utilized a homophobic slur to denigrate others.

In a world and country where hate crimes are rising, and in a city where we pride ourselves on caring about others, I urge you to censure Mr. Hayner for comments he initially defended when called up and explained to why these words were hurtful.

Jill Pritts
Ann Arbor resident

From: [Jill Pritts](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner homophobic anti-journal quote
Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 11:55:49 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for letting me know Julie. Hope you are well

Jill

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 13, 2021, at 11:07 PM, Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for writing, Jill. This evening, the Council Administration Committee voted 4-1 to recommend a resolution to council that would remove CM Hayner from all committee and commission assignments until the first meeting in December.

All the best,
Julie

From: Jill Pritts [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:05 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner homophobic anti-journal quote

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Words do have power and do have meaning and the words you use to represent yourself and attack others can have long lasting impact on those around us.

I find it ironic that in a condemnation of journalists who use words to represent the world, Jeff Hayner chose a disgusting and vile quote from Hunter S. Thompson which utilized a homophobic slur to denigrate others.

In a world and country where hate crimes are rising, and in a city where we pride ourselves on caring about others, I urge you to censure Mr. Hayner for comments he initially defended when called up and explained to why these words were

hurtful.

Jill Pritts
Ann Arbor resident

From: [Jill Zimmerman](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Homophobic comments
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:50:24 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

From a recent Michigan Daily article: "Hayner said he has not been contacted by community members and, because the comment was not directed at anyone in particular and claimed that because the slur itself is “archaic” and “hardly ever hear(d)” anymore, it is not offensive."

Dear Councilmember Hayner,

I call bullsh*t on your claim that the word you so casually quoted is hardly ever heard anymore.

I promise you, that if you were a gay man in America, you would have heard that word many times, more likely than not, when it was directed at you.

I know this to be true, because even as a straight woman who has volunteered for gay candidates, I have heard that word directed at those candidates many, many times.

But honestly, even one time is too many. Even one time does harm. Your non-apology does not acknowledge the harm done to the LGBTQ community. And the community deserves better.

And while we're at it, journalists deserve better from you, too.

One more thing: you're over the age of 25. Grow up and stop quoting Hunter S. Thompson.

Sincerely,
Jill Zimmerman
Pittsfield Township

From: [Meyers, Jeff](#)
To: [Donald Almon](#)
Subject: RE: Portland
Date: Wednesday,

Dear Mr. Alexander

I don't always understand exactly what you are writing about, but you are clearly passionate in your support. I have many different views on the right approach to running a city government. I don't really know. But I want to give you the courtesy of a reply I did not do so. I suspect that some of our council members have tried. To build certain ones you may not be written by you, or if we have that in common – we want you to take calls or respond to my emails. It is too busy trying to signal a variety of things you really like to actually take a hard body or work together to better our community. It is my way or the highway. I think I would be particularly interested in his latest power play – I suspect he has no one counsel, removed from his committee assignments, and publicly begged. My email: Posting a quote on a Facebook post expressing his feelings for certain members of our local press. The quote contains language that is highly considered offensive to many. As a city council member and leader in our community, I should have known better than to associate these words with our name, but I did, and, of course, it brought the entire weight of the local LGBTQ+ community down on me like a ton of bricks. I am still being abused by the press, my ex-wife, my "best" friend, and I have been told that I have been told for my supposed offensive use of language.

I see from your signature that you are a veteran of our nation's armed forces, United States Navy. I have family and friends who proudly served our country in the Navy, and I have a lot of respect for anyone who does. I know it is not easy, and to achieve your rank of SCPO you clearly have leadership skills and had the support of your fellow sailors. You are to be commended for that. My uncle John Kelly (RIP) served as a Seabee on Trutan Island in WW2 building runways, and his son, my cousin Thomas J. Kelly served first as a diver on the USS John Marshall submarine, and just retired from his position at ONSR, where he proudly served as a liaison to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence among other roles. For many years I participated in the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, and volunteered along with my father for the CMP promoting marksmanship alongside members of all the branches of service. He learned a lot working next to such men of valor. More people should try it.

I guess I share all this to suggest that people can have a lot in common, no matter how it looks on the surface. We both care about where our county and our society is headed. We both recognize that extremism in almost any cause can be harmful. We both believe in the authority and dignity of the United States Constitution, and we both have taken oaths promising to uphold it. I don't know if you are a resident of Ann Arbor and if I represent you, but if this is the case, be assured that I will listen to your concerns and do my best to resolve them.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Donald Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:34 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Portland Rioters Lay Waste To Police Cruisers In Precinct Parking Lot

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe

WAY TO GO, YOU STUPID MOTHERFUCKERS!

<https://pccf02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thegatewaypundit.com%2F2021%2F04%2Fportland-rioters-ly-waste-police-cruisers-precinct-parking-ke%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7BHaynes%40a2.org%7C7C67407%7D%8644664118084564ec%7C7C48458563741709491e%5868922F%7C0C7C0C7C63753969421705249%7CUnknown%7CTWFTwGz3d8eyJWj0MC4dLJwAMDALC3Q6gV2hMzIiLjBTBkIhLWwLlCJXCV36M8r%3D%7C3000&data=4DRyFwSubBgV7hnY3mpUS%2FBBFkF%2B9%5DZX%52N6Aw%3D&reserved=0>

D. Alexander
SCPO USN (SW) (Ret.)

American Patriot, Vietnam Veteran, Unrepentant US Constitutionalist and yes, Donald J. Trump is still my President!

[illegible]

Q: Why are the Democrats and Establishment RINOs fighting a forensic audit of the ballots and voting machines used in the 2020 general election?

My body. My choice. No mask. No vaccine.

There are only two genders; male and female. Anyone too stupid, sick or demented to not realize this biological fact should never be allowed to teach or be put in a leadership or governmental position.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) and ANTIFA are Marxist/Communist domestic terror organizations

From: [Mark A. Giesler](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Follow Up to Facebook Post
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:12:45 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Mr. Hayner,

As a gay man and member of the ward you represent as City Council member, let me express my outrage at your use of a homophobic slur to make a point about your relationship with the press. In an article I read this morning, you said that you had heard from members of your ward who were not offended. Let it be known that there are some, including me, who are deeply offended.

The question I have for you: Had the quote you used been a racial slur rather than a homophobic slur, would you have used it?

I hope to receive an answer...and a personal apology for offending me and my husband.

Mark Giesler

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Mark A. Giesler](#)
Subject: RE: Follow Up to Facebook Post
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:43:00 AM

Dear Mr. Giesler,

I have not seen all the news so I am not sure what you read, I had told one reporter truthfully that I had not yet heard from anyone, which was true at the time but that was many days ago, of course by now I have heard from many with a variety of opinions. Some recognized the language as offensive but said they themselves were not offended. Well, that's fine for them, everyone is different. For my part, I have issued this public apology which I now share with you.

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Mark A. Giesler [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Follow Up to Facebook Post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Mr. Hayner,

As a gay man and member of the ward you represent as City Council member, let me express my outrage at your use of a homophobic slur to make a point about your relationship with the press. In an article I read this morning, you said that you had heard from members of your ward who were not offended. Let it be known that there are some, including me, who are deeply offended.

The question I have for you: Had the quote you used been a racial slur rather than a homophobic slur, would you have used it?

I hope to receive an answer...and a personal apology for offending me and my husband.

Mark Giesler

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: Re: following up
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:51:00 AM

Mr Slagter,

Thank you for this and for our conversation.

The process to which CMH refers is not applicable. It arises typically from violations of law and leads to resolutions of censure and reprimand and removal. We are not undertaking that process. We propose to act in a manner consistent with our inherent power in an effort to restore the bond between the LGBTQ community and their government.

If approved, he would be removed from all referenced commissions below until at least the first Council meeting in December.

Christopher

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-794-6161
he/him/his

Wear your Mask. That is all.

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: following up

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

One other thing, I just wanted to be clear on. If approved would Hayner be removed from all of the following by city council (I know you mentioned you would have the authority to remove him from the audit committee - I wondered about the other committees like Brownfields Plan Review, and the Liquor License Review Committee.

Thanks
Marty

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Huron River Watershed Council](#)

1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[City Council](#)

1st Term: Nov 12, 2018 to Nov 13, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Brownfields Plan Review Committee](#)

2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Washtenaw Metro Alliance](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Center of the City - Council of the Commons](#)

1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Audit Committee](#)

2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Park Advisory Commission](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Council Liquor License Review Committee](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

From: Martin Slagter

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:22 AM

To: CTaylor@a2gov.org <CTaylor@a2gov.org>

Subject: following up

Mayor Taylor,

This might be helpful to include for context. This is from CM Hayner:

It might be helpful for your reporting to read our council rules. As I read through them it appears that there is no authority given to admin committee or council for these actions. I have violated no council ethics rules. Here is a link to the council rules, as adopted. Ethics rules start on page 18. Council Rule 12 on self-governance is the closest thing to applicable language and it does not apply. There is a process clearly defined in our rules. This process is not being followed. Ask to see the written complaint of my behavior which is required to be sworn and filed. I have not been given one. Hoep this helps.

Beyond that, would it be accurate to say you described the resolution going before City Council to remove Hayner from his board and commission seats as "Within the council's inherent power."

From: [Martin Slagter](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:23:56 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you Jeff,

It was explained to me that a resolution can be made and voted on by city council members for whatever they see fit, and differs from the process you described, which would lead to resolutions for censure, reprimand or removal, which are typically associated with violations of the law.

Martin

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution

Dear Mr. Slagter,

It might be helpful for your reporting to read our council rules. As I read through them it appears that there is no authority given to admin committee or council for these actions. I have violated no council ethics rules. Here is a link to the council rules, as adopted. Ethics rules start on page 18. Council Rule 12 on self-governance is the closest thing to applicable language and it does not apply. There is a process clearly defined in our rules. This process is not being followed. Ask to see the written complaint of my behavior which is required to be sworn and filed. I have not been given one. Hoep this helps.

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/city-clerk/Documents/Council%20Rules.pdf>

Jeff Hayner

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:01 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jeff,

I wanted to reach out regarding yesterday's Council Administration Committee meeting. There was discussion and ultimately a resolution that will be brought as a result on April 19 that you be removed from board and commission task force seats, along with a request that you engage in sensitivity training, in response to your use of a quote deemed offensive on social media this week.

I wondered if you wanted to offer any type of response or thoughts on this action moving forward?

Do you feel sensitivity training is necessary, or something you would be willing to participate in?

Overall, do you feel (if approved) this is fair, given your recent actions?

As always, feel free to reach out via email or at [REDACTED]

Thanks
Martin

From: [Martin Slagter](#)
To: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: Re: following up
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:37:46 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I appreciate the additional clarification!

Marty

From: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Subject: Re: following up

Mr Slagter,

Thank you for this and for our conversation.

The process to which CMH refers is not applicable. It arises typically from violations of law and leads to resolutions of censure and reprimand and removal. We are not undertaking that process. We propose to act in a manner consistent with our inherent power in an effort to restore the bond between the LGBTQ community and their government.

If approved, he would be removed from all referenced commissions below until at least the first Council meeting in December.

Christopher

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-794-6161
he/him/his

Wear your Mask. That is all.

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: following up

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow

directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

One other thing, I just wanted to be clear on. If approved would Hayner be removed from all of the following by city council (I know you mentioned you would have the authority to remove him from the audit committee - I wondered about the other committees like Brownfields Plan Review, and the Liquor License Review Committee.

Thanks
Marty

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Huron River Watershed Council](#)

1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[City Council](#)

1st Term: Nov 12, 2018 to Nov 13, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Brownfields Plan Review Committee](#)

2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Washtenaw Metro Alliance](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Center of the City - Council of the Commons](#)

1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Audit Committee](#)

2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Park Advisory Commission](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)

[Council Liquor License Review Committee](#)

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

From: Martin Slagter
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:22 AM
To: CTaylor@a2gov.org <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: following up

Mayor Taylor,

This might be helpful to include for context. This is from CM Hayner:

It might be helpful for your reporting to read our council rules. As I read through them it appears that there is no authority given to admin committee or council for these actions. I have violated no council ethics rules. Here is a link to the council rules, as adopted. Ethics rules start on page 18. Council Rule 12 on self-governance is the closest thing to applicable language and it does not apply. There is a process clearly defined in our rules. This process is not being followed. Ask to see the written complaint of my behavior which is required to be sworn and filed. I have not been given one. Hoep this helps.

Beyond that, would it be accurate to say you described the resolution going before City Council to remove Hayner from his board and commission seats as "Within the council's inherent power."

From: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: Re: following up
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:29:57 PM

"violations of law or conflict of interest" is probably even better

Tx!

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-794-6161
he/him/his

Wear your Mask. That is all.

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: following up

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I appreciate the additional clarification!

Marty

From: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Subject: Re: following up

Mr Slagter,

Thank you for this and for our conversation.

The process to which CMH refers is not applicable. It arises typically from violations of law and leads to resolutions of censure and reprimand and removal. We are not undertaking that process. We propose to act in a manner consistent with our inherent power in an effort to restore the bond between the LGBTQ community and their government.

If approved, he would be removed from all referenced commissions below until at least the

first Council meeting in December.

Christopher

Christopher Taylor
Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734-794-6161
he/him/his

Wear your Mask. That is all.

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: following up

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

One other thing, I just wanted to be clear on. If approved would Hayner be removed from all of the following by city council (I know you mentioned you would have the authority to remove him from the audit committee - I wondered about the other committees like Brownfields Plan Review, and the Liquor License Review Committee.

Thanks
Marty

[Jeff Hayner](#)
[Huron River Watershed Council](#)
1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)
[City Council](#)
1st Term: Nov 12, 2018 to Nov 13, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)
[Brownfields Plan Review Committee](#)
2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

[Jeff Hayner](#)
[Washtenaw Metro Alliance](#)
1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

Jeff Hayner

Center of the City - Council of the Commons

1st Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

Jeff Hayner

Audit Committee

2nd Term: Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 21, 2022

Jeff Hayner

Park Advisory Commission

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

Jeff Hayner

Council Liquor License Review Committee

1st Term: Dec 03, 2018 to Nov 21, 2022

From: Martin Slagter

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:22 AM

To: CTaylor@a2gov.org <CTaylor@a2gov.org>

Subject: following up

Mayor Taylor,

This might be helpful to include for context. This is from CM Hayner:

It might be helpful for your reporting to read our council rules. As I read through them it appears that there is no authority given to admin committee or council for these actions. I have violated no council ethics rules. Here is a link to the council rules, as adopted. Ethics rules start on page 18. Council Rule 12 on self-governance is the closest thing to applicable language and it does not apply. There is a process clearly defined in our rules. This process is not being followed. Ask to see the written complaint of my behavior which is required to be sworn and filed. I have not been given one. Hoep this helps.

Beyond that, would it be accurate to say you described the resolution going before City Council to remove Hayner from his board and commission seats as "Within the council's inherent power."

From: [Martin Contreras](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:46:12 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Are you considering making a public statement to the greater LGBTQ community at large via the JIM TOY Community Center?.

You really are out of touch with mindful speech especially in our diverse and accepting community. Maybe you can't rise up to the challenges, demands, and decorum of public office. Have you considered resigning over this transgression?

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras
He / Him / His
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
To: Martin Contreras <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Mon, Apr 12, 2021 10:14 pm
Subject: RE: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Martin Contreras <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:16 PM
To: erica@ericafora2.com; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

Just in case anyone is keeping track I wanted to voice my personal disgust and offense with Jeff Hayner's homophobic slur in his face book post disparaging journalists.

The word faggot for some is as shocking, demeaning, hurtful and offensive now as it was in the 70's especially coming from a straight man elected to political office. If the best Jeff Hayner can do to express his personal disgust with journalists is to use a HST quote disparaging gays than he truly has unthinking prejudices. In truth I question his "genuine" support of the LGBTQ+ community. He should apologize to the LGBTQ community and tender his resignation from city council. We deserve better on city council.

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras

He / Him / His

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>

To: Martin <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sun, Apr 4, 2021 8:30 pm

Subject: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/4/21

I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

So often we focus our attention on national politics, but Monday night's City Council agenda demonstrates the power of local government to advance equity, justice, and make a real difference in our day to day lives. Tomorrow Council will be considering actions that will transform our police services, ban discriminatory practices in housing, and enhance tenant rights. There are also smaller, but meaningful actions, like filling sidewalk gaps and making improvements to city code. Not everything will spark your interest, but as you review the agenda and agenda highlights I hope you'll share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/5) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 5th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings ore efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Developing an unarmed public safety response program ([DC-2](#)):** I am proud and excited to co-sponsor this resolution which directs the City Administrator to budget for and develop an unarmed public safety program for the City of Ann Arbor. Currently, police officers are required to respond to 911 calls better suited to mental health, public health, or social service professionals. Because mental health services and 911 dispatch services are provided by the County, this resolution calls on the City Administrator

to develop a program in coordination and collaboration with the County and Sheriff's office, in addition to other experts such as Ann Arbor's Independent Police Oversight Commission. I have already begun to receive emails urging that funding for this program come from the police budget (i.e. defund the police). It's important to note that the budget for the police department comes from City's General Fund. The cost of this new program still needs to be determined and certainly the funds for this program are likely to come from the General Fund as well. We may find that traditional police services can be reduced as this program is developed, but the details of the program are still undetermined and impact on police response is unknown. It's important that [critical police services](#) and programs (e.g. special victims unit, detective bureau, traffic enforcement, training) aren't compromised as we work to enhance and improve our response model. As we work to build a more fair and just system, we need to make sure our decisions are [data-driven](#) and rooted in equity.

- **Review of city ordinances related to police enforcement ([DC-5](#)):** On Jan 4, 2021, Governor Whitmer signed into law numerous amendments to the Michigan Compiled Laws which encourage alternatives to arrest and jail detention, eliminate certain mandatory minimums, reclassify low-level misdemeanors as civil infractions, remove unnecessary driver's license suspensions, and revise parole and probation policies to better accomplish the goals of supervision (collectively, "2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation"). This resolution directs the City Attorney's office to review Ann Arbor ordinances that are inconsistent with the 2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation, state/local law, or *are otherwise not in the spirit of progressive criminal justice reform*. I look forward to supporting this resolution and view it not only as a necessary step to ensure Ann Arbor's ordinances are aligned with state law, but also a critical step to ensure our local ordinances are aligned with our values and best practices.
- **Banning housing discrimination based on criminal history ([PH-4 & B-4](#)):** As I've noted in my last two newsletters, Council is considering adopting an ordinance which would ban the use of criminal history in tenant selection in order to give individuals with a criminal record a [fair opportunity](#) to compete for rental housing. Based on the [discussion](#) around the Council table, it appears to have unanimous support. This ordinance was drafted and recommended by the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission (HRC). Council incorporated some small amendments at our

last meeting to address the needs of private landlords that accept federal funding. (2nd reading)

- **Condemning hate and violence directed towards Asian Americans (DC-4):** Since the beginning of the pandemic America has experienced a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, violence, and rhetoric-- more than 30 percent of Asians and Asian Americans report being subjected to discrimination. At 18% of the City's population, Asians and Asian Americans are Ann Arbor's largest racial and ethnic minority. No member of our community should live in fear. This resolution condemns racism and urges residents to report harassment or hate crimes to the AAPD, Human Right's Commission, and/or Michigan Attorney General's Hate Crime Unit. It's easy to think this behavior doesn't happen in Ann Arbor, but we are receiving reports that harassment has been increasing locally as well. Learn [how you can help](#).
- **Enhancing Tenant Rights (C-1):** The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the period of time that landlords are prohibited from entering leased premises for the purpose of showing the premises to prospective tenants and entering into a lease to rent the premises to another tenant for a subsequent lease period, from 70 to 240 days. This ordinance change has been advocated for by [U-M GEO](#) and endorsed by U-M Central Student Government. The current provision of 70 days was adopted in January 2008 with unanimous support of the City Council-Michigan Student Assembly Committee and landlords engaged in the process. The 70 day provision was actually an amendment to a 90 day provision adopted by Council in March 2006. GEO has urged Council to extend the time period to 240 days over concerns that students are required to renew leases just months after moving into an apartment. I support extending the time period past 70 days, but I also think it is appropriate to engage additional stakeholders (non-student renters and landlords) into this process to ensure the time frame and enforcement tools truly address problems and prevent unintended consequences. 240 days, or eight months, would make most student leases expire in mid-April. This could present additional difficulties for students and landlords seeking fall leases. A more robust community conversation may identify additional issues in the ordinance that warrant revisions. ***Please share your thoughts with me on this issue if you are a renter or landlord.*** (1st reading)
- **Amendments to short-term rental ordinance (C-4 and C-5):** In

September 2020, the City enacted Chapter 97 of the City Code which established requirements for the operation, location, and licensing of short-term rentals (e.g. AirBNBs). Establishing requirements for short-term rentals was critical, because previously the City had not distinguished between short-term or long-term rentals in our rental ordinances. Among other provisions, the September amendments included provisions that prohibit the operation of short-term rentals in residential zoning districts when the location is not the principal residence of the property owner. Based on the feedback I've heard from residents, I support the prohibition of non owner occupied short-term rentals in residential areas. However, there was one notable legal issue with the change made last September. On a divided vote, City Council banned existing non owner occupied short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. While this might seem ideal for folks that don't view them as an appropriate activity in neighborhoods, that ban was inconsistent with property rights and land use law. When a use is legal, and short-term rentals were legally permitted in our residentially zoned areas, it is impermissible to deny that use retroactively. I have heard concerns that short-term rentals inflate housing prices and deplete housing supply. I share these concerns, but suggest that the September 2020 code changes were not about protecting our housing supply. If they were, they would not have made a distinction about where housing units were located (residential zones vs. mixed use areas). Rather, the code changes began the important process of regulating short-term rentals in our community. If we want to protect our housing supply, we should care about protecting it in *all areas* of the City (downtown, along commercial corridors, and yes, in neighborhoods). To do this, we need to get a handle on how many short-term rentals we have (staff will be presenting us with this data on Monday) and where they are located and then determine the number of short-term rentals and the density of units we are comfortable with in Ann Arbor.

- **Proposed fine reduction for not shoveling ([PH-6 and B-6](#)):** This ordinance amendment would reduce the fine from \$100 to \$60 (+ processing fees) for a first-time violation for a property owner or occupant who fails to shovel snow/ice from their sidewalks. First-time violators currently get a 24-hour grace period to correct issues before fines are assessed and fines can be reduced due to hardship. I asked staff a few questions regarding this proposal, you can read their responses [here](#). Staff suggests that it would be helpful to consider fines and fees in

conjunction with the comprehensive review of sidewalk snow removal policies and strategies they are currently conducting at Council's direction (see my [2/28 newsletter](#)). A report is due to Council September 6th. Since we are past the snow season and staff is undertaking a review, I believe Council should defer action on this item to ensure any ordinance changes we make are aligned with our goals and addressing the problems we're seeking to solve. (2nd reading)

5th Ward Infrastructure Projects on the Consent Agenda

- **Filling sidewalk gaps on Newport and Sunset ([CA-7](#)):** This project includes the construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Newport Road from Downup Circle to Sunset Road, and on the north side of Sunset Road to Brooks Street. In addition to using funds from new sidewalk millage fund, the project will utilize federal funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to offset the local cost of the project. One of the first steps following Council approval will be hold a public meeting to further discuss the project and receive input from the residents.
- **Acquiring easements for the LynAnne-Arbana Sewer Project ([CA-9](#)):** The sanitary sewer line in this project area was constructed in the 1920s to serve the northwest portion of the City. To alleviate capacity constraints, and reduce the potential for sanitary backups into basements, .8 miles of sanitary sewer is scheduled for replacement with a larger diameter sewer. Permanent and temporary easements must be obtained before beginning the sewer replacement work. Additional easement area is required to accommodate the replacement and upsizing of the sewer. Additional project information [here](#).

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.
Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [David Winter](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Civil discourse by Council members
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:27:51 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

Please vote to remove Jeff Hayner from as many committees and responsibilities as possible. His homophobic remarks indicate (1) contempt for LGBTQ people, (2) disregard for the concept of civil discourse, (3) indifference or hostility toward Ann Arbor's efforts and reputation for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and (4) severe addiction to social media.

--David Winter

David G. Winter, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Jeanine Center](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: You went overboard
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:51:48 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

To: Ann Arbor mayor and city council:

With regard to Jeff Hayner's admittedly thoughtless and distasteful quote of Hunter S. Thompson in a Facebook post, you went entirely overboard in your censure. Comparing Hayner's misjudgement to University of Michigan Regent Ron Weiser's recent remarks calling our top state officials witches and threatening to burn them at the stake is a gross exaggeration. Unfortunately, I suspect something more than a foolish quotation underlies your overreaction, which has resulted in denying the First Ward half of its representation. It seems to me that the bad feeling and bad behavior on the part of the mayor and city council is the result of one faction steamrolling the other faction (not to mention the current residents) with implementation of its "vision" for Ann Arbor.

I am extremely disappointed in Ann Arbor's elected government.

Jeanine Center

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI

[REDACTED]

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [David Winter](#)
Subject: Re: Civil discourse by Council members
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:54:28 PM

Thank you for writing, Dr. Winter.

I am on one of the 4 co-sponsors of a resolution that recommends that council remove CM Hayner from his committee and commission assignments for the remainder of this term (the first meeting in December).

Best,
Julie

From: David Winter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:27 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Civil discourse by Council members

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

Please vote to remove Jeff Hayner from as many committees and responsibilities as possible. His homophobic remarks indicate (1) contempt for LGBTQ people, (2) disregard for the concept of civil discourse, (3) indifference or hostility toward Ann Arbor's efforts and reputation for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and (4) severe addiction to social media.

--David Winter

David G. Winter, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [David Winter](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Re: Civil discourse by Council members
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:57:14 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Brava to you! And thanks for your reply.

--David

David G. Winter, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan
Research Professor, University of New Mexico

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 7:54 PM Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for writing, Dr. Winter.

I am on one of the 4 co-sponsors of a resolution that recommends that council remove CM Hayner from his committee and commission assignments for the remainder of this term (the first meeting in December).

Best,
Julie

From: David Winter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:27 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Civil discourse by Council members

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

Please vote to remove Jeff Hayner from as many committees and responsibilities as possible. His homophobic remarks indicate (1) contempt for LGBTQ people, (2) disregard for the concept of civil discourse, (3) indifference or hostility toward Ann Arbor's efforts and reputation for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and (4) severe addiction to social media.

--David Winter

David G. Winter, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Slagter](#)
Subject: RE: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:32:00 AM

The body (city council) has no authority in this matter.

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you Jeff,

It was explained to me that a resolution can be made and voted on by city council members for whatever they see fit, and differs from the process you described, which would lead to resolutions for censure, reprimand or removal, which are typically associated with violations of the law.

Martin

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>
Subject: RE: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution

Dear Mr. Slagter,

It might be helpful for your reporting to read our council rules. As I read through them it appears that there is no authority given to admin committee or council for these actions. I have violated no council ethics rules. Here is a link to the council rules, as adopted. Ethics rules start on page 18. Council Rule 12 on self-governance is the closest thing to applicable language and it does not apply. There is a process clearly defined in our rules. This process is not being followed. Ask to see the written complaint of my behavior which is required to be sworn and filed. I have not been given one. Hoep this helps.

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/city-clerk/Documents/Council%20Rules.pdf>

Jeff Hayner

From: Martin Slagter <MSLAGTER@mlive.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 9:01 AM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: Request for comment RE: Council Administration Committee resolution

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jeff,

I wanted to reach out regarding yesterday's Council Administration Committee meeting. There was discussion and ultimately a resolution that will be brought as a result on April 19 that you be removed from board and commission task force seats, along with a request that you engage in sensitivity training, in response to your use of a quote deemed offensive on social media this week.

I wondered if you wanted to offer any type of response or thoughts on this action moving forward?

Do you feel sensitivity training is necessary, or something you would be willing to participate in?

Overall, do you feel (if approved) this is fair, given your recent actions?

As always, feel free to reach out via email or at [REDACTED]

Thanks
Martin

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Martin Contreras](#)
Subject: RE: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:03:00 AM

No, I have not considered resigning.

From: Martin Contreras <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Are you considering making a public statement to the greater LGBTQ community at large via the JIM TOY Community Center?.

You really are out of touch with mindful speech especially in our diverse and accepting community. Maybe you can't rise up to the challenges, demands, and decorum of public office. Have you considered resigning over this transgression?

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras
He / Him / His
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
To: Martin Contreras <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Mon, Apr 12, 2021 10:14 pm
Subject: RE: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Martin Contreras <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:16 PM
To: erica@ericafora2.com; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Hayners Offensive LGBTQ Language

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

Just in case anyone is keeping track I wanted to voice my personal disgust and offense with Jeff Hayner's homophobic slur in his face book post disparaging journalists.

The word faggot for some is as shocking, demeaning, hurtful and offensive now as it was in the 70's especially coming from a straight man elected to political office. If the best Jeff Hayner can do to express his personal disgust with journalists is to use a HST quote disparaging gays than he truly has unthinking prejudices. In truth I question his "genuine" support of the LGBTQ+ community. He should apologize to the LGBTQ community and tender his resignation from city council. We deserve better on city council.

Respectfully,

Martin H. Contreras

Martin H. Contreras

He / Him / His

[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[REDACTED] (cell)

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>
To: Martin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sun, Apr 4, 2021 8:30 pm
Subject: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/4/21

I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 4, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

So often we focus our attention on national politics, but Monday night's City Council agenda demonstrates the power of local government to advance equity, justice, and make a real difference in our day to day lives. Tomorrow Council will be considering actions that will transform our police services, ban discriminatory practices in housing, and enhance tenant rights. There are also smaller, but meaningful actions, like filling sidewalk gaps and making improvements to city code. Not everything will spark your interest, but as you review the agenda and agenda highlights I hope you'll share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/5) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 5th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings more efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Developing an unarmed public safety response program ([DC-2](#)):** I am proud and excited to co-sponsor this resolution which directs the City Administrator to budget for and develop an unarmed public safety program for the City of Ann Arbor. Currently, police officers are required to respond to 911 calls better suited to mental health, public health, or social service professionals. Because mental health services and 911 dispatch services are provided by the County, this resolution calls on the City Administrator

to develop a program in coordination and collaboration with the County and Sheriff's office, in addition to other experts such as Ann Arbor's Independent Police Oversight Commission. I have already begun to receive emails urging that funding for this program come from the police budget (i.e. defund the police). It's important to note that the budget for the police department comes from City's General Fund. The cost of this new program still needs to be determined and certainly the funds for this program are likely to come from the General Fund as well. We may find that traditional police services can be reduced as this program is developed, but the details of the program are still undetermined and impact on police response is unknown. It's important that [critical police services](#) and programs (e.g. special victims unit, detective bureau, traffic enforcement, training) aren't compromised as we work to enhance and improve our response model. As we work to build a more fair and just system, we need to make sure our decisions are [data-driven](#) and rooted in equity.

- **Review of city ordinances related to police enforcement ([DC-5](#)):** On Jan 4, 2021, Governor Whitmer signed into law numerous amendments to the Michigan Compiled Laws which encourage alternatives to arrest and jail detention, eliminate certain mandatory minimums, reclassify low-level misdemeanors as civil infractions, remove unnecessary driver's license suspensions, and revise parole and probation policies to better accomplish the goals of supervision (collectively, "2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation"). This resolution directs the City Attorney's office to review Ann Arbor ordinances that are inconsistent with the 2021 State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation, state/local law, or *are otherwise not in the spirit of progressive criminal justice reform*. I look forward to supporting this resolution and view it not only as a necessary step to ensure Ann Arbor's ordinances are aligned with state law, but also a critical step to ensure our local ordinances are aligned with our values and best practices.
- **Banning housing discrimination based on criminal history ([PH-4 & B-4](#)):** As I've noted in my last two newsletters, Council is considering adopting an ordinance which would ban the use of criminal history in tenant selection in order to give individuals with a criminal record a [fair opportunity](#) to compete for rental housing. Based on the [discussion](#) around the Council table, it appears to have unanimous support. This ordinance was drafted and recommended by the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission (HRC). Council incorporated some small amendments at our

last meeting to address the needs of private landlords that accept federal funding. (2nd reading)

- **Condemning hate and violence directed towards Asian Americans (DC-4):** Since the beginning of the pandemic America has experienced a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, violence, and rhetoric-- more than 30 percent of Asians and Asian Americans report being subjected to discrimination. At 18% of the City's population, Asians and Asian Americans are Ann Arbor's largest racial and ethnic minority. No member of our community should live in fear. This resolution condemns racism and urges residents to report harassment or hate crimes to the AAPD, Human Right's Commission, and/or Michigan Attorney General's Hate Crime Unit. It's easy to think this behavior doesn't happen in Ann Arbor, but we are receiving reports that harassment has been increasing locally as well. Learn [how you can help](#).
- **Enhancing Tenant Rights (C-1):** The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the period of time that landlords are prohibited from entering leased premises for the purpose of showing the premises to prospective tenants and entering into a lease to rent the premises to another tenant for a subsequent lease period, from 70 to 240 days. This ordinance change has been advocated for by [U-M GEO](#) and endorsed by U-M Central Student Government. The current provision of 70 days was adopted in January 2008 with unanimous support of the City Council-Michigan Student Assembly Committee and landlords engaged in the process. The 70 day provision was actually an amendment to a 90 day provision adopted by Council in March 2006. GEO has urged Council to extend the time period to 240 days over concerns that students are required to renew leases just months after moving into an apartment. I support extending the time period past 70 days, but I also think it is appropriate to engage additional stakeholders (non-student renters and landlords) into this process to ensure the time frame and enforcement tools truly address problems and prevent unintended consequences. 240 days, or eight months, would make most student leases expire in mid-April. This could present additional difficulties for students and landlords seeking fall leases. A more robust community conversation may identify additional issues in the ordinance that warrant revisions. ***Please share your thoughts with me on this issue if you are a renter or landlord.*** (1st reading)
- **Amendments to short-term rental ordinance (C-4 and C-5):** In

September 2020, the City enacted Chapter 97 of the City Code which established requirements for the operation, location, and licensing of short-term rentals (e.g. AirBNBs). Establishing requirements for short-term rentals was critical, because previously the City had not distinguished between short-term or long-term rentals in our rental ordinances. Among other provisions, the September amendments included provisions that prohibit the operation of short-term rentals in residential zoning districts when the location is not the principal residence of the property owner. Based on the feedback I've heard from residents, I support the prohibition of non owner occupied short-term rentals in residential areas. However, there was one notable legal issue with the change made last September. On a divided vote, City Council banned existing non owner occupied short term rentals in residential neighborhoods. While this might seem ideal for folks that don't view them as an appropriate activity in neighborhoods, that ban was inconsistent with property rights and land use law. When a use is legal, and short-term rentals were legally permitted in our residentially zoned areas, it is impermissible to deny that use retroactively. I have heard concerns that short-term rentals inflate housing prices and deplete housing supply. I share these concerns, but suggest that the September 2020 code changes were not about protecting our housing supply. If they were, they would not have made a distinction about where housing units were located (residential zones vs. mixed use areas). Rather, the code changes began the important process of regulating short-term rentals in our community. If we want to protect our housing supply, we should care about protecting it in *all areas* of the City (downtown, along commercial corridors, and yes, in neighborhoods). To do this, we need to get a handle on how many short-term rentals we have (staff will be presenting us with this data on Monday) and where they are located and then determine the number of short-term rentals and the density of units we are comfortable with in Ann Arbor.

- **Proposed fine reduction for not shoveling ([PH-6 and B-6](#)):** This ordinance amendment would reduce the fine from \$100 to \$60 (+ processing fees) for a first-time violation for a property owner or occupant who fails to shovel snow/ice from their sidewalks. First-time violators currently get a 24-hour grace period to correct issues before fines are assessed and fines can be reduced due to hardship. I asked staff a few questions regarding this proposal, you can read their responses [here](#). Staff suggests that it would be helpful to consider fines and fees in

conjunction with the comprehensive review of sidewalk snow removal policies and strategies they are currently conducting at Council's direction (see my [2/28 newsletter](#)). A report is due to Council September 6th. Since we are past the snow season and staff is undertaking a review, I believe Council should defer action on this item to ensure any ordinance changes we make are aligned with our goals and addressing the problems we're seeking to solve. (2nd reading)

5th Ward Infrastructure Projects on the Consent Agenda

- **Filling sidewalk gaps on Newport and Sunset ([CA-7](#)):** This project includes the construction of a sidewalk on the west side of Newport Road from Downup Circle to Sunset Road, and on the north side of Sunset Road to Brooks Street. In addition to using funds from new sidewalk millage fund, the project will utilize federal funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to offset the local cost of the project. One of the first steps following Council approval will be hold a public meeting to further discuss the project and receive input from the residents.
- **Acquiring easements for the LynAnne-Arbana Sewer Project ([CA-9](#)):** The sanitary sewer line in this project area was constructed in the 1920s to serve the northwest portion of the City. To alleviate capacity constraints, and reduce the potential for sanitary backups into basements, .8 miles of sanitary sewer is scheduled for replacement with a larger diameter sewer. Permanent and temporary easements must be obtained before beginning the sewer replacement work. Additional easement area is required to accommodate the replacement and upsizing of the sewer. Additional project information [here](#).

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.
Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Thomas McKernan](#)
Subject: Re: Hayner
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:17:24 PM

Dear Mr. McKernan,

I will support the resolution temporarily suspending CM Hayner's board and commission assignments. Last week, I did a facebook post about his use of language sharing and endorsing CM Radina's eloquent response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Thomas McKernan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I believe I am in the first ward at [REDACTED]. How do you intend to vote? on the issue facing this man. Have you voiced your opinion? Thank you, Thomas

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [David Winter](#)
Subject: Re: Civil discourse by Council members
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:17:44 PM

David,
I agree and I plan to.
Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: David Winter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:27 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Civil discourse by Council members

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

Please vote to remove Jeff Hayner from as many committees and responsibilities as possible. His homophobic remarks indicate (1) contempt for LGBTQ people, (2) disregard for the concept of civil discourse, (3) indifference or hostility toward Ann Arbor's efforts and reputation for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and (4) severe addiction to social media.

--David Winter

David G. Winter, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Thomas McKernan](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: Hayner
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:42:27 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good.
thank you (temporary?)

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 12:17 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. McKernan,

I will support the resolution temporarily suspending CM Hayner's board and commission assignments. Last week, I did a facebook post about his use of language sharing and endorsing CM Radina's eloquent response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

lisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Thomas McKernan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I believe I am in the first ward at 100 s fourth Ave. How do you intend to vote? on the issue facing this man. Have you voiced your opinion? Thank you, Thomas

From: [J E Pressel](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Jeff Hayner quoting Hunter S. Thompson
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:21:18 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hunter S. Thompson was an icon that I could never love: a drug-and-alcohol fueled spewer of vitriol who castigated everything and everyone he found offensive, from Richard Nixon to Joan Baez, and most especially any pillar of power, morality or respectability. He was nonetheless well-received, featured in Rolling Stone magazine and acclaimed by fellow authors and others who described him variously as a humorist, an anarchist, and even a moralist, though a “misshapen” one, someone who (ostensibly) made himself ugly to expose the ugliness he saw around him. Thompson also inspired at least two cartoon/comic book characters, Uncle Duke of Doonesbury and, more recently, Spider Jerusalem.

Again, emphatically not my type, and as my mother would say in her milder moments, he should have had his mouth washed out with soap.

But, if Jeff Hayner is going to be Disappeared because he quoted Hunter S. Thompson on the press (another one of Thompson’s detested groups) and in the process offended others who were not the actual target of his barrage (unlike Ron Weiser’s from-his-own-mouth remarks about his own political targets), are we now going to start gathering books for burning?

I think the fever-pitch reaction we’re seeing right now is probably sincere at its core, but also sincerely wrong. Calmer minds need to prevail - immediately, please.

Juliet Pressel



Ann Arbor, MI 48104

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [J E Pressel](#); [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner quoting Hunter S. Thompson
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:34:18 PM

Hi Juliet,

Thank you for writing. As one of the co-sponsors of this resolution, I want to provide some background. This is not just about the quote, which was clearly harmful to a number of people in our community. Put simply, there is no scenario in which this type of slur is acceptable. In addition, this resolution is also about CM Hayer's response to those who expressed concerns. He was quite dismissive to a number of individuals, including those who demonstrated courage in sharing their personal stories.

I support CM Hayer's right to free speech. I also support council's right to hold members accountable for their actions.

I understand that you may disagree with this decision and respect your right to do so. My hope is that this pause in committee and commission participation will provide CM Hayner with some much needed time to reflect upon his actions.

Best,
Julie

From: J E Pressel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:21 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner quoting Hunter S. Thompson

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hunter S. Thompson was an icon that I could never love: a drug-and-alcohol fueled spewer of vitriol who castigated everything and everyone he found offensive, from Richard Nixon to Joan Baez, and most especially any pillar of power, morality or respectability. He was nonetheless well-received, featured in Rolling Stone magazine and acclaimed by fellow authors and others who described him variously as a humorist, an anarchist, and even a moralist, though a "misshapen" one, someone who (ostensibly) made himself ugly to expose the ugliness he saw around him. Thompson also inspired at least two cartoon/comic book characters, Uncle Duke of Doonesbury and, more recently, Spider Jerusalem.

Again, emphatically not my type, and as my mother would say in her milder moments, he should have had his mouth washed out with soap.

But, if Jeff Hayner is going to be Disappeared because he quoted Hunter S. Thompson on the press (another one of Thompson's detested groups) and in the process offended others who were not the actual target of his barrage (unlike Ron Weiser's from-his-own-mouth remarks about his own political targets), are we now going to start gathering books for burning?

I think the fever-pitch reaction we're seeing right now is probably sincere at its core, but also sincerely wrong. Calmer minds need to prevail - immediately, please.

Juliet Pressel



Ann Arbor, MI 48104

From: [Russell Stambaugh](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Criticism of Journalists
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:38:50 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your timely and appropriate response to my letter of concern.

RJS

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021, 22:14 Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Russell Stambaugh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Criticism of Journalists

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

You would probably feel better about yourself if you refrained from making yourself and Ann Arbor City Council look bad by quoting Hunter S Thompson out of context while using an outdated homophobic slur.

When I say 'out of context', I mean that you may recall he was working as a journalist when he made the comment, in addition to being drugged out of his mind during the Vegas trip in question. Your comment lacks even the irony of being self-referential, and comes after 5 years of self-serving attacks on the press by Donald Trump. I'm sure you were not hoping to get the Ann Arbor electorate to think of you as they think of him, despite the fact that is precisely what you have accomplished.

I'm sure you feel that you don't have a homophobic bone in your body when you thoughtlessly used that quote. It may even be true when it washes up on the beach of your next election. For you are certain to hear about it from other Ann Arbor residents next time you have to run.

At any rate, your quote reflects badly not just on you, but on our entire community. I would hate to think I'm sorrier about it than you are.

Candidly,

Russell J Stambaugh, PhD

Third Ward resident

From: [Thomas McKernan](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: Hayner
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:54:27 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

commenting is not nearly enough, this is OUR WARD! Why aren't you doing the condemning? Starting a recall? I see nothing on your page. Feeling duped and very uncomfortable for having voted for you .

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 12:41 PM Thomas McKernan <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good.
thank you (temporary?)

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 12:17 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. McKernan,

I will support the resolution temporarily suspending CM Hayner's board and commission assignments. Last week, I did a facebook post about his use of language sharing and endorsing CM Radina's eloquent response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Thomas McKernan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I believe I am in the first ward at 100 s fourth Ave. How do you intend to vote? on the issue facing this man. Have you voiced your opinion? Thank you, Thomas

From: [Trilby MacDonald](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Fwd: a2view April 15, 2021
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:18:47 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

I regret that this is how we are meeting. I am the editor of the Ann Arbor Observer's weekly e-news publication a2view, and am responsible for an unfortunate error in today's publication. It states, as you can read in the full publication below, the following:

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

It was meant to read that you were temporarily stripped "of your committee assignments." I am deeply sorry for neglecting to include these critical details. It points to a need to review our editing process, which we have now discussed and changes will be implemented which will hopefully avoid any future misprints.

Please know that while this is an unfortunate mistake compounding an already unpleasant situation, this is in no way a reflection of any lack of respect for you or your many accomplishments as a City Council member.


Please accept my sincerest apologies.

Trilby MacDonald

[View this email in your browser](#)



she/her/hers
Ann Arbor Observer


trilby@aaobserver.com
aaobserver.com

Sign up for a2view, our weekly e-newsletter [here!](#)

April 15, 2021

Can you guess what is pictured in the photo above? Click the image above for the answer and more.

Tell a friend about a2view

Question, comment, or tip? Email us at a2view@aaobserver.com

This week

Vaccine rollout hits a snag over Johnson & Johnson safety concerns, but universities remain determined to get everyone vaxxed up and ready for a

more normal fall. Even if we had a surfeit of doses it's unlikely we could vax our way out of the current surge, so our continued vigilance is necessary for a little while longer.

Even though the numbers look bad, spring and all its beauty have brought forth a palpable sense of optimism. More people are in the streets and bars and restaurants are buzzing. The Blue Llama reopens with two in-person concerts this weekend, and two tech companies announce expansions.

Inspired by National Pet Day and an Observer staff member's flying squirrel, we are launching an unusual pet contest.

Trilby MacDonald, editor



Covid-19 Updates

On Wednesday morning, the Washtenaw County Health Department reported **327 new infections, twenty-three hospitalizations, and one death** in the previous twenty-four hours, the highest daily tally since the pandemic began. Last week's positivity shot up to 6.2 percent.

Vaccine clinics relying on the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine are paused until more is known about possible health risks. The [health department](#), the U-M, EMU, and Concordia College all cancelled J&J clinics or switched to other vaccines. [Office of the President](#)

Geoffrey Barnes, a cardiologist and vascular medicine specialist at Michigan Medicine notes that **"The risk of blood clots in patients with COVID is far higher than the very small risk of a blood clot following a COVID-19 vaccine.** Overall, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination greatly outweigh the very small risks." [Michigan Health Blog](#)

On Friday, Governor Whitmer made a series of **recommendations to reduce the spread**, including delayed return to in-person instruction for high schools, suspension of youth sports, and avoidance of indoor dining and gatherings. But Bridge Magazine reports that [people aren't listening, and Whitmer's request for more vaccines from the federal government was denied.](#) Even if vaccines were available, they wouldn't act quickly enough to stem the tide, according to CDC director Rochelle Walensky. Instead, she called on Whitmer "to really close things down." [Bridge](#)

Washtenaw County Health Department spokesperson Susan Ringler-Cerniglia acknowledged that shutdowns and restrictions would be "extremely helpful right now," however **"It's not clear additional orders would be effective in the current climate, and enforcement becomes a huge challenge."**

Anyone sixteen and older is now eligible for a vaccine, but **it continues to be difficult for younger people to get an appointment locally**—even as shots are [going unclaimed](#) elsewhere in Michigan. Ringler-Cerniglia says that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services allocates doses based on "several factors, including [population and the social vulnerability index](#)." The core problem remains supply and demand: vaccine production worldwide is still far short of the need.

Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) public transit is offering **free rides to county residents and employees to Pierce Lake School mass vaccine site in Chelsea**, in collaboration with Washtenaw County Health Department. Visit [Ride the Wave](#) or call dispatch at 734-475-9494 for details.



The News...briefly

The Housing Commission's recommendations for **downtown affordable housing developments go to city council on Monday**. City-owned parking lots under consideration for redevelopment include three on William, at Ashley, Main, and Fourth-Fifth Aves. a2gov.org

County commissioners approve \$15 hour minimum wage for all regular full time county staff—though the vast majority were already making more. Some seasonal positions will continue to make less. washtenaw.org

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later

apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent Jeanice Swift **delayed the return to hybrid learning a second time for grades four through high school**, but is allowing high school sports to continue. Third grade returns today, fourth grade through high school are now scheduled to return May 3. [a2schools.org](#)

Thousands of parents took their students out of public school in 2020-21. County public K-12 school districts saw combined enrollment decrease by 5.4 percent. AAPS is down 3 percent overall, with preK and kindergarten enrollment taking the biggest hit as parents chose to wait for a more normal year. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

U-M researchers discover subatomic particles dancing to their own beat. In a paper published in the *Physical Review of Letters*, U-M physicists working with muons created at the Fermi National Accelerator found that the subatomic particles wobble in unpredictable ways, opening up the possibility of groundbreaking new physics. [Michigan News](#)

Two Ann Arbor-area tech businesses expand. Michigan Strategic Fund grants totalling \$27.9 million will support the expansion of virtual addiction treatment company Workit Health, based in Ann Arbor, and California-based software company Nexient. [Workit Health](#) has committed to creating 179 jobs; [Nexient](#), which has 300 employees in Scio Township, will add 100 more. [Ann Arbor Spark](#)

The American Center for Innovation (ACI) lays plans for a **new STEM magnet school in Ypsilanti**. Former Ypsilanti Community Schools STEM teacher and southeast regional director for the [MiSTEM Network](#) Scott Heister is the driving force behind the new school, which he hopes can utilize the former Willow Run high school and middle school campus. The school would center on a makerspace, and collaborate with local businesses to provide career training. [Concentrate](#)

Huron High School boys basketball team fell one win short of a title, ending its previously unbeaten season in its 45-36 loss to Grand Blanc in the state championship game. The River Rats held the Bobcats to their lowest point total of the season. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)



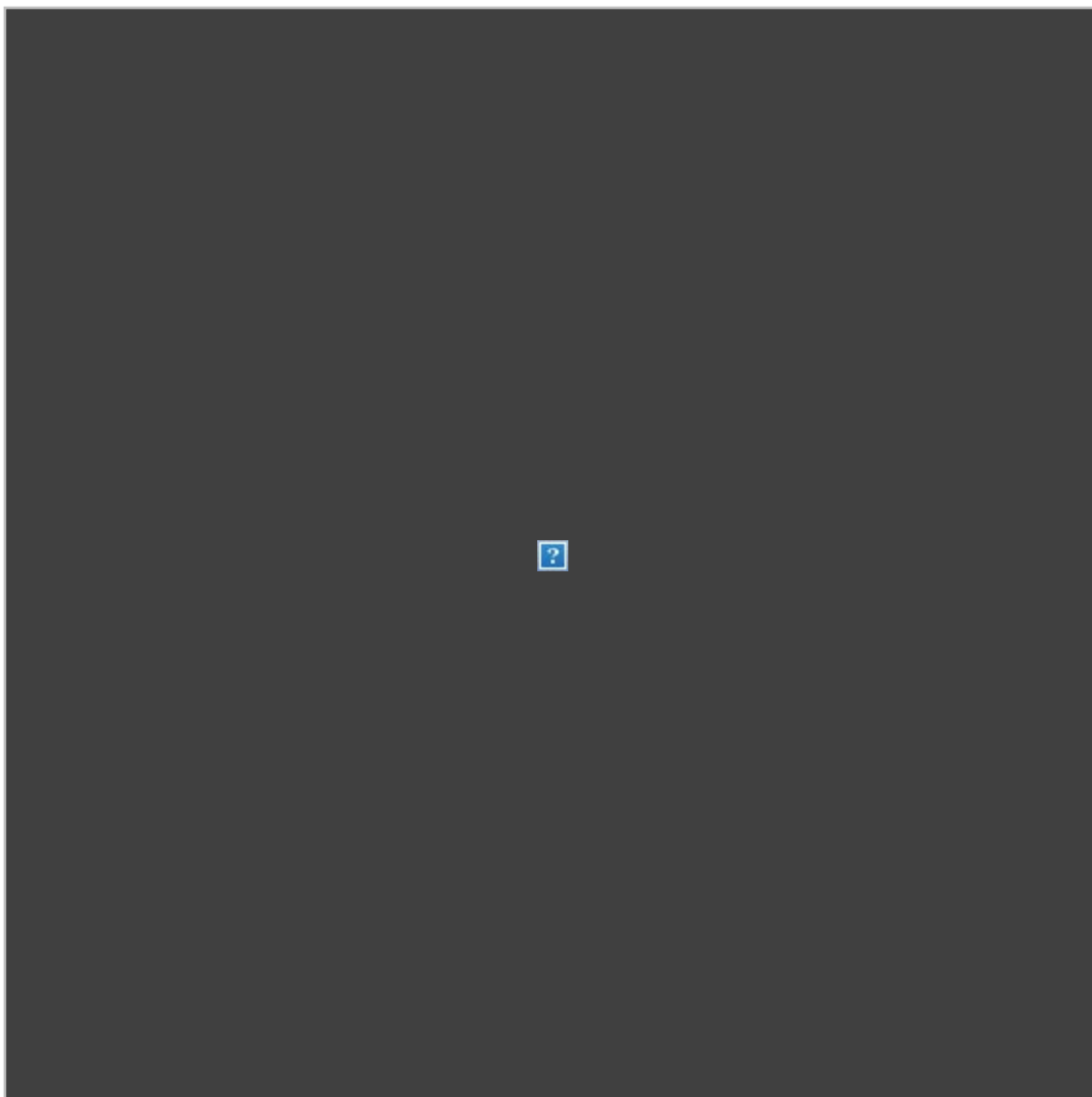
Marketplace Changes

Bee Joyful shop opens in Dexter with sustainably sourced home and body products. Owner Jessica Thompson brings her personal experience to her business. "I was raised in a cabin deep in the forest near Allegan, Michigan. I was 'off the grid,' meaning no electricity, no indoor plumbing and no running water. I learned a lot about being resourceful." The shop also takes hard-to-recycle items like plastic packaging and coffee capsules. beejoyfulshop.com

Blue Llama reopens with two in-person ticketed events this weekend. Brendon Davis Trio plays on Friday, and the Kris Kurzowa Quartet plays on Saturday accompanied by a seven course meal prepared by chef Louis Goral. [Blue Llama](#)

The Michigan Ladder Co. will hold a [liquidation auction](#) this weekend. The sale, which starts on Saturday, includes the 120-year-company's

inventory, machinery, and intellectual property.



Left: Red, a heritage breed Silkie chicken, lives with Susan of [@chickouttawater](#).

Right: Bucky, a flying squirrel, lives with LR.

Odd Pet Contest

In honor of **National Pet Day**, which was on Sunday, April 11, we would like to invite you to submit photos of your **unusual pets** for our next issue. We feature a couple of adorable examples above for inspiration. Please send submissions including pet names and photo credits to a2view@aaobserver.com. Let us know if it's OK to post your photos to social media!

Things to Do

By Ella Bourland

Thursday: Hear **Katherine Heiny** read from and discuss her new novel, **Early Morning Riser** (8 p.m.), about a woman who moves to Boyne City (MI) to teach second grade and becomes enmeshed in a most unconventional family when she falls head over heels for the local Lothario. Bestselling novelist Elin Hilderbrand calls it "a charming, witty and heartwarming novel about life and love in a small town." Q&A. Free online, [At Home with Literati Bookstore](#).

Friday: Livestream **U-M sports**, which remain in "no fans" mode per Big Ten Conference policy. Every spring sport competes this month, plus traditional fall sports including soccer, volleyball, field hockey, and more. See complete list of teams, and ways to view free online, at [mgoblue.com](#).

Saturday: Visit Thurston Nature Center between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to see U-M music grad student Akari Komura's thesis project, **Breathe with the Wind: Sound Ceremonies**. The site-specific sound installation features wind chimes and wooden disks accompanied by written instructions encouraging meditative breathing and awareness of the wind and the rest of nature. Also, **Sunday from 2–3 p.m.**, ten student and alumni musicians perform Komura's original acoustic composition while strolling the green. Bring a blanket or chair, if you'd like. Masks required. Free, [Thurston Nature Center, 2398 Yorktown Dr.](#)

See the Observer's [online calendar](#) for many more local events.



Share



Tweet



Forward

For Sponsorship and Advertising information

Email: a2view@aaobserver.com



Copyright © 2021 Ann Arbor Observer, All rights reserved.
You received this email based on past communications with the Ann Arbor Observer or a2tix.

Our mailing address is:
Ann Arbor Observer
2390 Winewood Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-3841

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can **update your preferences** or **unsubscribe from this list**.

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jo Lo](#)
Subject: RE: a2view April 15, 2021
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:00:00 PM

From: Trilby MacDonald <trilby@aaobserver.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: a2view April 15, 2021

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

I regret that this is how we are meeting. I am the editor of the Ann Arbor Observer's weekly e-news publication a2view, and am responsible for an unfortunate error in today's publication. It states, as you can read in the full publication below, the following:

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

It was meant to read that you were temporarily stripped "of your committee assignments." I am deeply sorry for neglecting to include these critical details. It points to a need to review our editing process, which we have now discussed and changes will be implemented which will hopefully avoid any future misprints.

Please know that while this is an unfortunate mistake compounding an already unpleasant situation, this is in no way a reflection of any lack of respect for you or your many accomplishments as a City Council member.

Please accept my sincerest apologies.

Trilby MacDonald

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 15, 2021

Can you guess what is pictured in the photo above? Click the image above for the answer and more.

[Tell a friend about a2view](#)

Question, comment, or tip? Email us at a2view@aaobserver.com

This week

Vaccine rollout hits a snag over Johnson & Johnson safety concerns, but universities remain determined to get everyone vaxxed up and ready for a more normal fall. Even if we had a surfeit of doses it's unlikely we could vax our way out of the current surge, so our continued vigilance is necessary for a little while longer.

Even though the numbers look bad, spring and all its beauty have brought forth a palpable sense of optimism. More people are in the streets and bars and restaurants are buzzing. The Blue Llama reopens with two in-person concerts this weekend, and two tech companies announce expansions.

Inspired by National Pet Day and an Observer staff member's flying squirrel, we are launching an unusual pet contest.

Trilby MacDonald, editor

Covid-19 Updates

On Wednesday morning, the Washtenaw County Health Department reported **327 new infections, twenty-three hospitalizations, and one death** in the previous twenty-four hours, the highest daily tally since the pandemic began. Last week's positivity shot up to 6.2 percent.

Vaccine clinics relying on the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine are paused until more is known about possible health risks. The [health department](#), the U-M, EMU, and Concordia College all cancelled J&J clinics or switched to other vaccines. [Office of the President](#)

Geoffrey Barnes, a cardiologist and vascular medicine specialist at Michigan Medicine notes that **"The risk of blood clots in patients with COVID is far higher than the very small risk of a blood clot following a COVID-19 vaccine.** Overall, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination greatly outweigh the very small risks." [Michigan Health Blog](#)

On Friday, Governor Whitmer made a series of **recommendations to reduce the spread**, including delayed return to in-person instruction for high schools, suspension of youth sports, and avoidance of indoor dining and gatherings. But Bridge Magazine reports that [people aren't listening, and Whitmer's request for more vaccines from the federal government was denied](#). Even if vaccines were available, they wouldn't act quickly enough to stem the tide, according to CDC director Rochelle Walensky. Instead, she called on Whitmer "to really close things down." [Bridge](#)

Washtenaw County Health Department spokesperson Susan Ringler-Cerniglia acknowledged that shutdowns and restrictions would be "extremely helpful right now," however **"It's not clear additional orders would be effective in the current climate, and enforcement becomes a huge challenge."**

Anyone sixteen and older is now eligible for a vaccine, but **it continues to be difficult for younger people to get an appointment locally**—even as shots are [going unclaimed](#) elsewhere in Michigan. Ringler-Cerniglia says that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services allocates doses based on "several factors, including [population and the social vulnerability index](#)." The core problem remains supply and demand: vaccine production worldwide is still far short of the need.

Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) public transit is offering **free rides to county residents and employees to Pierce Lake School mass vaccine site in Chelsea**, in collaboration with Washtenaw County Health Department. Visit [Ride the Wave](#) or call dispatch at 734-475-9494 for details.

The News...briefly

The Housing Commission's recommendations for **downtown affordable housing developments go to city council on Monday**. City-owned parking lots under consideration for redevelopment include three on William, at Ashley, Main, and Fourth-Fifth Aves. a2gov.org

County commissioners approve \$15 hour minimum wage for all regular full time county staff—though the vast majority were already making more. Some seasonal positions will continue to make less. washtenaw.org

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent Jeanice Swift **delayed the return to hybrid learning a second time for grades four through high school**, but is allowing high school sports to continue. Third grade returns today, fourth grade through high school are now scheduled to return May 3. [a2schools.org](#)

Thousands of parents took their students out of public school in 2020-21. County public K-12 school districts saw combined enrollment decrease by 5.4 percent. AAPS is down 3 percent overall, with preK and kindergarten enrollment taking the biggest hit as parents chose to wait for a more normal year. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

U-M researchers discover subatomic particles dancing to their own beat. In a paper published in the *Physical Review of Letters*, U-M physicists working with muons created at the Fermi National Accelerator found that the subatomic particles wobble in unpredictable ways, opening up the possibility of groundbreaking new physics. [Michigan News](#)

Two Ann Arbor-area tech businesses expand. Michigan Strategic Fund grants totalling \$27.9 million will support the expansion of virtual addiction treatment company Workit Health, based in Ann Arbor, and California-based software company Nexient. [Workit Health](#) has committed to creating 179 jobs; [Nexient](#), which has 300 employees in Scio Township, will add 100 more. [Ann Arbor Spark](#)

The American Center for Innovation (ACI) lays plans for a **new STEM magnet school in Ypsilanti**. Former Ypsilanti Community Schools STEM teacher and southeast regional director for the [MiSTEM Network](#) Scott Heister is the driving force behind the new school, which he hopes can utilize the former Willow Run high school and middle school campus. The school would center on a makerspace, and collaborate with local businesses to provide career training. [Concentrate](#)

Huron High School boys basketball team fell one win short of a title, ending its previously unbeaten season in its 45-36 loss to Grand Blanc in the state championship game. The River Rats held the Bobcats to their lowest point total of the season. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

Marketplace Changes

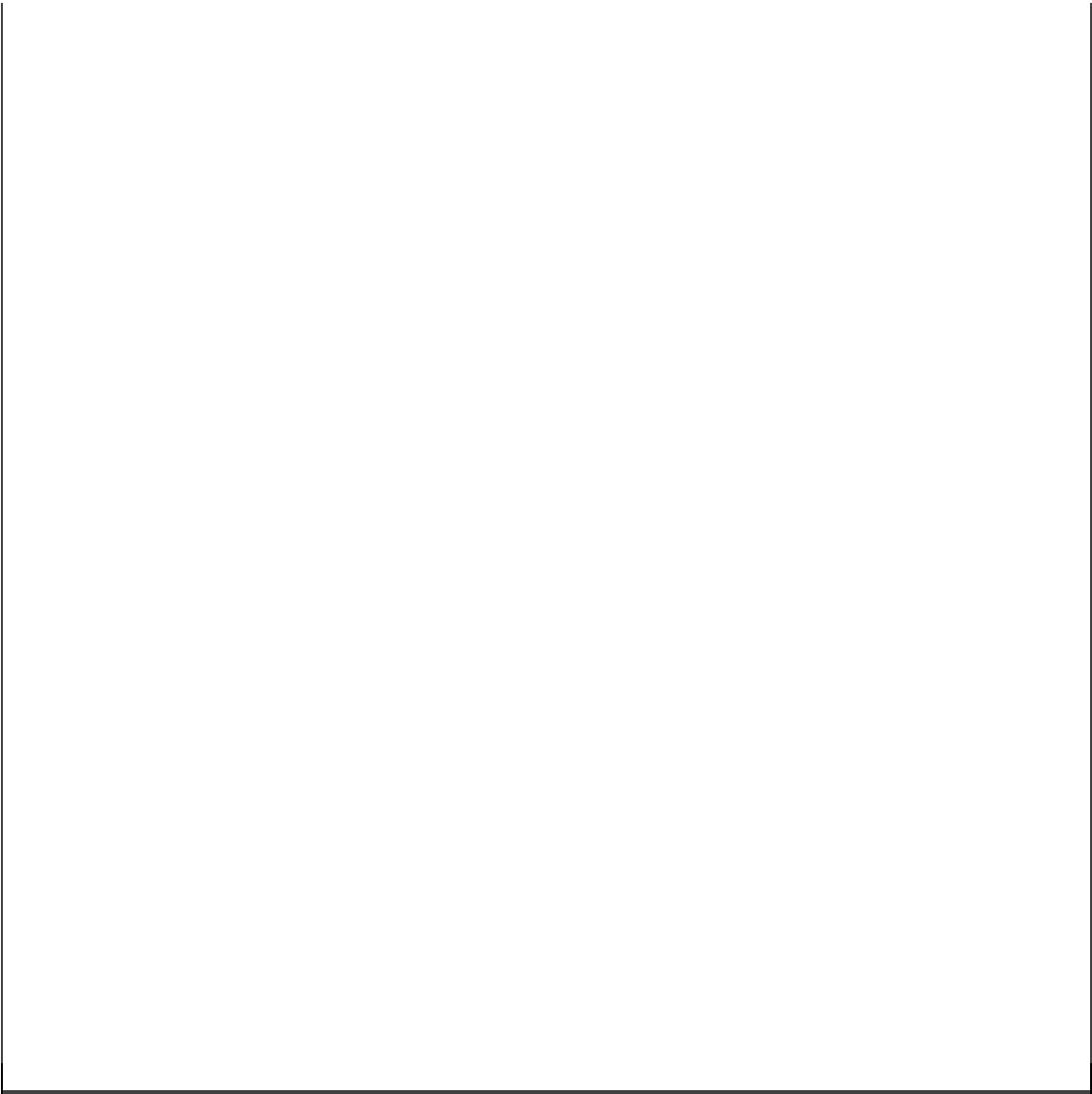
Bee Joyful shop opens in Dexter with sustainably sourced home and body products. Owner Jessica Thompson brings her personal experience to her business. "I was raised in a cabin deep in the forest near Allegan, Michigan. I was 'off the grid,' meaning no electricity, no indoor plumbing and no running water. I learned a lot about being resourceful." The shop also takes hard-to-recycle items like plastic packaging and coffee capsules. beejoyfulshop.com

Blue Llama reopens with two in-person ticketed events this weekend.

Brendon Davis Trio plays on Friday, and the Kris Kurzowa Quartet plays on Saturday accompanied by a seven course meal prepared by chef Louis Goral.
[Blue Llama](#)

The Michigan Ladder Co. will hold a [liquidation auction](#) this weekend.

The sale, which starts on Saturday, includes the 120-year-company's inventory, machinery, and intellectual property.



Left: Red, a heritage breed Silkie chicken, lives with Susan of [@chickouttawater](#).
Right: Bucky, a flying squirrel, lives with LR.

Odd Pet Contest

In honor of **National Pet Day**, which was on Sunday, April 11, we would like to invite you to submit photos of your **unusual pets** for our next issue. We feature a couple of adorable examples above for inspiration. Please send submissions including pet names and photo credits to a2view@aaobserver.com. Let us know if it's OK to post your photos to social media!

Things to Do

By Ella Bourland

Thursday: Hear **Katherine Heiny read from and discuss her new novel, *Early Morning Riser*** (8 p.m.), about a woman who moves to Boyne City (MI) to teach second grade and becomes enmeshed in a most unconventional family when she falls head over heels for the local Lothario. Bestselling novelist Elin Hilderbrand calls it "a charming, witty and heartwarming novel about life and love in a small town." Q&A. Free online, [At Home with Literati Bookstore.](#)

Friday: Livestream **U-M sports**, which remain in "no fans" mode per Big Ten Conference policy. Every spring sport competes this month, plus traditional fall sports including soccer, volleyball, field hockey, and more. See complete list of teams, and ways to view free online, at mgoblue.com.

Saturday: Visit Thurston Nature Center between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to see U-M music grad student Akari Komura's thesis project, ***Breathe with the Wind: Sound Ceremonies***. The site-specific sound installation features wind chimes and wooden disks accompanied by written instructions encouraging meditative breathing and awareness of the wind and the rest of nature. Also, **Sunday from 2–3 p.m.**, ten student and alumni musicians perform Komura's original acoustic composition while strolling the green. Bring a blanket or chair, if you'd like. Masks required. Free, [Thurston Nature Center, 2398 Yorktown Dr.](#)

See the Observer's [online calendar](#) for many more local events.

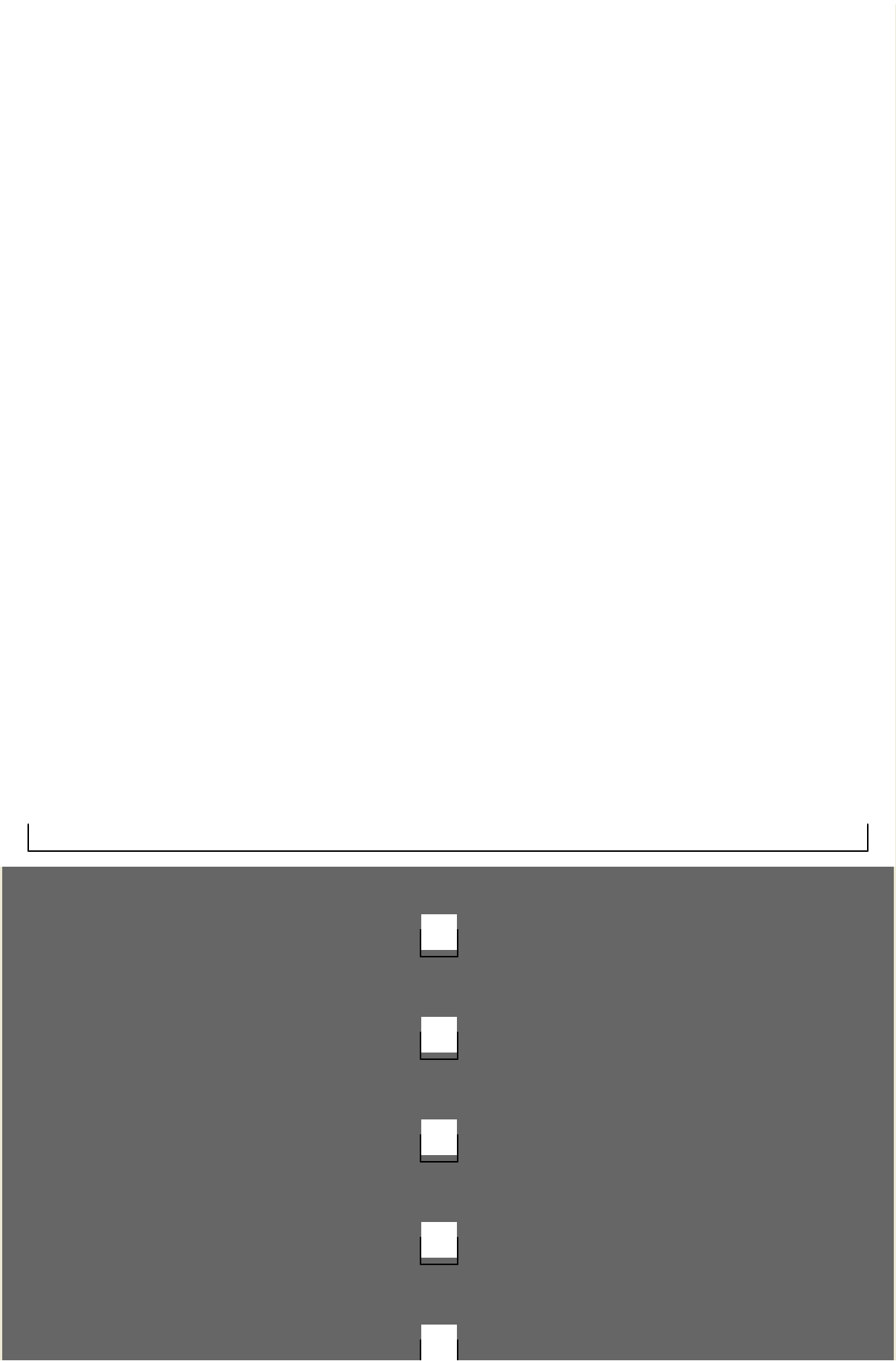
☐ [Share](#)

☐ [Tweet](#)

☐ [Forward](#)

For Sponsorship and Advertising information

Email: a2view@aaobserver.com



Copyright © 2021 Ann Arbor Observer, All rights reserved.
You received this email based on past communications with the Ann Arbor Observer or a2tix.

Our mailing address is:

Ann Arbor Observer
2390 Winewood Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-3841

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

--

Trilby MacDonald
she/her/hers
Ann Arbor Observer



trilby@aaobserver.com
aaobserver.com

Sign up for a2view, our weekly e-newsletter [here!](#)

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Thomas McKernan](#)
Subject: Re: Hayner
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:28:21 PM

Mr. McKernan,

I did post on FB. I think it went to my personal page because for some reason I cannot share posts to my candidate page.

Recall is a prerogative of voters and, tho I am a voter too, in this case I am a fellow council member. My role as I see it is to censure, which I fully plan to do.

One of the concerns I heard when I campaigned was that people are very turned off by the divisiveness on Council. I have stated my concern about CM Hayner's offensive language and don't want to appear to grandstand, pile on, or get on a 'high horse.' That does not mean that I condone his actions or that I don't take seriously the harm of such a cavalier use of hate speech.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Thomas McKernan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:54 PM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

commenting is not nearly enough, this is OUR WARD! Why aren't you doing the condemning? Starting a recall? I see nothing on your page. Feeling duped and very uncomfortable for having voted for you .

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 12:41 PM Thomas McKernan <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good.
thank you (temporary?)

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 12:17 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. McKernan,

I will support the resolution temporarily suspending CM Hayner's board and commission

assignments. Last week, I did a facebook post about his use of language sharing and endorsing CM Radina's eloquent response.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Thomas McKernan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I believe I am in the first ward at 100 s fourth Ave. How do you intend to vote? on the issue facing this man. Have you voiced your opinion? Thank you, Thomas

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Jeff Jefferson](#)
Subject: FW: a2view April 15, 2021
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:07:00 AM

From: Trilby MacDonald <trilby@aaobserver.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: a2view April 15, 2021

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hayner,

I regret that this is how we are meeting. I am the editor of the Ann Arbor Observer's weekly e-news publication a2view, and am responsible for an unfortunate error in today's publication. It states, as you can read in the full publication below, the following:

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

It was meant to read that you were temporarily stripped "of your committee assignments." I am deeply sorry for neglecting to include these critical details. It points to a need to review our editing process, which we have now discussed and changes will be implemented which will hopefully avoid any future misprints.

Please know that while this is an unfortunate mistake compounding an already unpleasant situation, this is in no way a reflection of any lack of respect for you or your many accomplishments as a City Council member.

Please accept my sincerest apologies.

Trilby MacDonald

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 15, 2021

Can you guess what is pictured in the photo above? Click the image above for the answer and more.

[Tell a friend about a2view](#)

Question, comment, or tip? Email us at a2view@aaobserver.com

This week

Vaccine rollout hits a snag over Johnson & Johnson safety concerns, but universities remain determined to get everyone vaxxed up and ready for a more normal fall. Even if we had a surfeit of doses it's unlikely we could vax our way out of the current surge, so our continued vigilance is necessary for a little while longer.

Even though the numbers look bad, spring and all its beauty have brought forth a palpable sense of optimism. More people are in the streets and bars and restaurants are buzzing. The Blue Llama reopens with two in-person concerts this weekend, and two tech companies announce expansions.

Inspired by National Pet Day and an Observer staff member's flying squirrel, we are launching an unusual pet contest.

Trilby MacDonald, editor

Covid-19 Updates

On Wednesday morning, the Washtenaw County Health Department reported **327 new infections, twenty-three hospitalizations, and one death** in the previous twenty-four hours, the highest daily tally since the pandemic began. Last week's positivity shot up to 6.2 percent.

Vaccine clinics relying on the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine are paused until more is known about possible health risks. The [health department](#), the U-M, EMU, and Concordia College all cancelled J&J clinics or switched to other vaccines. [Office of the President](#)

Geoffrey Barnes, a cardiologist and vascular medicine specialist at Michigan Medicine notes that **"The risk of blood clots in patients with COVID is far higher than the very small risk of a blood clot following a COVID-19 vaccine.** Overall, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination greatly outweigh the very small risks." [Michigan Health Blog](#)

On Friday, Governor Whitmer made a series of **recommendations to reduce the spread**, including delayed return to in-person instruction for high schools, suspension of youth sports, and avoidance of indoor dining and gatherings. But Bridge Magazine reports that [people aren't listening, and Whitmer's request for more vaccines from the federal government was denied](#). Even if vaccines were available, they wouldn't act quickly enough to stem the tide, according to CDC director Rochelle Walensky. Instead, she called on Whitmer "to really close things down." [Bridge](#)

Washtenaw County Health Department spokesperson Susan Ringler-Cerniglia acknowledged that shutdowns and restrictions would be "extremely helpful right now," however **"It's not clear additional orders would be effective in the current climate, and enforcement becomes a huge challenge."**

Anyone sixteen and older is now eligible for a vaccine, but **it continues to be difficult for younger people to get an appointment locally**—even as shots are [going unclaimed](#) elsewhere in Michigan. Ringler-Cerniglia says that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services allocates doses based on "several factors, including [population and the social vulnerability index](#)." The core problem remains supply and demand: vaccine production worldwide is still far short of the need.

Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) public transit is offering **free rides to county residents and employees to Pierce Lake School mass vaccine site in Chelsea**, in collaboration with Washtenaw County Health Department. Visit [Ride the Wave](#) or call dispatch at 734-475-9494 for details.

The News...briefly

The Housing Commission's recommendations for **downtown affordable housing developments go to city council on Monday**. City-owned parking lots under consideration for redevelopment include three on William, at Ashley, Main, and Fourth-Fifth Aves. a2gov.org

County commissioners approve \$15 hour minimum wage for all regular full time county staff—though the vast majority were already making more. Some seasonal positions will continue to make less. washtenaw.org

City council's administrative committee recommends **temporarily stripping council member Jeff Hayner for an offensive Facebook post**. Hayner shared a quote from the late Hunter S. Thompson that denigrated journalists and homosexuals. Hayner at first defended his use of the quote but later apologized. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent Jeanice Swift **delayed the return to hybrid learning a second time for grades four through high school**, but is allowing high school sports to continue. Third grade returns today, fourth grade through high school are now scheduled to return May 3. [a2schools.org](#)

Thousands of parents took their students out of public school in 2020-21. County public K-12 school districts saw combined enrollment decrease by 5.4 percent. AAPS is down 3 percent overall, with preK and kindergarten enrollment taking the biggest hit as parents chose to wait for a more normal year. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

U-M researchers discover subatomic particles dancing to their own beat. In a paper published in the *Physical Review of Letters*, U-M physicists working with muons created at the Fermi National Accelerator found that the subatomic particles wobble in unpredictable ways, opening up the possibility of groundbreaking new physics. [Michigan News](#)

Two Ann Arbor-area tech businesses expand. Michigan Strategic Fund grants totalling \$27.9 million will support the expansion of virtual addiction treatment company Workit Health, based in Ann Arbor, and California-based software company Nexient. [Workit Health](#) has committed to creating 179 jobs; [Nexient](#), which has 300 employees in Scio Township, will add 100 more. [Ann Arbor Spark](#)

The American Center for Innovation (ACI) lays plans for a **new STEM magnet school in Ypsilanti**. Former Ypsilanti Community Schools STEM teacher and southeast regional director for the [MiSTEM Network](#) Scott Heister is the driving force behind the new school, which he hopes can utilize the former Willow Run high school and middle school campus. The school would center on a makerspace, and collaborate with local businesses to provide career training. [Concentrate](#)

Huron High School boys basketball team fell one win short of a title, ending its previously unbeaten season in its 45-36 loss to Grand Blanc in the state championship game. The River Rats held the Bobcats to their lowest point total of the season. [MLive](#) (subscriber exclusive)

Marketplace Changes

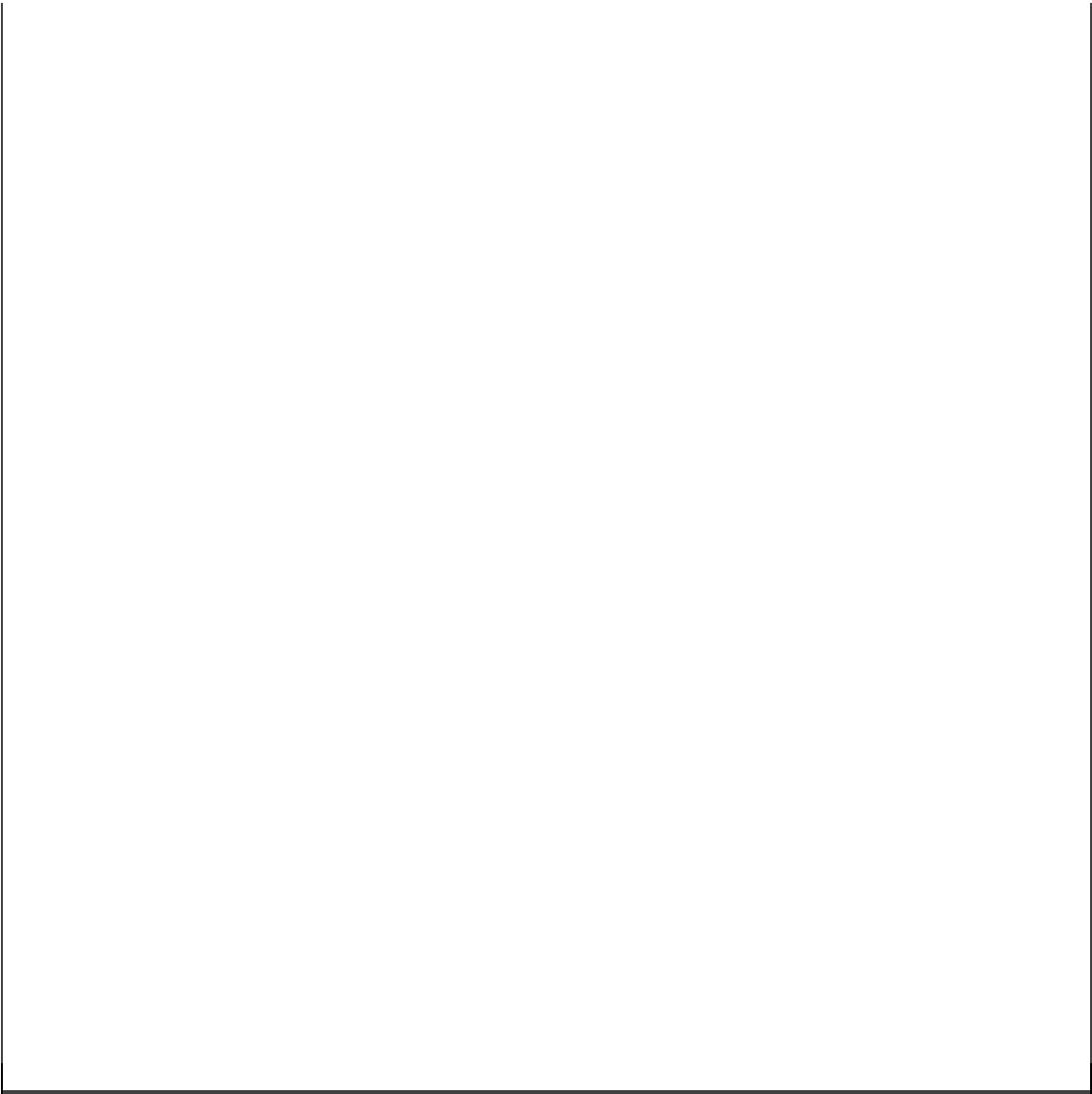
Bee Joyful shop opens in Dexter with sustainably sourced home and body products. Owner Jessica Thompson brings her personal experience to her business. "I was raised in a cabin deep in the forest near Allegan, Michigan. I was 'off the grid,' meaning no electricity, no indoor plumbing and no running water. I learned a lot about being resourceful." The shop also takes hard-to-recycle items like plastic packaging and coffee capsules. beejoyfulshop.com

Blue Llama reopens with two in-person ticketed events this weekend.

Brendon Davis Trio plays on Friday, and the Kris Kurzowa Quartet plays on Saturday accompanied by a seven course meal prepared by chef Louis Goral.
[Blue Llama](#)

The Michigan Ladder Co. will hold a [liquidation auction](#) this weekend.

The sale, which starts on Saturday, includes the 120-year-company's inventory, machinery, and intellectual property.



Left: Red, a heritage breed Silkie chicken, lives with Susan of [@chickouttawater](#).
Right: Bucky, a flying squirrel, lives with LR.

Odd Pet Contest

In honor of **National Pet Day**, which was on Sunday, April 11, we would like to invite you to submit photos of your **unusual pets** for our next issue. We feature a couple of adorable examples above for inspiration. Please send submissions including pet names and photo credits to a2view@aaobserver.com. Let us know if it's OK to post your photos to social media!

Things to Do

By Ella Bourland

Thursday: Hear **Katherine Heiny read from and discuss her new novel, *Early Morning Riser*** (8 p.m.), about a woman who moves to Boyne City (MI) to teach second grade and becomes enmeshed in a most unconventional family when she falls head over heels for the local Lothario. Bestselling novelist Elin Hilderbrand calls it "a charming, witty and heartwarming novel about life and love in a small town." Q&A. Free online, [At Home with Literati Bookstore.](#)

Friday: Livestream **U-M sports**, which remain in "no fans" mode per Big Ten Conference policy. Every spring sport competes this month, plus traditional fall sports including soccer, volleyball, field hockey, and more. See complete list of teams, and ways to view free online, at mgoblue.com.

Saturday: Visit Thurston Nature Center between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to see U-M music grad student Akari Komura's thesis project, ***Breathe with the Wind: Sound Ceremonies***. The site-specific sound installation features wind chimes and wooden disks accompanied by written instructions encouraging meditative breathing and awareness of the wind and the rest of nature. Also, **Sunday from 2–3 p.m.**, ten student and alumni musicians perform Komura's original acoustic composition while strolling the green. Bring a blanket or chair, if you'd like. Masks required. Free, [Thurston Nature Center, 2398 Yorktown Dr.](#)

See the Observer's [online calendar](#) for many more local events.

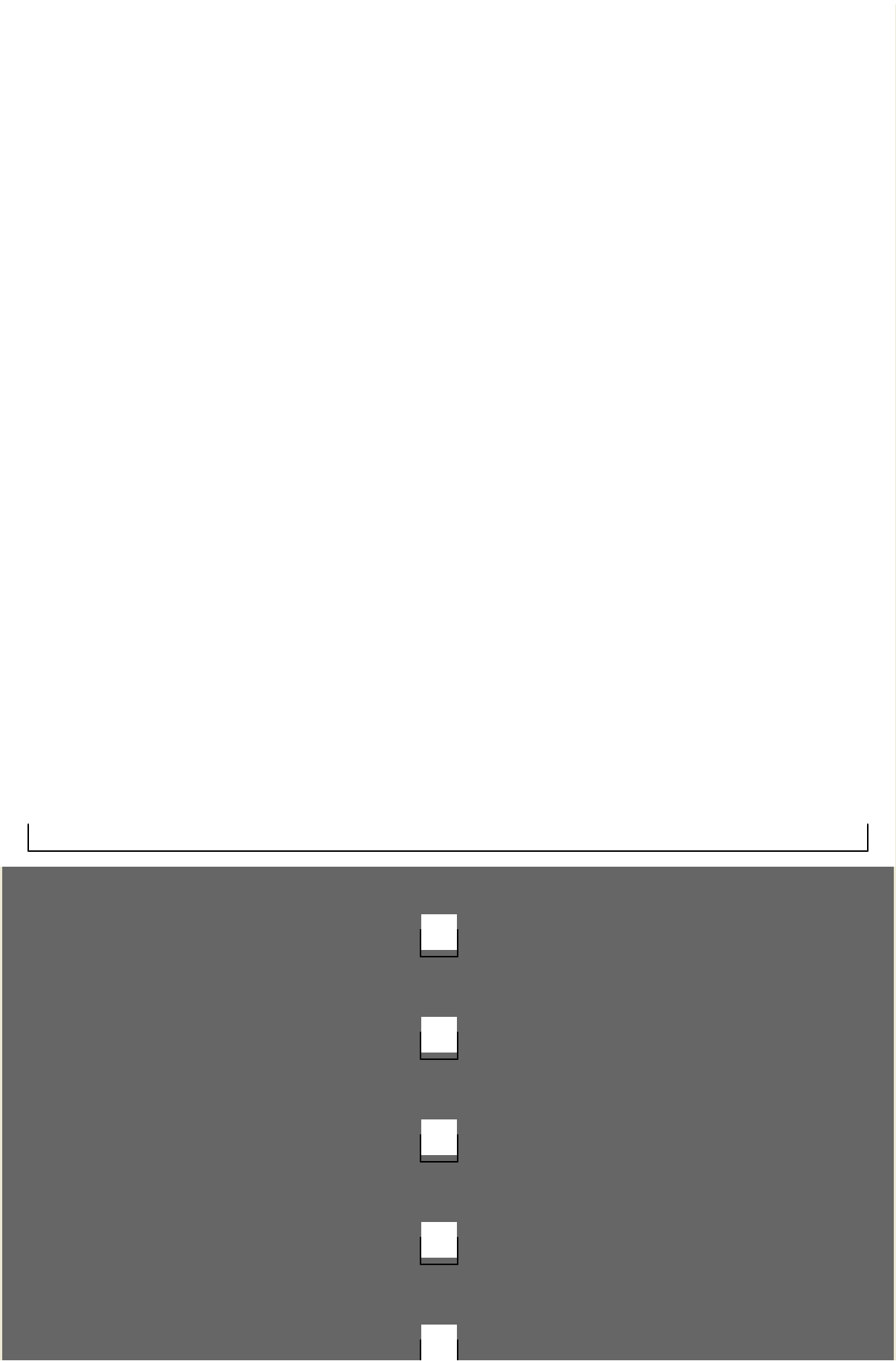
☐ [Share](#)

☐ [Tweet](#)

☐ [Forward](#)

For Sponsorship and Advertising information

Email: a2view@aaobserver.com



Copyright © 2021 Ann Arbor Observer, All rights reserved.
You received this email based on past communications with the Ann Arbor Observer or a2tix.

Our mailing address is:

Ann Arbor Observer
2390 Winewood Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-3841

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

--

Trilby MacDonald
she/her/hers
Ann Arbor Observer



trilby@aaobserver.com
aaobserver.com

Sign up for a2view, our weekly e-newsletter [here!](#)

From: [Griswold, Kathy](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Jeff Hayner quoting Hunter S. Thompson
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:53:18 AM

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: J E Pressel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:21:07 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Jeff Hayner quoting Hunter S. Thompson

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hunter S. Thompson was an icon that I could never love: a drug-and-alcohol fueled spewer of vitriol who castigated everything and everyone he found offensive, from Richard Nixon to Joan Baez, and most especially any pillar of power, morality or respectability. He was nonetheless well-received, featured in Rolling Stone magazine and acclaimed by fellow authors and others who described him variously as a humorist, an anarchist, and even a moralist, though a “misshapen” one, someone who (ostensibly) made himself ugly to expose the ugliness he saw around him. Thompson also inspired at least two cartoon/comic book characters, Uncle Duke of Doonesbury and, more recently, Spider Jerusalem.

Again, emphatically not my type, and as my mother would say in her milder moments, he should have had his mouth washed out with soap.

But, if Jeff Hayner is going to be Disappeared because he quoted Hunter S. Thompson on the press (another one of Thompson’s detested groups) and in the process offended others who were not the actual target of his barrage (unlike Ron Weiser’s from-his-own-mouth remarks about his own political targets), are we now going to start gathering books for burning?

I think the fever-pitch reaction we’re seeing right now is probably sincere at its core, but also sincerely wrong. Calmer minds need to prevail - immediately, please.

Juliet Pressel

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

From: [Bao Nguyen](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: 4/19 Agenda Item DC-3
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 3:11:20 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Council Member Travis Radina,

I'm former mayor Bao Nguyen and reciprocity ambassador of Psychable, an online community that includes practitioners of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Ann Arbor, throughout Michigan, and beyond.

I humbly request your consideration and strong support of the 4/19 Agenda Item [DC-3 21-0737](#), a ceremonial proclamation I had prepared for your city to declare April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Regrettably, I realized I asked the wrong person to sponsor the proclamation. I thought that your colleague Jeff Hayner was the right person to move the proclamation because I'd read news of him in your city's decriminalization of psychedelic substances last year. I've only recently become aware of Mr. Hayner's homophobic remarks in attacking the First Amendment vis-a-vis the free press. As the first openly-gay mayor of my city, I stand with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor.

I hope you are the leader I'm looking for to move the proclamation to help raise awareness and destigmatize mental health, specifically psychedelic-assisted therapy. Please let me know if I can count on your support. I can also be reach by telephone at +1 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your service and compassionate leadership. I look forward to your reply and hopefully working together.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
[Former Mayor of Garden Grove, California](#)
Reciprocity Ambassador
Psychable.com

From: [Bao Nguyen](#)
To: [Eyer, Jen](#)
Subject: 4/19 Agenda Item DC-3
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 3:14:41 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Council Member Jen Eyer,

I'm former mayor Bao Nguyen and reciprocity ambassador of Psychable, an online community that includes practitioners of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Ann Arbor, throughout Michigan, and beyond.

I humbly request your consideration and strong support of the 4/19 Agenda Item [DC-3 21-0737](#), a ceremonial proclamation I had prepared for your city to declare April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Regrettably, I realized I asked the wrong person to sponsor the proclamation. I thought that your colleague Jeff Hayner was the right person to move the proclamation because I'd read news of him in your city's decriminalization of psychedelic substances last year. I've only recently become aware of Mr. Hayner's homophobic remarks in attacking the First Amendment vis-a-vis the free press. As the first openly-gay mayor of my city, I stand with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor.

I hope you are the leader I'm looking for to move the proclamation to help raise awareness and destigmatize mental health, specifically psychedelic-assisted therapy. Please let me know if I can count on your support. I can also be reached by telephone at +1 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your service and compassionate leadership. I look forward to your reply and hopefully working together.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
[Former Mayor of Garden Grove, California](#)
Reciprocity Ambassador
Psychable.com

From: [Bao Nguyen](#)
To: [Song, Linh](#)
Subject: 4/19 Agenda Item DC-3
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 3:24:57 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Council Member Linh Song,

I'm former mayor Bao Nguyen and reciprocity ambassador of Psychable, an online community that includes practitioners of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Ann Arbor, throughout Michigan, and beyond. I was born in a refugee camp in Thailand, and like you, raised by Vietnamese refugees. So, I also want to congratulate you on your successful election and leadership. It fills me with pride to see a fellow Vietnamese American progressive Democrat in elected office.

I am writing to you to humbly request your consideration and strong support of the 4/19 Agenda Item [DC-3 21-0737](#), a ceremonial proclamation I had prepared for your city to declare April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Regrettably, I realized I asked the wrong person to sponsor the proclamation. I thought that your colleague Jeff Hayner was the right person to move the proclamation because I'd read news of him in your city's decriminalization of psychedelic substances last year. I've only recently become aware of Mr. Hayner's homophobic remarks in attacking the First Amendment vis-a-vis the free press. As the first openly-gay and first person of color mayor of my city, I stand with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor.

I hope you are the leader I'm looking for to move the proclamation to help raise awareness and destigmatize mental health, specifically psychedelic-assisted therapy. Please let me know if I can count on your support. I can also be reached by telephone at +1 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your service and compassionate leadership. I look forward to your reply and hopefully working together.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
[Former Mayor of Garden Grove, California](#)
Reciprocity Ambassador
[Psychable.com](#)

From: [alan haber](#)
To: a2na@googlegroups.com; [Griswold, Kathy](#)
Subject: Re: [A2NA] Support the new Griswold resolution DC6
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:07:51 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you Libby for raising my awareness of what's going on, and Jack for your very clear statement.

Somehow the Mayor, whom I heard used to be a decent guy, has lost the basic integrity of attending to the rules.

This was already evident in his opposition to the Center of the City Commons. He violated his oath of office to protect the constitutional rights of people by voiding the 200+ voters right to petition the government for redress of grievance, and then when we petitioned again he offend the law by trying to attach a biased argument against Proposal A as a preface to the City Council Amendment Ballot Statement

I hope he would read Jack's statement and feel a little chastened and reconsider his Resolution and suggest instead the proper due process, if there is actually an offence still needing attention.

In sad parallel, I am involved in a protest at the People's Food Coop. There the General Manager has accused a member-owner of saying something he never said, a banned word, and she called the police who accosted the member at the door, and threatened arrest if he returns to the Coop within a year, and tells the member there is no appeal and the penalty was proper. That the authoritarian mind can presume such disregard for basic fairness, due process, and the human character of the individual, is a malady of the times. It defames whatever institution that allows its leadership to take that course.

Jeff Hayner is as good a model of integrity and honesty as I know, a good worker in the trades in which I too work.

So is the member-owner expelled from the Coop.

A member petition referendum at the Coop door might serve to raise toward redress the question at the Coop.

What is needed for the Mayor and Council Members choosing to follow his bully pulpit, or lead him on?

Kathy Griswold's Resolution is a start: get the City Council a team psycho and organizational therapists.

Spend some quality time together

ProBono would be better, finding facilitators with a passion for this task with the City Council, doing it for love..

Perhaps it is a loveless task

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 7:40 PM Hunter Elizabeth <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Taylor has added his censure of Jeff Hayner, DC5, to the agenda for Monday's council meeting. Text:

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4916678&GUID=8AAA581A->

[F949-4A5B-8CEA-824FB51F5656](https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4916785&GUID=4E9219AE-0CD4-4420-85FD-ECE8F91D54F9)

CM Kathy Griswold has also added a resolution, DC6, stating that the dysfunction of council necessitates a mediator who should be hired for 2 months. Text:

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4916785&GUID=4E9219AE-0CD4-4420-85FD-ECE8F91D54F9>

Please consider calling the city clerk at 8am on the dot Monday morning to sign up for public commentary at Monday's council meeting.
Support Kathy's resolution.

Below are a couple new comments from people on this list and also Jack Eaton's enlightening analysis of the current situation.

* * *

We need to keep pointing out that Taylor orchestrated the whole shitstorm directed at Jeff. This incident actually shows how toxic Taylor's leadership is.

The issue here is transparency and that the Mayor is attempting to use a political hit move on Jeff.

* * *

From Jack Eaton:

On Friday, April 16, Mayor Taylor, and Council members Eyer and Grand added a resolution to the April 19 City

Council meeting agenda seeking removal of Council member Hayner from his Council Committee assignments. The manner in which this action is being pursued ignores pertinent parts of the City Charter, City Code and Council Rules. The ability of Council to regulate the conduct of Council members is clearly established in the Charter, Code and Rules. There is a recognition that offensive behavior can be of different levels of severity and the level of severity determines the severity of consequence.

The resolution does not cite a violation of Council Rules because it seeks to circumvent the process and punishments prescribed in those rules. In doing so, the Resolution seeks to assert brute majoritarianism rather than law and rule.

The Charter, Code and Rules describe the appropriate measure for responding to Council misbehavior based on the seriousness of the offense. The City Charter addresses the most serious offenses, those warranting removal from office. The Charter requires that Council adopt an ordinance to provide for removal that at a minimum requires notice of the charges and a hearing. That is basic due process. The City did not have an ordinance allowing removal from office until after it adopted ethics rules in 2015. Until then, there was no mechanism for removing a Council member who had stopped attending meeting or who was incarcerated, among other things.

The Council adopted Chapter 6 - Procedures for the

Removal of Councilmembers as a new section of the City Code. Importantly the ordinance requires that a “reason for removal based on the direct connection between the misconduct and the performance of the office.” It provides examples of such conduct: “Conviction of any provision of the election laws of the state or city, conviction of a felony or of an offense involving a violation of an oath of office, conviction of the state criminal misconduct in office statute, default of any debt to the city, or repeated violations of the Council Ethics or Administrative Rules that demonstrate a disregard for these rules.”

Lesser forms of misconduct are addressed by the Council Rules. Rule 12 describes the manner in which Council has decided to address Council member behavior. “City Council has determined that the internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling or reprimand should be done according to the following procedure.” Misbehavior less than that which would warrant removal is meant to be addressed either through counselling or reprimand. Like the Charter and the City Code, the Rules require adherence to due process, notice and an opportunity for hearing. Nothing in the Rules provide for any other punishment.

The Council resolution seeking to remove a Council member from his Council committee appointments fails to follow the design of the Charter, Code and Rules. First, the complaint was not provided to the Council member and he was not

provided the opportunity to respond. That is just basic due process. Second, the action being proposed is well outside the scope of discipline allowed in the Charter, Code and Rules.

When I served on Council, I was a member of the Council Rules Committee. I was on that Committee when it proposed the ethics rules in 2015 and when Council approved the removal ordinance in January 2018. The discussions of the Rules and the Ordinance involved considerable deliberation on making certain that disciplining or removing a Council member would not be politicized.

The careful drafting of the Rules and Ordinance made clear that they not be used for political advantage. It worked until this episode. For example, when a Council member was charged with felony drunk driving and subsequently entered a plea to a lesser charge, the Rules did not provide an opportunity to discipline him. (Separately, questions were raised about the applicability of a State law). Similarly, when a Council member was found to have lied in campaign material, the rules did not provide an avenue to redress that offense.

Put simply, the Charter, Code and Rules should not be used by a Council majority to target a member of the minority. The Council also should not go outside of the disciplinary design of the Charter, Code and Rules to fashion punitive measures for political advantage.

A Council member's use of a slur reflects poorly on both the individual and the Council as a whole. It is appropriate for the Council to address that behavior. The Rules provide a clear process and remedy for a Council member's use of a slur. The process requires bringing a charge against the member and allowing him to respond in the Administrative Committee. In this case, the Administrative Committee discussed the plan to bring a resolution to Council but the sponsoring members did not provide a written proposal at that Committee meeting for other members to discuss. They also did not give the accused member prior notice of the intent to discuss the matter.

Had the sponsors of this resolution followed the Council Rules, they would have filed charges and given the accused and the Committee an opportunity discuss which of the penalties permitted by the Rules was appropriate to the charge. The permissible penalties are either counseling or reprimand. In this case, it is likely that the Council member would agree to a proportionate penalty. It is wholly inappropriate to circumvent the process and remedy provided in the Rules.

--

Visit our page: www.a2na.org

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "A2NA" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to a2na+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/a2na/A6613665-43C7-4053-B271-B452484A194D%40gmail.com>.

From: [Mozhgan Savabieasfahani](#)
To: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Grand, Julie](#); [ryanstanton@mlive.com](#); [news@michigandaily.com](#); [Osama Siblani](#); [annie@mondoweiss.net](#); [mslagter@mlive.com](#); [apmichigan@ap.org](#); [Arab America E-News](#); [kkozłowski@detroitnews.com](#); [djesse@freepress.com](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#); [newsroom office](#); [Dan Korobkin](#); [Rana Elmir](#); [margaret.kimberley@blackagenda.com](#); [Glen Ford](#); [SAFEBoard](#); [msa-eboard@umich.edu](#); [cnouhan@umich.edu](#); [isaac.stanley-becker@washpost.com](#); [Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission](#); [Jeanes, Denise](#); [Jorge Avellan](#); [McKenna Ross](#); [Matthew Haugen](#); [Megan Berkobien](#); [Aaron Stark](#); [Kai Wang](#); [ericfreef](#); [Harrison, Venita](#); [Steven Marowski](#); [Postema, Stephen](#); [Rebecca Esselman](#); [dbrown@hrwc.org](#); [jfrenzel@hrwc.org](#); [jkangas@hrwc.org](#); [klaramie@hrwc.org](#); [rlawson@hrwc.org](#); [Olsson, Kris](#); [apaine@hrwc.org](#); [wpalms@hrwc.org](#); [psteen@hrwc.org](#); [maciejewskij@washtenaw.org](#); [shinks@washtenaw.org](#); [beemans@washtenaw.org](#); [brabecf@washtenaw.org](#); [jamnickr@washtenaw.org](#); [jeffersonr@washtenaw.org](#); [labarrea@washtenaw.org](#); [morganj@washtenaw.org](#); [scottk@washtenaw.org](#); [JKnowles@sciotownship.org](#); [depalmer@sciotownship.org](#); [KKnol@sciotownship.org](#); [cgreen@sciotownship.org](#); [dread@sciotownship.org](#); [imartin@sciotownship.org](#); [jflintoft@sciotownship.org](#); [Congresswoman.Dingell@mail.house.gov](#); [Eyer, Jen](#); [Song, Linh](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Disch, Lisa](#); [Radina, Travis](#); [hivine@emich.edu](#)
Subject: Julie Grand, the seek-and-destroy missile, is "shocked" at a resolution for the Palestinian people.
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:38:22 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Julie Grand, the seek-and-destroy missile, is "shocked" at a resolution for the Palestinian people.

To the Ann Arbor City Council:

Stop pretending! You are nothing but a dressed-up lawless mob. Up until now, you've been a seek-and-destroy City Council aimed at the Palestinian people and anyone who ever defended them, like Councilmember Hayner.

Your lawless actions show that you care nothing for any LGBT woman who was victimized by sexual harassment in your own Councilmember's Public Relations outfit in Lansing, and that you care nothing about all the women who accuse her of enabling that harassment. I believe those women. Why don't you?

You pretend to celebrate a LGBT pioneer, Councilmember Kozachenko, while spitting on a very large part of what she stood for -- Palestinian human rights. Why do you mock her like that? While on Council, she stood up for human rights across the board. Why don't you follow her example, instead of turning her into a one-dimensional paper doll?

You have shown that you care nothing for LGBT people lying dead under Israel's bombs and bullets in Palestine. You refuse to even say "no" to paying obscene sums of money to the Israeli military.

But when it comes to a Councilmember who has actually marched for gay rights, more than almost any of you, a Councilmember who has publicly demanded human rights for Palestinians, a Councilmember who pushes for human rights across the board; you are willing to demolish every rule to crucify him for one stupid quote from one dead twisted journalist named Hunter S. Thompson, who was writing during Nixon's first term.

You Mr. Taylor, and your slate, are guilty of selective prosecution when you turn a blind eye to Jen Eyer's blatant public lies, and when you turn a deaf ear to her extremely ugly attacks on the only Palestinian to sit on City Council. You turn another blind eye to Councilmember Grand when she publicly threatens that same Palestinian that she (Ms. Grand) can "become

a seek-and-destroy missile". You, Mayor Taylor, also turned a blind eye when Councilmember Zachary Ackerman lied and broke the law while on City Council.

Grand's military language is reminiscent of Israel's deadly guided missiles. Those missiles have destroyed thousands of lives. Is Councilmember Julie Grand volunteering to be a new category of Israeli missile unleashed on innocent people?

On Tuesday April 13th, Councilmember Julie Grand expressed her "shock" at seeing a resolution for the Palestinian people being proposed for a vote by Ann Arbor City Council.

The same day, ex-Councilmember Joan Lowenstein urged Councilmembers to "block" that resolution.

Neither Grand nor Lowenstein asked you to vote that resolution down. No, they expressed shock and a desire to just "block" that human rights resolution. If a missile could talk, it would sound like Grand and Lowenstein.

Americans are sick and tired of supporting a violent racist state with their tax dollars. A legislative initiative to promote Palestinian rights, the ***Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act***, was just introduced to the U.S. Congress on April 15th, 2021.

So you see that, here in Ann Arbor, we are not acting in a vacuum.

One thousand four hundred and seventy-three (1,473) people are petitioning Ann Arbor City Council for an extremely simple resolution: "We are against military aid to Israel."

Let us keep that \$38 billion (promised to Israel) right here. We can put that money to better use.

-Dr. Mozhgan Savabieasfahani

Candidate for Ann Arbor City Council, 2020 primary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kYdnvS6aQI>

April 16th, 2021

From: [Eyer, Jen](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Fw: 4/19 Agenda Item DC-3
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 11:29:20 AM

From: Bao Nguyen <bao@psychable.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>
Subject: 4/19 Agenda Item DC-3

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Council Member Jen Eyer,

I'm former mayor Bao Nguyen and reciprocity ambassador of Psychable, an online community that includes practitioners of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Ann Arbor, throughout Michigan, and beyond.

I humbly request your consideration and strong support of the 4/19 Agenda Item [DC-3 21-0737](#), a ceremonial proclamation I had prepared for your city to declare April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Regrettably, I realized I asked the wrong person to sponsor the proclamation. I thought that your colleague Jeff Hayner was the right person to move the proclamation because I'd read news of him in your city's decriminalization of psychedelic substances last year. I've only recently become aware of Mr. Hayner's homophobic remarks in attacking the First Amendment vis-a-vis the free press. As the first openly-gay mayor of my city, I stand with the LGBTQ community in Ann Arbor.

I hope you are the leader I'm looking for to move the proclamation to help raise awareness and destigmatize mental health, specifically psychedelic-assisted therapy. Please let me know if I can count on your support. I can also be reached by telephone at +1 [REDACTED]

Thank you for your service and compassionate leadership. I look forward to your reply and hopefully working together.

Sincerely,

Bao Nguyen
[Former Mayor of Garden Grove, California](#)
Reciprocity Ambassador
Psychable.com

From: [poodlechild](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Jeff Hayner
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 5:00:21 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali- I want to go on record as objecting to the harsh penalties proposed against Jeff Hayner. He realizes posting that Hunter S. Thompson quote was a mistake and he has apologized for doing it. I am sure Jeff is not a bigot in any way and the quote was not directed at the GLBTQ community. Also, the proposed action does not seem to be in accordance with city council rules. Council rules need to apply equally to all members.

Thanks again for all that you do. -Peace, Kitty

From: [Kitty B. Kahn](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: I am against the proposed penalties against you.
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 5:13:33 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Jeff- I value your voice on city council and am against the harsh penalties that are being proposed. You should not be stripped of your board and commission seats. I know you are not a bigot in any way and the posting for the Hunter S. Thompson quote was not directed at the GLBTQ community. You were making a point and you made a mistake and have apologized for it. I believe you are sincere. The proposed penalties are not in accordance with city council rules. Council rules should apply equally to all members. Stand strong. -Peace, Kitty

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [poodlechild](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 5:28:21 PM

Kitty.

I will fight to defend him and all other future council members from this gross over reach & abusive of power.

Respectfully
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 17, 2021, at 5:00 PM, poodlechild <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali- I want to go on record has objecting to the harsh penalties proposed against Jeff Hayner. He realizes posting that Hunter S. Thompson quote was a mistake and he has apologized for doing it. I am sure Jeff is not a bigot in any way and the quote was not directed at the GLBTQ community. Also, the proposed action does not seem to be in accordance with city council rules. Council rules need to apply equally to all members.

Thanks again for all that you do. -Peace, Kitty

From: [vnarmenrout](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Smith, Chip](#)
Subject: DC-5, April 19, 2021
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:17:29 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is to ask you to withdraw this resolution from the agenda, or if not, to vote against it. But for all our sakes, it would be best to withdraw.

I was deeply embarrassed on behalf of all our City to see this item emerge in the local news media. The information I have seen about CM Hayner's tweet was that it was deleted not long after it was posted. I don't know the history or context of the statement. Obviously he was very unwise to post a message that contained the term which we all understand to be offensive. As he has noted, it was in a literary quote and was not directed at any named person. But I hope that this has taught him the trick I learned long ago: Delete before sending! I make no apology for him. Nevertheless, the publicity assigned to this item only enlarges the problem. If we have any pride in our name and our city, this is not the kind of incident that we want enlarged on the public stage.

Here are reasons to withdraw the resolution.

1. The action contained in the resolution is contrary to the published Council rules. Former CM Jack Eaton has published this information with a lengthy brief on Facebook and I assume has shared it with you as well. The manner in which the Administrative Committee's vote was publicized in the local press and the lack of anything resembling due process makes it obvious that the action does not follow any accepted protocol.
2. The resolution places an undue burden on the CM who were not involved in the committee decision. Should they vote for a resolution which is patently unfair, or vote against it at the risk of being accused of approving this offensive language?
3. The resolution is undemocratic. Aside from the lack of due process (I understand that he was not informed about the impending action, and given no chance to respond), it is an assault on the representation for the First Ward. CM Hayner was elected to represent these voters, and removing him from all committees lessens that representation.
4. According to the news media, the reason given by Mayor Taylor for this action was considered in concordance with the action of the Board of Regents vs. Ron Weiser. But the two circumstances are not at all similar. Mr. Weiser not only addressed insults to our top three elected (Democratic) officials, but also called for them to be "burned at the stake". Thus, it was actually a threat in that it called for injury or death. CM Hayner's quote mentioned journalists as a class but named no

individual, and did not call for any action against them.

5. The action promotes further division on Council at a time when our City faces many likely challenges. It is obvious that all members of Council do not share the same vision for the future of Ann Arbor, but I hope and expect that all wish to promote the welfare of the City. They should be able to consider the multitude of issues and decisions before them, rather than being entangled in this nastiness.

6. And, again, this is embarrassing and a detriment to our public image as a City that has intelligent leadership. I'd like to see no more headlines like this for a while.

CM Hayner has apologized. Give him a chance to do that again, and move on. There is work to do.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Armentrout

Ann Arbor

From: [vnarmentrout](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: DC-5 April 19, 2021
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:28:35 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is to ask you to withdraw this resolution from the agenda, or if not, to vote against it. But for all our sakes, it would be best to withdraw.

I was deeply embarrassed on behalf of all our City to see this item emerge in the local news media. The information I have seen about CM Hayner's tweet was that it was deleted not long after it was posted. I don't know the history or context of the statement. Obviously he was very unwise to post a message that contained the term which we all understand to be offensive. As he has noted, it was in a literary quote and was not directed at any named person. But I hope that this has taught him the trick I learned long ago: Delete before sending! I make no apology for him. Nevertheless, the publicity assigned to this item only enlarges the problem. If we have any pride in our name and our city, this is not the kind of incident that we want enlarged on the public stage.

Here are reasons to withdraw the resolution.

1. The action contained in the resolution is contrary to the published Council rules. Former CM Jack Eaton has published this information with a lengthy brief on Facebook and I assume has shared it with you as well. The manner in which the Administrative Committee's vote was publicized in the local press and the lack of anything resembling due process makes it obvious that the action does not follow any accepted protocol.
2. The resolution places an undue burden on the CM who were not involved in the committee decision. Should they vote for a resolution which is patently unfair, or vote against it at the risk of being accused of approving this offensive language?
3. The resolution is undemocratic. Aside from the lack of due process (I understand that he was not informed about the impending action, and given no chance to respond), it is an assault on the representation for the First Ward. CM Hayner was elected to represent these voters, and removing him from all committees lessens that representation.
4. According to the news media, the reason given by Mayor Taylor for this action was considered in concordance with the action of the Board of Regents vs. Ron Weiser. But the two circumstances are not at all similar. Mr. Weiser not only addressed insults to our top three elected (Democratic) officials, but also called for them to be "burned at the stake". Thus, it was actually a threat in that it called for injury or death. CM Hayner's quote mentioned journalists as a class but named no individual, and did not call for any action against them.
5. The action promotes further division on Council at a time when our City faces many likely challenges. It is obvious that all members of Council do not share the same vision for the future of Ann Arbor, but I hope and expect that all wish to promote the welfare of the City. They should be able to consider the multitude of issues and decisions before them, rather than being entangled in this nastiness.
6. And, again, this is embarrassing and a detriment to our public image as a City that has intelligent leadership. I'd like to see no more headlines like this for a while.

CM Hayner has apologized. Give him a chance to do that again, and move on. There is work to do.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Armentrout

Ann Arbor

From: [Kitty B. Kahn](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Please remove DC-5 from Monday's City Council Agenda.
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 8:55:05 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I am writing to object to the proposed harsh penalties against CM Hayner contained in the DC-5 resolution. They do not comply with the rules of city council. I hope you will withdraw the resolution or, if it remains on the agenda, I hope you vote it down. Yes, the Hunter S. Thompson quote should not have been posted and CM Hayner has apologized for his mistake and I believe he is sincere. He is not a bigot in any way and the quote was not directed at the GLBTQ community. CM Hayner was making a point about the media. I agree that the offending word should never be used, but the proposed penalties, which would strip CM Hayner of his appointments, are vastly out of proportion with the "crime". The quote was only on facebook for about ten minutes before someone complained to facebook and facebook took it down. Stephen Ranzini, the moderator of the Ann Arbor Politics facebook group, never even saw the post. I have confirmed this with him. I did see it, but it was not up for long. However, in the short period of time that the quote was posted, people took screenshots and shared them and the rest is history.

Please remove this resolution from Monday's Council agenda. -Peace, Kitty

From: [poodlechild](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:28:10 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I wouldn't expect anything less. Thanks. -Peace, Kitty

From: "Ramlawi, Ali" <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 5:28 PM
To: poodlechild <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Jeff Hayner

Kitty.

I will fight to defend him and all other future council members from this gross over reach & abusive of power.

Respectfully
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 17, 2021, at 5:00 PM, poodlechild <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali- I want to go on record has objecting to the harsh penalties proposed against Jeff Hayner. He realizes posting that Hunter S. Thompson quote was a mistake and he has apologized for doing it. I am sure Jeff is not a bigot in any way and the quote was not directed at the GLBTQ community. Also, the proposed action does not seem to be in accordance with city council rules. Council rules need to apply equally to all members.

Thanks again for all that you do. -Peace, Kitty

From: [Jean Leverich](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Cc: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Addressing harm to the Community
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:50:14 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CM Ramlawi and City Council,

I'm writing this email to ask that City Council please address the disrespectful and contemptuous behavior of CM Hayner and the harm caused to the LGBTQ community and the journalists who work hard to cover city and state issues.

I understand from social media posts on Facebook that you, CM Ramlawi, stated that you were unaware that the community was damaged by CM Hayner's comments. I know that I and many others signed an open letter from Ann Arbor LGBTQ liaison Naomi Goldberg to CM Hayner asking him to apologize and make restitution to the community. Perhaps you were unaware of this letter?

If you do not hold CM Hayner responsible for his derogatory public remarks and lack of contrition, you will only be encouraging more of this behavior.

I am very discouraged that petty infighting, "gotcha politics," and false equivalencies are interfering with Council's ability to provide thoughtful and effective governance.

I am saddened by the outsized influence an unelected citizen who appears to delight in conspiracy theories and casting aspersions appears to have over your opinions and actions, and, I encourage you to solicit advice from a wider range of citizens so that you may better serve your constituents.

For the sake of the city and the functionality of City Council, I am begging you to vote to hold CM Hayner accountable and model responsible, cooperative leadership by stripping CM Hayner of Board and Commission assignments for a short period of time so that he is motivated to improve his behavior and so that City Council can return to focusing on what we elected you to do: materially improving the lives of community members.

Sincerely,
Jean Leverich
Ward 5



From: [Jim Pyke](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: DC-5 Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:56:57 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear councilmembers,

I am writing to ask you to please vote unanimously in support of this resolution.

In particular I hope that both of my Fifth Ward council members will vote to support this resolution.

I am very tired of the anger, divisive language, and focus on personal grievances that are far too common in CM Hayner's public communication.

Previously he had managed to show a little restraint, for what it was worth, and maybe he was pushing further and further over time to see how far residents would allow him to go. With his recent attack on local journalists that included a heinous homophobic slur - the use of which routinely preceeds violent physical assaults on members of LGBTQ communities around the country - he's gone far enough that I think we have to do something about it beyond politely asking him to behave.

If his First Ward constituents are concerned about his loss of seats on boards and commissions negatively affecting their representation in city government, well they should have thought about that before they let one of their two representatives let his anger management issues, which have been clear for his entire time on council (if not before), run wild and free for all these months in escalation to the point where disciplinary and reparative action are now required.

Representation in city government should be about achieving policy making goals, not about constantly and angrily airing personal grievances in public.

Thank you for supporting DC-5 Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments.

Sincerely,

Jim Pyke

(he/him/his) Classroom Services Supervisor / Special Events and Scheduling Coordinator

[LSA Technology Services-Operations](#)

[College of Literature, Science, and the Arts](#) | [University of Michigan](#)

LSA Technology Services | G340 Mason Hall | 419 S. State Street | Ann Arbor, MI | 48109

Desk: 734.763.4594 | Cell: [REDACTED] | For Immediate Assistance: 734.615.0100

Email: [REDACTED]

[ヒーロー見参](#)

Teaching and Learning Remotely resources are [here](#)



From: [Rami Jawl, Ali](#)
To: [Jean Levesich](#)
Subject: Re: Addressing harm to the Community
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:44:46 AM

Jean,

I can call and discuss this matter with you later today if you would like. There are many areas that I differ from the narrative you put forth.

Attached is the official statement of the Jim Toy Center which refutes much of what you recommend.



JIM TOY COMMUNITY CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.O. Box 1152, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

(734) 274-9551

www.jimtoycenter.org

April 13, 2021

Dear Fellow Ann Arbor Residents,

It is with profound concern that we write to you to address the homophobic slur by Ann Arbor Councilmember Jeff Hayner, D-Ward 1. As some of you are aware, this past Saturday, Councilmember Hayner posted a homophobic slur trying to disgrace journalists and the press on Facebook.

While Hayner quoted excerpts from Hunter S. Thompson's 1971 novel, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," – we want to make it clear that word choice matters. His now deleted post referred to journalists as a "gang of cruel (f*****s)."

We find Councilmember Hayner's quote choice very concerning and not representative of our mission or city values. As a public servant, reporting to constituents, we believe the Councilmember must take accountability for his actions. Simply defending choices by claiming that you have friends who are members of the LGBTQ+ community is not good enough. A group of your constituents are offended and deserve a sincere apology.

At the Jim Toy Community Center, our mission is to "build an inclusive community where people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are visible and live together in equality, respect, and happiness." Councilmember Hayner's post is anything but respectful.

It is important to note that we as a board of directors come from all different walks of life – i.e. background, age group, gender, and community, etc. Let it be known that we strongly condemn Ann Arbor Councilmember Jeff Hayner's choice to use a homophobic slur.

We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around words and word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

Sincerely,

Joe Schoch, President

Diana Cass, Vice President

Robert Joerg, Treasurer

Sindhu Sreedhar, Secretary

Elizabeth Janovic, Member At Large

Leigh Greden, Member At Large

Jelani McGadney, Member At Large

Warm regards

CM Ramlawi
Sent from my iPad

On Apr 18, 2021, at 7:50 AM, Jean Leverich <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CM Ramlawi and City Council,

I'm writing this email to ask that City Council please address the disrespectful and contemptuous behavior of CM Hayner and the harm caused to the LGBTQ community and the journalists who work hard to cover city and state issues.

I understand from social media posts on Facebook that you, CM Ramlawi, stated that you were unaware that the community was damaged by CM Hayner's comments. I know that I and many others signed an open letter from Ann Arbor LGBTQ liaison Naomi Goldberg to CM Hayner asking him to apologize and make restitution to the community. Perhaps you were unaware of this letter?

If you do not hold CM Hayner responsible for his derogatory public remarks and lack of contrition, you will only be encouraging more of this behavior.

I am very discouraged that petty infighting, "gotcha politics," and false equivalencies are interfering with Council's ability to provide thoughtful and effective governance.

I am saddened by the outsized influence an unelected citizen who appears to delight in conspiracy theories and casting aspersions appears to have over your opinions and actions, and, I encourage you to solicit advice from a wider range of citizens so that you may better serve your constituents.

For the sake of the city and the functionality of City Council, I am begging you to vote to hold CM Hayner accountable and model responsible, cooperative leadership by stripping CM Hayner of Board and Commission assignments for a short period of time so that he is motivated to improve his behavior and so that City Council can return to focusing on what we elected you to do: materially improving the lives of community members.

Sincerely,
Jean Leverich
Ward 5
[REDACTED]

From: [Rebecca](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Jeff Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:08:42 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Firstly, thank you for your service during this pandemic. It's a terribly difficult time for our families, city and world.

Secondly, I want to express my sorrow and empathy to hear Linh Song's pain shared at the council table at being a survivor of domestic violence in the home, and Travis Radina's pain at multiple hideous attacks on his choice in who he chooses to love, which I heard about from his social media posts. I wish domestic violence and racism and anti-gay attitudes were extinct, and that everyone felt safe in this world. In fact, that is my life's purpose toward that end. Everyone should have the right to physical safety of their body. It's foundational. And that means protection from frightening, shaming language like f****t. I am of the opinion that word, like many, should never be seen or heard in any iteration. Q-anon, NIMBY, libtard, stripper, junkie, douche, etc are other words that I object to, but are a level up from the former category, in my personal opinion. However, that is beyond my personal control due to our First Amendment.

Thirdly, I am beyond dismayed to see the climate of city council interactions with each other. It's painful to witness. Mayor Taylor, I am so disheartened that you've clearly lost your way and the core values of unity and service are no longer your North star. Please consider what price many are paying under your "moving Ann Arbor in the right direction" scorched-earth approach. Actions speak louder than silver-tongued words, or the reprinting of words that are too loaded with traumatic association to be used anymore without harm.

Fourthly, as an active volunteer who worked extensively with CM Hayner (see https://annarborobserver.com/articles/rebecca_arends_7.html) dedicating hundreds of hours and dollars towards beautification and support of AAPD and small businesses, I stand here and tell you he is a man motivated by service, compassion, pursuit of justice, and protecting the vulnerable. He is a devoted father, compassionate neighbor, and has served this town with consistent, unselfish action. CM Hayner cares about those who walk this world crippled by poverty, addiction, disease, mental illness, and trauma. I've seen it first-hand. CM Hayner's past actions show that he spends his time on the things that matter to him: nature, clean water, volunteering in Arrowwood and across the city, his family, civil rights across the board, and personally affirming the worth of those society deems less than by listening and seeking to understand.

CM Hayner and I have shared goals of being part of the healing of our environment. Part of healing requires surfacing injustice, as well as continual self-reflection and course-correction.

CM Hayner also has legitimate frustration with the local press, but that's up to him how he wants to present that in the future in a more appropriate and direct way. It has nothing to do with council matters, and is frankly none of your or my business. I appreciate people like him

who are bold enough to call into question the "message" of those in power, and hope that doesn't change.

I do not support what he did. No one is perfect. This has been a painful growing opportunity for many that love CM Hayner, and he has allowed us to express and discuss with him the impact it had, repeatedly and fully.

Finally, I don't imagine I will change any of your opinions if you have not taken the time to get to know CM Hayner as I have. If you refuse to engage in respectful dialogue with him, however, you are missing out on a chance to create healing and further understanding, as well as mutual respect.

I believe you have no right to vote to strip him of his assignments. Also, as I told CM Disch, my concern is that some of you that have committed errors of speech at the table will open yourself up to a backlash by others that will seek to illuminate inconsistent application of reprimand. I will not take part in that, but neither can I protect you from it if you take this action.

I appreciate CM Disch taking my call, and I hope that her example will guide you forward as you strive for collaboration, understanding and self-reflection.

Best,

Rebecca Arends

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Remarks on Facebook
Date: April 13, 2021 at 6:58:04 AM EDT
To: "Hayner, Jeff" <jhayner@a2gov.org>

CM Hayner,

I'll admit I flinched when I read it, as I've only seen it used in movies by others, accompanied by frustrated emotions in highly-charged situations where it was intended to shame the recipient.

However, given our extensive time volunteering together over the years, I knew that your intention was to stay true to the entirety of the quote, as you've often encouraged me personally to remain squarely within the bounds of accuracy, no matter how tempting or advantageous it would be to frame my message regarding anti-graffiti measures. You often encouraged me to remain scientific and neutral as much as possible, and to maintain integrity in my research methods. One of the phrases I've heard you use often was, "So is that really true? Can it be shown? Where is the empirical data?"

Thank you for this statement reflecting on how others who don't know you may have felt emotionally wounded by that word in a context unknown to you, and that when you used it, they may have felt traumatic recall of times they heard it prior. For example, when I hear the words whore, slut, prostitute, sex-worker for example, I feel emotional pain for the fact people like our current prosecutor cannot acknowledge these people are human trafficking victims, and are being *prostituted* and are not *working* in any proper definition of the word. His ignorance of the lived

experience of the vulnerable women and sometimes men shows and reflects his inability to see the staggering inequalities in society that make "sex-work" a false narrative.
I think it might be similar.

I appreciate your humility, swift action and sensitivity to others.

I know we've shared similar confusion over the selective reporting or flat-out inaccuracies in our local press and how frustrating it can be to have words omitted and your character assailed. We both value integrity much higher than material gains, so an injury like that is particularly undermining to our shared goals, career wise, and as parents. I do agree with your sentiments that the local press is deeply flawed in their processes.

That is also why, in addition to meeting your many LGBTQAI friends of the years, I understood your context and motives.

I would advise that those who will not seek to have a one-on-one conversation with you may not have advocacy and educating you as their true intent. Actions speak louder than words, don't they?

As an aside, you're doing excellent job serving our ward. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Rebecca

On Apr 12, 2021, at 10:23 PM, Hayner, Jeff <jhayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Arends,

I am sharing this statement with any concerned parties about my recent on-line post:

I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: [B.R.](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15:17 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I felt compelled to send you a message regarding the action City Council has taken with regard to my other Council member, Jeff Hayner. While I do not condone his actions, I am disappointed to the extreme in the manner his indiscretion is being handled, especially in light of other council member indiscretions. Once again, the mayor has taken the coward's path by electing to step out of standard processes to manage the situation. I'll be watching closely how you act and vote on this matter. When you ran, I was hoping beyond hope you would not blindly follow the mayor's path. So far, the jury is out.

Please be an adult and please follow procedure. A reprimand of some kind is in order. But that doesn't mean you should be underhanded like the Mayor.

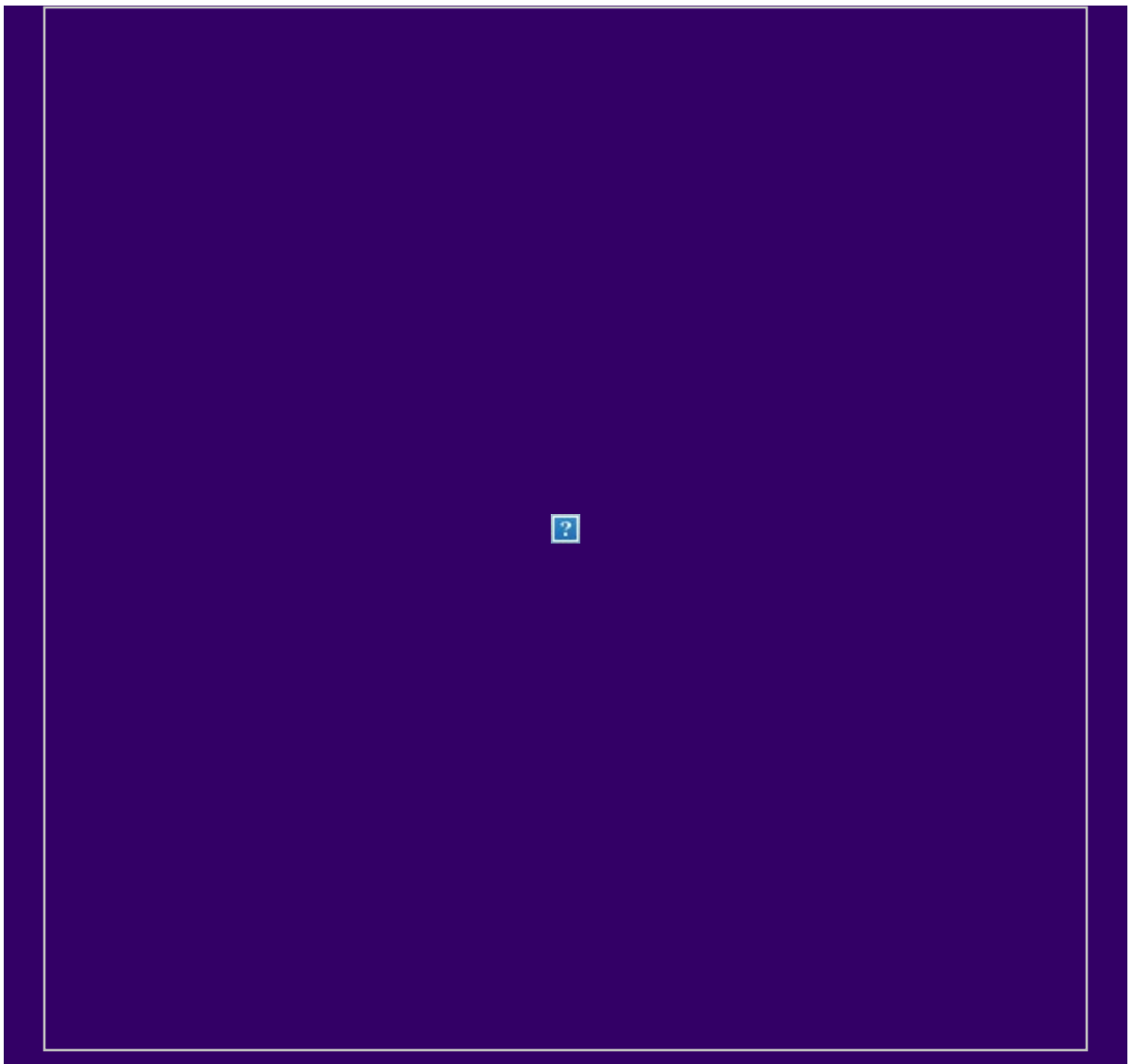
If you diminish Ward 1 representation by supporting the mayor's position, you will not be representing your constituents well. It will be remembered.

Your constituent,
Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elizabeth Nelson <contact@a2elnel.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM
Subject: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
To: <[REDACTED]>





Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and

site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:
We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: "internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling

or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay

utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link:
<https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

*If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to
signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>*



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2elnel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.

A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request generated controversy.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint-planning-transportation-meeting>

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>

A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 ([21-0769](#)) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list

will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop [1510 E Stadium](#) as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700

**North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)
(ORD-21-07)**

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling)n in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

**PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with
Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North
Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)**

A planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, [155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive](#) and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

ArborStormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nominated was introduced at the previous meeting, and will

therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-

discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.



Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the

previous Council approved a ballot proposal for an Affordable Housing Millage (I was a cosponsor). The Washington Post wrote about it here:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/how-a-small-property-tax-increase-can-boost-affordable-housing-inventories/2021/02/24/0c1c2554-6d8b-11eb-ba56-d7e2c8defa31_story.html

CLEANING UP THE GELMAN PLUME

Also this week: we received news that Governor Whitmer has formally requested intervention from the federal EPA to clean up the Gelman 1,4-Dioxane contamination. This pollution is spreading underground on the west side of Ann Arbor. Council efforts to engage the federal EPA started in October 2019. That resolution prompted many meetings in partnership with other local elected bodies, until we finally reached agreement in November 2020. For more explanation of the significance, see this MLive article:

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/state-approves-seeking-federal-superfund-cleanup-of-dioxane-pollution-in-ann-arbor.html>

LAND USE PLANNING

Agenda Item C-1 proposes amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Units ordinance. These amendments significantly change permitted use for all residential lots in the City, allowing the construction of an additional small house in any backyard, regardless of parcel size or ownership (i.e. two units on a single lot as investment rental).

In 2019, a majority of Council in 2019 resisted this change, suggesting that it could and should be considered as part of anticipated work to revise the City's Master Plan. Due to COVID-related budgeting challenges, that Master Plan work is delayed. The amendments proposed this week are actually more remarkable than what was presented in 2019: they remove the requirement for owner-occupancy in either structure. It is no longer accurate to describe these units as "granny flats" to help house family members in close proximity or to help residents stay in their homes (supervising on-site rentals to generate income). As proposed, these amendments are now aimed at providing an opportunity for commercial investment in rentals.

WARD 4: VALHALLA

Agenda item C-2 is a proposed re-zoning of 9.8 acres located in Ward 4, on South Main just south of the intersection at Scio Church. Valhalla is a dirt road, across from Pioneer High School, that currently has six houses on it. Staff recommended zoning for this area that would permit re-development with 84 housing units. Against staff recommendation, the Planning Commission approved and sent to Council a plan for 454 housing units. The proposed zoning includes “conditions” to justify the expansion: the project will not hook up to natural gas (except for “emergency back-up electrical generator”), will have solar panel installation expected to provide 12-13% of needed power, and will offer 15 affordable housing units (3% of total units). The University of Michigan has communicated to City Council, identifying serious concerns they have about this project’s proposed retaining walls and grading, stormwater management, sanitary sewer systems, and safety fencing needed due to its proximity to the golf course.

Note: this is first reading of the zoning change. There will be a public hearing at second reading.

Thank you for helping me represent Ward 4!

Elizabeth Nelson

ENelson@A2gov.org

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Copyright © 2021 Committee to Elect Elizabeth Nelson, All rights reserved.

You can unsubscribe from this list at any time using the link below.

Paid for by
Committee to Elect Elizabeth Nelson
PO Box 2243
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2243

[Add us to your address book](#)

Donate to my campaign: <https://www.a2elnel.com/donate>

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



From: [Jean Leverich](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Re: Addressing harm to the Community
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:37:21 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning, CM Ramlawi.

I have read the attached letter from the board of directors of the Jim Toy Community Center very carefully and I agree wholeheartedly with every single statement in the letter.

I feel disrespected and dismissed out of turn by your response to me. You had publicly stated that you had not received emails from constituents regarding this incident and the harm to the community; in response, I sent you an email in addition to signing an open letter organized by Naomi Naomi Goldberg, the Ann Arbor City LGBTQ liaison.

Where do you think I'm disagreeing with the Jim Toy Community Center's recommendation? Are you asserting that temporary removal from commissions and boards is inherently shaming? I think it is possible and advisable to hold people accountable and to have that experience be a learning opportunity for the person who has caused harm to the community while also showing the community that City Council cares about and is welcoming to all community members.

I am cc'ing City Council because I am saddened by your response to my concern.

Sincerely,
Jean Leverich

[REDACTED]

Ward 5

On Sun, Apr 18, 2021, 9:44 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Jean,

I can call and discuss this matter with you later today if you would like. There are many areas that I differ from the narrative you put forth.

Attached is the official statement of the Jim Toy Center which refutes much of what you recommend.



Warm regards
CM Ramlawi
Sent from my iPad

On Apr 18, 2021, at 7:50 AM, Jean Leverich <
wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CM Ramlawi and City Council,

I'm writing this email to ask that City Council please address the disrespectful and contemptuous behavior of CM Hayner and the harm caused to the LGBTQ community and the journalists who work hard to cover city and state issues.

I understand from social media posts on Facebook that you, CM Ramlawi, stated that you were unaware that the community was damaged by CM Hayner's comments. I know that I and many others signed an open letter from Ann Arbor LGBTQ liaison Naomi Goldberg to CM Hayner asking him to apologize and make restitution to the community. Perhaps you were unaware of this letter?

If you do not hold CM Hayner responsible for his derogatory public remarks and lack of contrition, you will only be encouraging more of this behavior.

I am very discouraged that petty infighting, "gotcha politics," and false equivalencies are interfering with Council's ability to provide thoughtful and effective governance.

I am saddened by the outsized influence an unelected citizen who appears to delight in conspiracy theories and casting aspersions appears to have over your opinions and actions, and, I encourage you to solicit advice from a wider range of citizens so that you may better serve your constituents.

For the sake of the city and the functionality of City Council, I am begging you to vote to hold CM Hayner accountable and model responsible, cooperative leadership by stripping CM Hayner of Board and Commission assignments for a short period of time so that he is motivated to improve his behavior and so that City Council can return to focusing on what we elected you to do: materially improving the lives of community members.

Sincerely,
Jean Leverich
Ward 5



From: [Jerry Fishman](#)
To: [Erica Briggs](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Mediator and Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 3:44:55 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica and Ali

I am not in favor of a mediator for consul meetings. I would hope you guys could work things out amongst you. As for Hayner, I think his quote unfortunate and offensive, but and I would like to have him publicly criticized at the meeting, but not relieved of his committee assignments. Maybe the gesture of letting him keep his assignments will help create a better atmosphere between the differing factions.

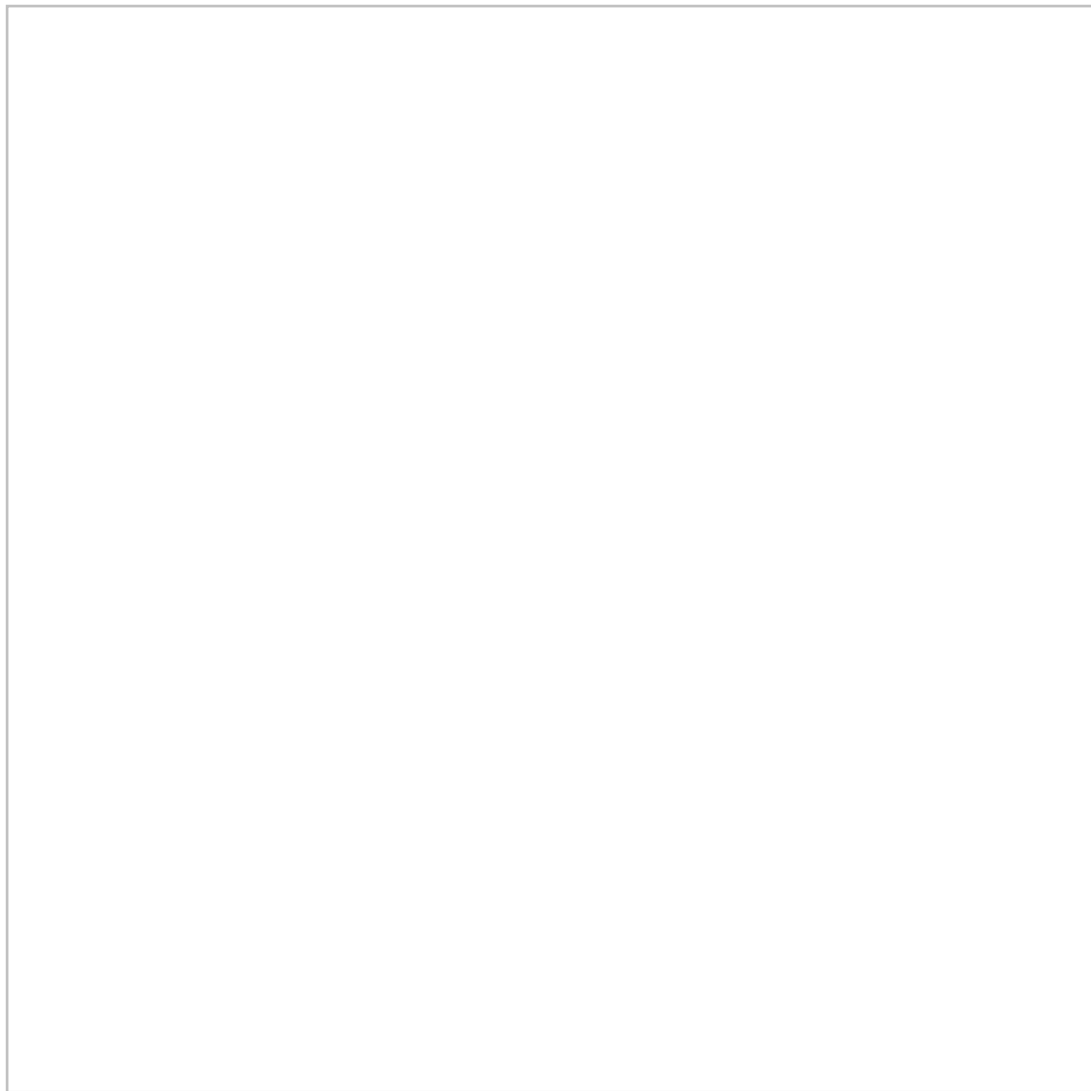
Just my opinions. Thank you both for your service.

Sincerely
Jerry Fishman



Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 2:54 PM, Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com> wrote:



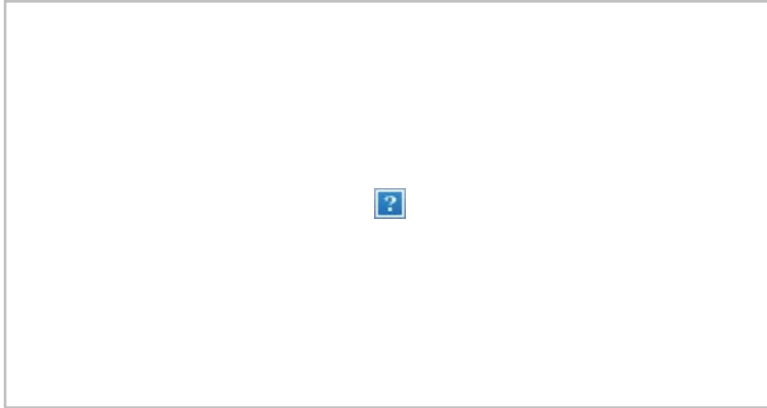
I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

**Content warning: Picture below includes explicit and offensive language.*



This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially [strongly defended his use of the quote](#), but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the [Jim Toy Center](#) and [elected officials from other governing bodies](#). CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will [consider a resolution \(DC-5\)](#) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally

believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, *"If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it."* Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a [history of making offensive statements](#) on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and repeatedly attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an [editorial in MLive](#) seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, *"Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society."* MLive reporters are not alone. [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a [2018 Report by Freedom House](#) highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly [1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias](#) with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in [her letter to City Council](#) earlier this week, *"By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it."* Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone

his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/19) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 19th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings more efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Notable Items on the Consent Agenda:**

- **Developing more Affordable Housing ([CA-3](#), [CA-4](#), & [CA-5](#))** : In 2019, City Council asked staff to begin exploring the feasibility of developing affordable housing on eleven city-owned properties. Based on this analysis, Council will be considering three resolutions which direct the Housing Commission to pursue the development of affordable housing (60% AMI or less = \$51,200) at: 721 North Main (15-25 units), 353 South Main Street (50-90 units), and 1510 E.

Stadium (8-23 units). With affordable housing in limited supply in Ann Arbor, these resolutions demonstrate an important step forward in building more affordable housing in our community.

- **Better Maintaining our Bike Facilities (CA-2):** The City has over 90 miles of bike lanes. However, with the addition of new bike lanes the City has struggled to provide appropriate levels of maintenance. This request for additional funding was initiated by staff to make the bike lanes "cleaner, safer and more accessible to cyclists. This proactive maintenance has dramatically reduced resident bike lane maintenance requests and is operationally more efficient than a reactive approach."

- **Public Hearings:**

- **22 Townhomes on North Main (PH-1, B-1, DB-1)** A public hearing and resolution to rezone, and subsequently approve, a 1.2-acre parcel (700 North Main Street) from PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling) to allow the site to be redeveloped with 22 townhouses.

- **Ordinance Changes at First Reading:**

- **Relaxing Standards for Building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (CA-1) :** In 2016, City Council adopted an ADU ordinance. To date, few have been built in the City due to the restrictive nature of the current standards. The Planning Commission, following [four meetings on the issue](#) and significant deliberation, is proposing to Council a number of changes to City Code which would make it easier to build an accessory dwelling unit. This [AARP publication](#) outlines the merits of loosening ADU restrictions in a community to allow for more housing.
- **Valhalla Project (C-2):** At second reading, this conditional rezoning petition (from single family to R4E) will be accompanied by a site plan petition to demolish all existing structures and construct a total of 454 dwelling units in several stacked flat apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings. This project will include 15 units of affordable housing at 60% AMI or less and be the largest all electric housing development in Ann Arbor.
- **Proposed 5% Increase in Stormwater Fees (C-3):** The proposed increase for the [stormwater portion](#) of a customer's bill is an estimated \$2.84 per quarter, or \$11.36 annually. The staff recommendation is consistent with the City's [Stormwater Utility Rate Study](#), Capital Improvement Plan, and Stormwater Asset Management Plan. Learn how you may be to [reduce your bill](#)

[through the use stormwater credits.](#)

- **Council New Business:**

- **City Reaches Settlement in Case Challenging DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program (DC-4):** In 2020, the City of Ann Arbor intervened in Michigan Public Service Commission Cases relating to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program because the City found the pricing in the VGP program to be too high, DTE's projections of future renewable energy builds to be too low, and the offerings through the VGP program to be too limited. The City has reached a proposed settlement with DTE that achieves all of our key objectives and creates the opportunity to develop a landfill solar project in collaboration with DTE.

- **Addressing CM Hayner's Homophobic Slur on Social Media (DC-5):**

This resolution proposes to remove CM Hayner from his Council-approved Committee appointments for the remainder of the year for an [offensive quote he posted on social media](#) that included a homophobic slur as an attack on journalists. Read my introductory message for additional thoughts.

- **Resolution to Hire a Mediator/Coach for City Council (DC-6):** This resolution recommends utilizing \$20,000 of General Fund dollars to hire a mediator for City Council who will: 1) teach "meeting management and discourse methodology", 2) facilitate/coach Council meetings and Admin Meetings for two months, & 3) mediate future and pending actions against Council members. While I appreciate the desire to improve Council dynamics, I am skeptical this approach will be successful and as such I'm hesitant to spend \$20,000 when the City has a budget deficit. Council has been working to address outstanding issues through the modification of Council rules, but fundamentally individual responsibility and a commitment to professional behavior from all Councilmembers is necessary. This resolution frames the issue as one that can be solved through improved meeting management (i.e. factors the Mayor has control over). I disagree that meeting facilitation is the root of dysfunction we see at the Council table.

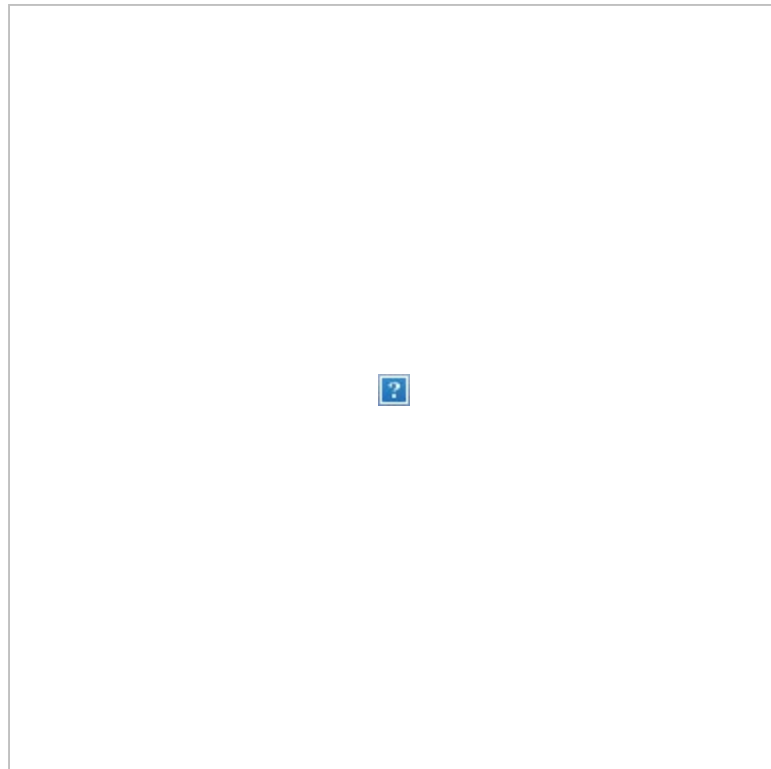
This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment](#)

[option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.



I apologize, but I will not be hosting Virtual Coffee Hours today. I was fortunate to receive my 2nd Covid vaccine on Thursday evening, but as a result much of Friday and Saturday morning were spent mostly in bed. I wanted to get this Council newsletter out this weekend, but I'm playing a bit of catch-up around the house. Please feel free to call me tomorrow (734-355-3931) if you have a

topic you wish to discuss prior to the Council meeting tomorrow night.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.

Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Re: your social media post
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:12:43 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:

<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg

[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur
To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1
Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1

Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayme Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3
Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4

Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5
James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Julie Ritter](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [Crawford, Tom](#)
Subject: Adopt DC-6!!
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:14:20 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Council People

It has come to my attention that there is a resolution DC-5, to remove Council Person Hayner from his committee positions. This removal is being suggested due to an unfortunate, controversial excerpt from a very famous and highly regarded (by many, if not all) novel, which excerpt Council Person Hayner posted on social media, and which was subsequently removed.

As a resident of the 1st ward I encourage you to resist this impulse to remove him due to his lapse in judgment.

First and foremost, stripping Council Person Hayner of his committee positions will disenfranchise all citizens of Ward 1. Granted we will still have Council Person Disch, but she does not represent us on all the various committees and commissions that Council Person Hayner is seated on. So there's that. Many implications from this proposal to remove him. None of them good.

Second, there are historical precedents for situations like this, some of which have already been brought to your attention. As a result of these precedents, no one has been forcibly removed for a social media posting.

Now the main point:

Council Person Hayner is well known as having strong opinions that he generally has a good reason for maintaining. This instance of the Hunter Thompson excerpt was an example where he realized he did not necessarily have a good reason. He has had many discussions with his constituents and has apologized sincerely and completely for this terrible decision.

Other than being objectionable (as Thompson's writings often are to certain segments of readers) there was not any other discernible impact on the residents of Ward 1.

Other Council People have had lapses of judgment in taking positions they have subsequently retracted, which positions have had much more impact on the citizens of Ann Arbor than Council Person Hayner's unfortunate social media post. The recent Gelman Plume kerfuffle comes to mind. And these positions were not even on an unrelated social media account, but were an official part of the governing process of the City! There was no motion to remove Council People from their committee posts because of the terrible judgement exhibited in that case.

We have had objections to the use of certain offensive language at Council meetings from people who do not even live in Ann Arbor, but simply zoom in from other states. We have been told by the City and/or the Mayor that they are choosing not to stop this offensive language from the discourse of meetings because it is a first amendment issue. Yet when Council Person Hayner puts up an ill advised post on social media, not even an official A2 government account, he is met with an onslaught of derision from the same parties that refuse to prohibit the same kind of language at City Council meetings.

It occurs to me that Council Person Hayner's post has had a much needed emetic effect on other Council People, and therefore I strongly support DC-6 as a curative measure! This entire topic of appropriate language for City government, whether official or unofficial, needs to be remedied in a way that is respectful to all while maintaining the proper public rights.



For example, can City Council take a position about who is allowed to speak at public meetings? Do speakers need

to have standing of some sort? The person from California, with no ties to Ann Arbor whatsoever, who calls in regularly to take up the Council's time (another topic, the amount of time meetings take) is not sanctioned in any way. This person makes repeated offensive remarks, and is not called on them. This doesn't make sense to me.

Many of these things could be productively addressed by adopting DC-6! I strongly agree with Council Person Griswold's proposal that a communications professional be brought in to advise, educate and encourage the entire City Council and Administration to adopt the most effective, meaningful and respectful ways to communicate!

It is unfortunate that some on City Council encourage that body to operate in a reactionary way, based on fear and anger instead of being grounded in compassion balanced with insight and wisdom. I believe that when representatives (and everyone) treat others with true respect and the open hope of real communication, many things that seem like intractable problems can suddenly become part of a solution.

I hope that City Council can use this event as a turning point and create a code of communications conduct that is the standard throughout all departments, commissions, councils, caucuses, meetings, all parts and particulars of the City. My mother used to say to me over and over "it's not what you say, it's how you say it". Free speech will not be impaired by an agreement to speak respectfully. One can convey a great deal in an even toned manner. Even rage.

There is a growing upset on both sides of this issue, and DC-5 only fans the flames of each point of view. Let's work together to make our City better by approving DE-6 instead. Acknowledge that the City, and its many representatives, employees and staff members still have something to learn about effective, respectful communication. Instead of partisan sniping, let's look to a future of broad based teamwork by adopting DC-6.

Respectfully,

Julie Ritter

--

That is fundamentally the only courage which is demanded of us: to be brave in the face of the strangest, most singular and most inexplicable things that can befall us.

- Rilke

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: Re: your social media post
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 5:49:33 PM

Thank you for letter, your advocacy, and leadership. I am sad it's necessary. I will be voting in favor of DC-5 tomorrow.

On Apr 18, 2021, at 4:12 PM, Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:

<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg

[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur
To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1

Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1
Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayme Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3

Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4
Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5

James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Erica Briggs](#)
To: [Jerry Fishman](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Mediator and Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 6:35:52 PM

ERICA@ERICAFORA2.COM appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. [Learn why this could be a risk](#) [Feedback](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thanks Jerry for sharing your thoughts. I do agree that voting yes on DC-5 does jeopardize our efforts to improve collegiality and improve Council dynamics. It is the primary reason I would prefer not to vote for removing CM Hayner from his committee assignments, but when I evaluated his behavior in the context of his past behavior, his support for harassing and abusing journalists, and the real impact this had on the LGBTQ community I feel compelled to vote in favor of the resolution.

Erica Briggs, 5th Ward CM
[REDACTED]

From: Jerry Fishman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 3:44:42 PM
To: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>; Ali Ramlawi <aramlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Mediator and Hayner

Erica and Ali

I am not in favor of a mediator for consul meetings. I would hope you guys could work things out amongst you. As for Hayner, I think his quote unfortunate and offensive, but and I would like to have him publicly criticized at the meeting, but not relieved of his committee assignments. Maybe the gesture of letting him keep his assignments will help create a better atmosphere between the differing factions.

Just my opinions. Thank you both for your service.

Sincerely
Jerry Fishman
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 2:54 PM, Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com> wrote:



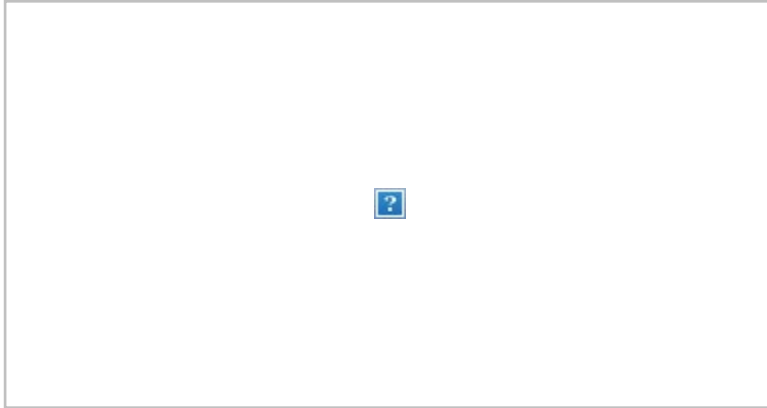
I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

**Content warning: Picture below includes explicit and offensive language.*



This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially [strongly defended his use of the quote](#), but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the [Jim Toy Center](#) and [elected officials from other governing bodies](#). CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will [consider a resolution \(DC-5\)](#) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally

believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, *"If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it."* Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a [history of making offensive statements](#) on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and repeatedly attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an [editorial in MLive](#) seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, *"Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society."* MLive reporters are not alone. [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a [2018 Report by Freedom House](#) highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly [1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias](#) with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in [her letter to City Council](#) earlier this week, *"By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it."* Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone

his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

Upcoming Council Meeting (4/19) Agenda Spotlight

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 19th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings more efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Notable Items on the Consent Agenda:**

- **Developing more Affordable Housing ([CA-3](#), [CA-4](#), & [CA-5](#))** : In 2019, City Council asked staff to begin exploring the feasibility of developing affordable housing on eleven city-owned properties. Based on this analysis, Council will be considering three resolutions which direct the Housing Commission to pursue the development of affordable housing (60% AMI or less = \$51,200) at: 721 North Main (15-25 units), 353 South Main Street (50-90 units), and 1510 E.

Stadium (8-23 units). With affordable housing in limited supply in Ann Arbor, these resolutions demonstrate an important step forward in building more affordable housing in our community.

- **Better Maintaining our Bike Facilities (CA-2):** The City has over 90 miles of bike lanes. However, with the addition of new bike lanes the City has struggled to provide appropriate levels of maintenance. This request for additional funding was initiated by staff to make the bike lanes "cleaner, safer and more accessible to cyclists. This proactive maintenance has dramatically reduced resident bike lane maintenance requests and is operationally more efficient than a reactive approach."

- **Public Hearings:**

- **22 Townhomes on North Main (PH-1, B-1, DB-1)** A public hearing and resolution to rezone, and subsequently approve, a 1.2-acre parcel (700 North Main Street) from PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling) to allow the site to be redeveloped with 22 townhouses.

- **Ordinance Changes at First Reading:**

- **Relaxing Standards for Building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) (CA-1) :** In 2016, City Council adopted an ADU ordinance. To date, few have been built in the City due to the restrictive nature of the current standards. The Planning Commission, following [four meetings on the issue](#) and significant deliberation, is proposing to Council a number of changes to City Code which would make it easier to build an accessory dwelling unit. This [AARP publication](#) outlines the merits of loosening ADU restrictions in a community to allow for more housing.
- **Valhalla Project (C-2):** At second reading, this conditional rezoning petition (from single family to R4E) will be accompanied by a site plan petition to demolish all existing structures and construct a total of 454 dwelling units in several stacked flat apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings. This project will include 15 units of affordable housing at 60% AMI or less and be the largest all electric housing development in Ann Arbor.
- **Proposed 5% Increase in Stormwater Fees (C-3):** The proposed increase for the [stormwater portion](#) of a customer's bill is an estimated \$2.84 per quarter, or \$11.36 annually. The staff recommendation is consistent with the City's [Stormwater Utility Rate Study](#), Capital Improvement Plan, and Stormwater Asset Management Plan. Learn how you may be to [reduce your bill](#)

[through the use stormwater credits.](#)

- **Council New Business:**

- **City Reaches Settlement in Case Challenging DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program (DC-4):** In 2020, the City of Ann Arbor intervened in Michigan Public Service Commission Cases relating to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program because the City found the pricing in the VGP program to be too high, DTE's projections of future renewable energy builds to be too low, and the offerings through the VGP program to be too limited. The City has reached a proposed settlement with DTE that achieves all of our key objectives and creates the opportunity to develop a landfill solar project in collaboration with DTE.

- **Addressing CM Hayner's Homophobic Slur on Social Media (DC-5):**

This resolution proposes to remove CM Hayner from his Council-approved Committee appointments for the remainder of the year for an [offensive quote he posted on social media](#) that included a homophobic slur as an attack on journalists. Read my introductory message for additional thoughts.

- **Resolution to Hire a Mediator/Coach for City Council (DC-6):** This resolution recommends utilizing \$20,000 of General Fund dollars to hire a mediator for City Council who will: 1) teach "meeting management and discourse methodology", 2) facilitate/coach Council meetings and Admin Meetings for two months, & 3) mediate future and pending actions against Council members. While I appreciate the desire to improve Council dynamics, I am skeptical this approach will be successful and as such I'm hesitant to spend \$20,000 when the City has a budget deficit. Council has been working to address outstanding issues through the modification of Council rules, but fundamentally individual responsibility and a commitment to professional behavior from all Councilmembers is necessary. This resolution frames the issue as one that can be solved through improved meeting management (i.e. factors the Mayor has control over). I disagree that meeting facilitation is the root of dysfunction we see at the Council table.

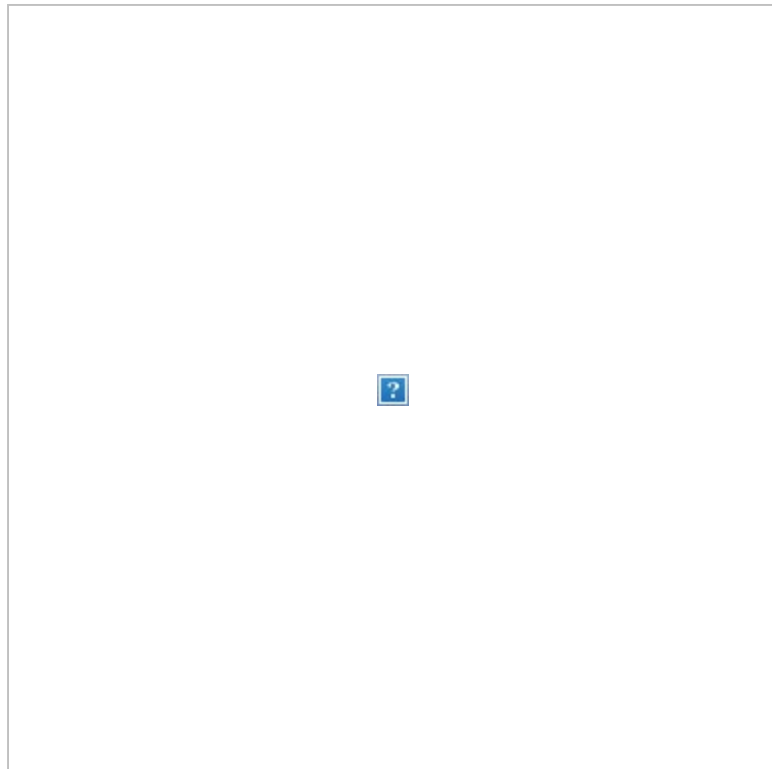
This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment](#)

[option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.



I apologize, but I will not be hosting Virtual Coffee Hours today. I was fortunate to receive my 2nd Covid vaccine on Thursday evening, but as a result much of Friday and Saturday morning were spent mostly in bed. I wanted to get this Council newsletter out this weekend, but I'm playing a bit of catch-up around the house. Please feel free to call me tomorrow (734-355-3931) if you have a

topic you wish to discuss prior to the Council meeting tomorrow night.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.

Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

From: [Dani Parker](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#); [Eyer, Jen](#); [Grand, Julie](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Song, Linh](#); [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: CM Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:07:24 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello CM Ramwali

My name is Dani Parker. I am a ward 1 resident. I find the behavior of both yourself for defending him and Jeff Hayners actions regarding his homophobic comments proof you are not fit to represent the robust community of Ann Arbor. In all of our many citizens each individual is what makes Ann Arbor great. 4 or 5 apples can ruin a whole bunch...

In addition your behavior specifically, CM Nelson and CM Griswold in regards to Jen Eyer and the FOIA request for the 911 call made from her home is nothing short of a "witch hunt" for a lack of a better terms. As a domestic violence survivor myself, what you all have done has proved that no victim is safe from the many layers of trauma as a DV victim. Shame and embarrassment are just two of the constant moving parts, fear of not being able to put it behind you is another when a city official from your own town was RE VICTIMIZED so publicly. Let me say it again, RE VICTIMIZED... CM Eyer and so many others like me were in fact RE VICTIMIZED even having to have read about another DV case being dredged up for political gain in an effort to embarrass a fellow CM that has opposed you and your cohorts. You serve the entire city of Ann Arbor I suggest you all start acting like it and stop using tax payer dollars trolling fb.

Yours in Ann Arbor pride
Dani Parker

[REDACTED]

Ward 1 resident

From: [Lloyd Goldsmith](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Homophobia in City Council
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:48:05 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all --

I've written to y'all before about homophobia, and I'm writing to you again about homophobia, but this time it's to say that I give up. You win. Go ahead and be homophobic, let homophobia run rampant in the city, chase us fags out and celebrate our absence. I don't care. You win.

It's become obvious to me over the years that the city of Ann Arbor doesn't care about us faggots. You care about the respectable gays, the fine upstanding homosexuals, but you don't give half a wet, loose shit about us faggots. Some of you are not only willing to tolerate someone using the word faggot in a truly abhorrent way, but are willing to back that tolerance up with legal action, so I concede: this post-gentrification city has had little for me before, and now that I'm on my way out I can admit that now it truly has nothing for me.

I won't be here for the next election, not because of this, but this makes me regret the move less. This is not a city for faggots, because try as we might to reclaim the word, some of y'all in power will fight tooth and nail for your right to make us feel like shit by using it against us. Feel free to fight for the cis het vote, or for the vote of the assimilationist, or for the vote of the respectable gay, but don't bother fighting for the faggot vote. Some of you have shown that vote matters to you, and some of you have shown you'd rather we die than live with dignity and respect.

Coldest regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: RE: your social media post
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:07:00 PM

Dear Ms. Goldberg,

Please clarify, are you writing as a resident of the city, or is this the official position of the LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office, and thereby the Mayor's Office? I have read both of the statements below, and the list of names. I have issued a public apology, using the limited resources I have to do so, it has been sent in response to concerned residents who have contacted me via email, posted on Facebook both on my own page and on the group in which the original quote was posted, and sent to a list of media organizations. I have had no opportunity to make a public apology at a council meeting as our Work Session of Monday April 12th was cancelled. If you have not yet seen it, it is as follows:

"I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community."

If you have not seen it, I can only say it is because bad news travels fastest, and there is no doubt my apology was not distributed on social media with the same zeal as the screen capture of my (long-since deleted) post was, by many of the same folks who signed your petition. I respectfully disagree that limiting or removing Ward 1 residents representation on council boards and commissions will have any benefit commensurate with the harm that came from those words. As for learning, I do not object to the idea that anyone in my position who would exercise the poor judgement to post it quote without considering the potential ramifications is in need of reflection and learning, however, I fully reject any notion that I am a homophobic person in need of reform. That quote was not directed at the LGBTQ community. Use of that quote does not define me, it does not erase my lifetime of support and action for the LGBTQ community, or a lifetime of treating my gay and trans family and friends and community members with respect.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: your social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:

<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg

[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM

Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur

To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1
Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1

Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1
Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayne Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3
Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4

Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5
James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Lloyd Goldsmith](#)
Subject: Re: Homophobia in City Council
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:09:08 PM

Dear Mr. Goldsmith,

Please know that CM Hayner's comments and behavior are not reflective of the views of most members of Ann Arbor City Council. Below are the comments I included in my Council newsletter earlier today.

--

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially strongly defended his use of the quote, but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the Jim Toy Center and elected officials from other governing bodies. CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will consider a resolution (DC-5) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, "If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it." Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a history of making offensive statements on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last

Saturday came in response to an editorial in MLive seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, "Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society." MLive reporters are not alone. U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a 2018 Report by Freedom House highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly 1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in her letter to City Council earlier this week, "By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it." Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community.

And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

<https://mailchi.mp/ericafora2/april19>

On Apr 18, 2021, at 7:48 PM, Lloyd Goldsmith [REDACTED] wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all --

I've written to y'all before about homophobia, and I'm writing to you again about homophobia, but this time it's to say that I give up. You win. Go ahead and be homophobic, let homophobia run rampant in the city, chase us fags out and celebrate our absence. I don't care. You win.

It's become obvious to me over the years that the city of Ann Arbor doesn't care about us faggots. You care about the respectable gays, the fine upstanding homosexuals, but you don't give half a wet, loose shit about us faggots. Some of you are not only willing to tolerate someone using the word faggot in a truly abhorrent way, but are willing to back that tolerance up with legal action, so I concede: this post-gentrification city has had little for me before, and now that I'm on my way out I can admit that now it truly has nothing for me.

I won't be here for the next election, not because of this, but this makes me regret the move less. This is not a city for faggots, because try as we might to reclaim the word, some of y'all in power will fight tooth and nail for your right to make us feel like shit by using it against us. Feel free to fight for the cis het vote, or for the vote of the assimilationist, or for the vote of the respectable gay, but don't bother fighting for the faggot vote. Some of you have shown that vote matters to you, and some of you have shown you'd rather we die than live with dignity and respect.

Coldest regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Dani Parker](#)
Subject: Re: CM Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:05:41 PM

Thank you, Dani. I am truly sorry for any pain that these last weeks have caused you.

All the best,
Julie

From: Dani Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Griswold, Kathy <KGriswold@a2gov.org>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Subject: CM Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello CM Ramwali

My name is Dani Parker. I am a ward 1 resident. I find the behavior of both yourself for defending him and Jeff Hayners actions regarding his homophobic comments proof you are not fit to represent the robust community of Ann Arbor. In all of our many citizens each individual is what makes Ann Arbor great. 4 or 5 apples can ruin a whole bunch...

In addition your behavior specifically, CM Nelson and CM Griswold in regards to Jen Eyer and the FOIA request for the 911 call made from her home is nothing short of a "witch hunt" for a lack of a better terms. As a domestic violence survivor myself, what you all have done has proved that no victim is safe from the many layers of trauma as a DV victim. Shame and embarrassment are just two of the constant moving parts, fear of not being able to put it behind you is another when a city official from your own town was RE VICTIMIZED so publicly. Let me say it again, RE VICTIMIZED... CM Eyer and so many others like me were in fact RE VICTIMIZED even having to have read about another DV case being dredged up for political gain in an effort to embarrass a fellow CM that has opposed you and your cohorts. You serve the entire city of Ann Arbor I suggest you all start acting like it and stop using tax payer dollars trolling fb.

Yours in Ann Arbor pride
Dani Parker

[REDACTED]

Ward 1 resident

From: [Rachel Francisco](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:52:00 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

We are writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Is Councilmember Hayner entitled to his opinions and have a first amendment right to express in whatever manner he chooses? Absolutely. But as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor) to choose and sometimes temper the language he uses in public forums. There are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, but using slurs is never the correct option. Hiding behind “those aren’t my words, it’s a published quote” is a disingenuous excuse at best. And if and when one does misspeak, which does happen (which is more than a little difficult to accept as a response in this matter, with an attributed quote and all), apologizing sincerely, truly understanding why certain language hurts, is important. This is what Hayner has refused, or is unable to do.

There is much work to be done, and we believe that Hayner’s behavior has become an insurmountable distraction.

Rachel Francisco (she/hers)
Timo Anderson (he/his)
[REDACTED]

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Higgins, Sara](#)
Cc: [Crawford, Tom](#); [Postema, Stephen](#)
Subject: Agenda questions on DC-5
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:55:38 PM

Greetings,

I request for legal staff to be present during the Discussions on DC-5 as it pertains to our codified process in processing formal complaints against sitting council members including the Mayor by other members of council.

Heading into the April 13th Administration meeting, there had been no record or formal indication of complaints as a published item on our publicly published agenda. During approval of the that day agenda, CM Grand motioned to introduce new council business that involved CM Hayner. During those discussions on adding items to the agenda, I motioned to introduce into new business matter that involved a social media post made by the Mayor on the say exact day that the post CM Hayner was cited for violating rules- April 10, 2021.

Since the introduction of these two completely different complaints to the administration committee on April 13, there have been two separate and unequal paths taken as a response to those complaints. The complaint I introduced has been referred to a formal process which require me to take on a completely different process then what has occurred with the complaint filed against CM Hayner.

I would like the above matter addressed during discussions on DC-5.

Is the complaint I filed materially different then the complaint filed against CM Hayner? If so, what are the codified processes for each type of complaint?

Due to the late addition of this resolution, I was not able to submit this question before written responses were due. look forward to a the public response to this question during discussion on DC-5.

Respectfully
CM Ramlawi
Sent from my iPad

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Rachel Francisco](#)
Subject: Re: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15:20 PM

Thank you for your message, Rachel.

One small clarification - we are not proposing to censure CM Hayner, as that is outside the bounds of our current council rules. Removal from committees and commissions is within our power, so we felt that this was the most appropriate course of action.

Best,
Julie

From: Rachel Francisco [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:51 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

We are writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Is Councilmember Hayner entitled to his opinions and have a first amendment right to express in whatever manner he chooses? Absolutely. But as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor) to choose and sometimes temper the language he uses in public forums. There are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, but using slurs is never the correct option. Hiding behind “those aren’t my words, it’s a published quote” is a disingenuous excuse at best. And if and when one does misspeak, which does happen (which is more than a little difficult to accept as a response in this matter, with an attributed quote and all), apologizing sincerely, truly understanding why certain language hurts, is important. This is what Hayner has refused, or is unable to do.

There is much work to be done, and we believe that Hayner’s behavior has become an insurmountable distraction.

Rachel Francisco (she/hers)
Timo Anderson (he/his)
[REDACTED]

From: [Charles D Lewis](#)
To: erica@ericafora2.com
Cc: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#); [Disch, Lisa](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Song, Linh](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#); [Radina, Travis](#); [Grand, Julie](#); [Eyer, Jen](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#); [Briggs, Erica](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Response to your Newsletter re: CM Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:42:10 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CM Briggs,

In my personal experience, Jeff Hayner has always been a friend of the LGBTQ community, to which I belong. He can be counted on to walk the walk.

As one of your constituents, I want you to know that I do not believe that the allies of Mayor Taylor on the City Council are motivated by a bona fide desire to defend the LGBTQ community against CM Hayner's Facebook quote, an offensive passage from Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Instead, I believe that the Council majority will use the struggles of the LGBTQ community as a weapon to attack Mr. Hayner, one of the Council majority's political opponents. Using the LGBTQ battle for equality as a political football in a contest between local political factions is a form of exploitation.

To deprive CM Hayner of his committee assignments is to deprive his constituents of representation and to violate the rules established by Council for the regulation of its members' behavior. These rules clearly provide for no such penalty for such an offense. Offenses of greater gravity committed by the Mayor's allies on Council have never drawn such fire from him or others in his camp. The notion that the Council majority is not acting politically in its all-out assault on CM Hayner is absurd.

Ann Arbor is a representative democracy with a City Charter, Code, and Rules governing disciplinary matters. If you vote to deprive CM Hayner of his committee memberships, you will be acting well beyond the bounds of your authority. The Fifth Ward elected a council member, not a member of an oligarchy which makes its own rules to suit its own political agenda. Please respect and represent Ann Arbor's democratic process.

Very truly yours,
Charles Lewis

From: [Rachel Francisco](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: Re: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:05:22 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

thank you for that! do i need to send another email with that correction?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 10:15 PM, Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for your message, Rachel.

One small clarification - we are not proposing to censure CM Hayner, as that is outside the bounds of our current council rules. Removal from committees and commissions is within our power, so we felt that this was the most appropriate course of action.

Best,
Julie

From: Rachel Francisco [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:51 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

We are writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Is Councilmember Hayner entitled to his opinions and have a first amendment right to express in whatever manner he chooses? Absolutely.

But as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor) to choose and sometimes temper the language he uses in public forums. There are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, but using slurs is never the correct option. Hiding

behind “those aren’t my words, it’s a published quote” is a disingenuous excuse at best. And if and when one does misspeak, which does happen (which is more than a little difficult to accept as a response in this matter, with an attributed quote and all), apologizing sincerely, truly understanding why certain language hurts, is important. This is what Hayner has refused, or is unable to do.

There is much work to be done, and we believe that Hayner’s behavior has become an insurmountable distraction.

Rachel Francisco (she/hers)

Timo Anderson (he/his)



From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Rachel Francisco](#)
Subject: Re: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:27:56 PM

Definitely not! Some have been using the idea of censure (which is not being proposed) as an indication that we are not following the rules.

I truly appreciate your message.

From: Rachel Francisco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:05 PM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

thank you for that! do i need to send another email with that correction?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 10:15 PM, Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for your message, Rachel.

One small clarification - we are not proposing to censure CM Hayner, as that is outside the bounds of our current council rules. Removal from committees and commissions is within our power, so we felt that this was the most appropriate course of action.

Best,
Julie

From: Rachel Francisco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:51 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

We are writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Is Councilmember Hayner entitled to his opinions and have a first amendment right to express in whatever manner he chooses? Absolutely.

But as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor) to choose and sometimes temper the language he uses in public forums. There are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, but using slurs is never the correct option. Hiding behind “those aren’t my words, it’s a published quote” is a disingenuous excuse at best. And if and when one does misspeak, which does happen (which is more than a little difficult to accept as a response in this matter, with an attributed quote and all), apologizing sincerely, truly understanding why certain language hurts, is important. This is what Hayner has refused, or is unable to do.

There is much work to be done, and we believe that Hayner’s behavior has become an insurmountable distraction.

Rachel Francisco (she/hers)

Timo Anderson (he/his)

██████████

From: [alan haber](#)
To: [Erica Briggs](#); [Briggs, Erica](#)
Cc: [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Griswold, Kathy](#)
Subject: Re: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/18/21
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:48:59 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Erica,
I read your Ward 5 newsletter,
Needless to say, I'm very disappointed in your reasoning and conclusion about the Jeff Hayner Resolution.
If you read the Council Rules, at least as quoted by Jack Eaton and I presume you have, there is a Due Process method to address a member's actions which are considered offensive. This procedure was not followed, nor is the "punishment" one that is prescribed.

It seems, when political advantage can be gained, or personal spite satisfied, or proper loyalty shown, then due process is easily out the window.
The higher road would have been to have a hearing, the more open a hearing the better in my view, and let the offense be stated and the context known and the matter mediated toward restorative justice, and if there is a conclusion for a Council Reprimand, then do so, after due process, or move to expel him, if this is indeed a "high crime and misdemeanor."

I know nothing of the situation, except for Jack Eaton's Statement and the quote you quoted. Jeff is a fairly straight talking person, In seeking an example of a critical view of the press, he might find the straight talking style of Hunter Thompson a memorable source ...back before the "f" word became an "n" word. I don't any of what he said or where or what he was taking about. I had a good friend in college named Walter Faggot, an African American, and I always found the word friendly. In any case, I heard that, on consideration, after seeking to explain himself, he apologized for the offense and distress he caused. And it seemed to me, everyone could be satisfied and would be slightly better educated.

I wish, on consideration, you too would be satisfied with "everyone better educated" as an outcome. Or if not return to the rules and due process and have a proper hearing, and propose a reprimand or what Council Rules allow..

Your sort of high minded justification of "protecting fellow commissioners and the public" from the possibility of being exposed to his uncontrollable behavior and the latent danger of being offended is lame, at best.

Your demur that the action is really alright because "he can still vote" is equally hollow. You know Council Members are elected to function in the full range of government functions. It is not in the rules that one group of Council Members has the right to circumscribe the fullness of participation allowed to another Member.

Sadly, I consider this an ill considered, on your part, following of the Mayor, without whose assent, if not initiative, this would not be happening. The Mayor has shown himself sometimes loose with the rules when political advantage seemed at hand. You know my complaints: He violated his sworn Oath of Office, to defend the constitutional rights of Ann

Arbor people, when he agreed to void the signatures of registered voters petitioning the government for redress of grievance, and when he refused to take initiative within his power to correct this abridgement of constitutional right, in 2016, thus requiring a second circulation of the petition, and then, when we got certified for the Ballot in 2018, he endeavored to attach a biased argumentative "preface" to the Proposal, which the Appeal Judge of the Court of Law threw out as inappropriate and "not legal."

Why he would want to stoke further division now, rather than seek more functional cooperation, I do not know.

I had hoped for better from you.

I wish you would take a lead in backing off from this ill considered, out of due process, attack on a fellow Council Member.

Kathy Griswold's "Get a Therapist" Resolution is more to the point. Though if "power rules" there is little incentive actually to improve the process, and the best organizational therapists won't help much. I suggest you Amend the amount to a symbolic \$1000, and advertize for "pro bono help." This needs to be a job of love, not money. I suggest you seek a team of 3, who could work together. There are many competent caring people in Ann Arbor who could help, ... if the Council, including you, would acknowledge "help is heeded." Kathy Griswold clearly raises the question.

And clearly, obviously "Help is needed! " Or this out of order resolution would not be before the Council at all.

Whatever you do in the larger sense of Council Functioning, on the Jeff Hayner resolution. Please reconsider what you wrote.


Recognize Jeff as he is, an experienced, hard working, valuable and diligent member of the Council, chastened by his ill considered posting of a poorly chosen quotation and slowness to get the message, and now, all Members are ready to go forward with Council Business, in a spirit of increased mutual understanding.

I am sensitive to the "due process question" because I'm Involved in supporting a friend who was banned from the People's Food Coop, accused of having said a banned word, (which was not said) and having no fair process, and not being considered an individual, and management aggregating authority to itself, ("there is no appeal and the punishment is proper.") I think I wrote you about this earlier on... still unresolved.

When management loses track of the humanity of its members, and their strengths and value, the institution soon loses its integrity. I experienced this, (besides being trained and practiced in Social Work and Community Organization) in watching the death of the Berkeley Consumers Coop, strong since the 1930's and into the 80's. It was a good all round store with high member loyalty. One was proud to be a member. And then a new style business management got hired, more oriented to the new members that a growth plan would attract, than to the actual members who were the strength and ambassadors of the organization. Within surprisingly few years the Coop was over-extended and bankrupt and out of business, with an alienated membership who had forgotten what was supposed to be special about the coop.

In addressing the People's Food Coop, I suggested they see this transpass order against a long standing member as "a canary in the mine shaft" and correct their behavior.

I think the same is the case with the Resolution against Jeff Hayner.
The most graceful manner might be to refer the question to the administrative committee and rules committee to determine the best course of action.
However and in whatever way you don't do it, don't do it.

Thank you for your attention
Alan Haber
5th Ward


On Sun, Apr 18, 2021 at 2:54 PM Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com> wrote:



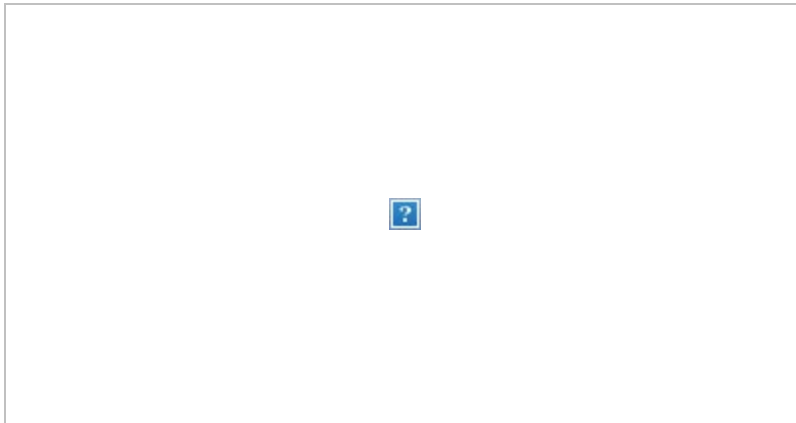
I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

**Content warning: Picture below includes explicit and offensive language.*



This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially [strongly defended his use of the quote](#), but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the [Jim Toy Center](#) and [elected officials from other governing bodies](#). CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote,

not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will [consider a resolution \(DC-5\)](#) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, *"If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it."* Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a [history of making offensive statements](#) on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and repeatedly attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an [editorial in MLive](#) seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, *"Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society."* MLive reporters are not alone. [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a [2018 Report by Freedom House](#) highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly [1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias](#) with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in [her letter to City Council](#) earlier this week, *"By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it."* Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

**Upcoming Council Meeting (4/19)
Agenda Spotlight**

This week, City Council will meet on Monday, April 19th at 7pm. We continue to meet via Zoom. It's a hefty agenda with 24 items on the consent agenda, six public hearings, six ordinances scheduled for first reading and five for second reading, and six items on Council new business. You can **view the entire Council agenda** [here](#). As always, I would love to hear your thoughts on any agenda items. Prior to every Council meeting, Council members can ask staff questions about items on the agenda. Getting these responses before meetings not only helps to inform us, but also makes meetings more efficient. You can read responses to our questions [here](#).

- **Notable Items on the Consent Agenda:**

- **Developing more Affordable Housing** ([CA-3](#), [CA-4](#), & [CA-5](#)) : In 2019, City Council asked staff to begin exploring the feasibility of developing affordable housing on eleven city-owned properties. Based on this analysis, Council will be considering three resolutions which direct the Housing Commission to pursue the development of affordable housing (60% AMI or less = \$51,200) at: 721 North Main (15-25 units), 353 South Main Street (50-90 units), and 1510 E. Stadium (8-23 units). With affordable housing in limited supply in Ann Arbor, these resolutions demonstrate an important step forward in building more affordable housing in our community.
- **Better Maintaining our Bike Facilities** ([CA-2](#)): The City has over 90 miles of bike lanes. However, with the addition of new bike lanes the City has struggled to provide appropriate levels of maintenance. This request for additional funding was initiated by staff to make the bike lanes "cleaner, safer and more accessible to cyclists. This proactive maintenance has dramatically reduced resident bike lane maintenance requests and is operationally more efficient than a reactive approach."

- **Public Hearings:**

- **22 Townhomes on North Main** ([PH-1](#), [B-1](#), [DB-1](#)) A public hearing and resolution to rezone, and subsequently approve, a 1.2-acre parcel (700 North Main Street) from PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling) to allow the site to be redeveloped with 22 townhouses.

- **Ordinance Changes at First Reading:**

- **Relaxing Standards for Building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** ([CA-1](#)) : In 2016, City Council adopted an ADU ordinance. To date, few have been built in the City due to the restrictive nature

of the current standards. The Planning Commission, following [four meetings on the issue](#) and significant deliberation, is proposing to Council a number of changes to City Code which would make it easier to build an accessory dwelling unit. This [AARP publication](#) outlines the merits of loosening ADU restrictions in a community to allow for more housing.

- **Valhalla Project (C-2):** At second reading, this conditional rezoning petition (from single family to R4E) will be accompanied by a site plan petition to demolish all existing structures and construct a total of 454 dwelling units in several stacked flat apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings. This project will include 15 units of affordable housing at 60% AMI or less and be the largest all electric housing development in Ann Arbor.
- **Proposed 5% Increase in Stormwater Fees (C-3):** The proposed increase for the [stormwater portion](#) of a customer's bill is an estimated \$2.84 per quarter, or \$11.36 annually. The staff recommendation is consistent with the City's [Stormwater Utility Rate Study](#), Capital Improvement Plan, and Stormwater Asset Management Plan. Learn how you may be able to [reduce your bill through the use of stormwater credits](#).
- **Council New Business:**
 - **City Reaches Settlement in Case Challenging DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program (DC-4):** In 2020, the City of Ann Arbor intervened in Michigan Public Service Commission Cases relating to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program because the City found the pricing in the VGP program to be too high, DTE's projections of future renewable energy builds to be too low, and the offerings through the VGP program to be too limited. The City has reached a proposed settlement with DTE that achieves all of our key objectives and creates the opportunity to develop a landfill solar project in collaboration with DTE.
 - **Addressing CM Hayner's Homophobic Slur on Social Media (DC-5):** This resolution proposes to remove CM Hayner from his Council-approved Committee appointments for the remainder of the year for an [offensive quote he posted on social media](#) that included a homophobic slur as an attack on journalists. Read my introductory message for additional thoughts.
 - **Resolution to Hire a Mediator/Coach for City Council (DC-6):** This

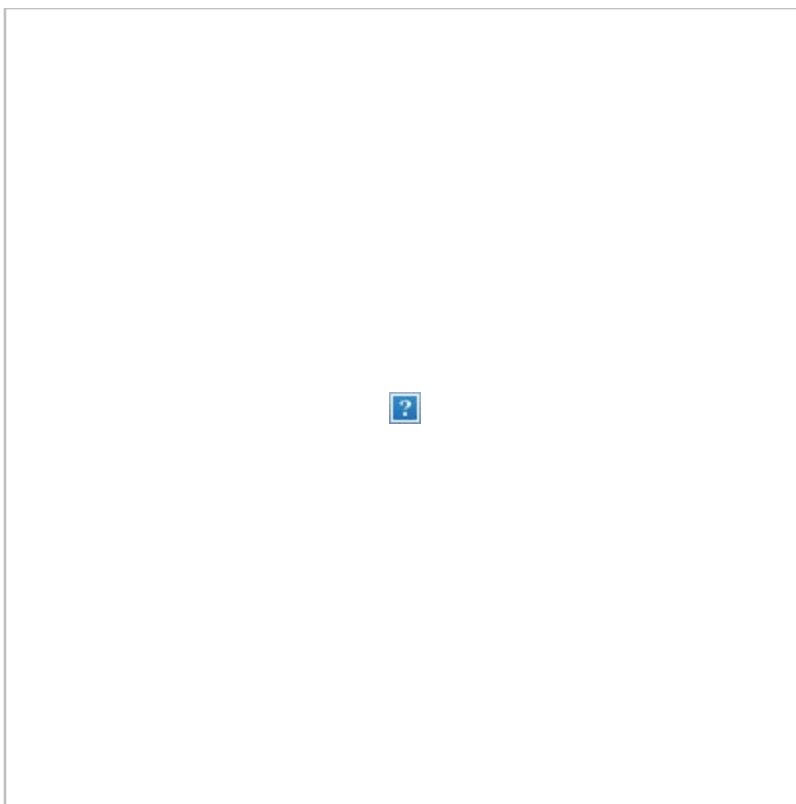
resolution recommends utilizing \$20,000 of General Fund dollars to hire a mediator for City Council who will: 1) teach "meeting management and discourse methodology", 2) facilitate/coach Council meetings and Admin Meetings for two months, & 3) mediate future and pending actions against Council members. While I appreciate the desire to improve Council dynamics, I am skeptical this approach will be successful and as such I'm hesitant to spend \$20,000 when the City has a budget deficit. Council has been working to address outstanding issues through the modification of Council rules, but fundamentally individual responsibility and a commitment to professional behavior from all Councilmembers is necessary. This resolution frames the issue as one that can be solved through improved meeting management (i.e. factors the Mayor has control over). I disagree that meeting facilitation is the root of dysfunction we see at the Council table.

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at www.a2gov.org/watchCTN. To speak at public comment call: 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID 942 1273 2148

You can provide public comment on any item on the agenda via the [eComment option](#), directly [email](#) Council, or call the [City Clerk's office](#) to reserve one of the ten (3-minute) spots to speak during public comment period at the beginning of the Council meeting. (*Tip: You often have to call the City Clerk's office close to 8am, the day of the Council meeting, to get a spot in the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.*)

Public comment at the end of the meeting is open to all and is not reserved in advance. Agenda items listed as public hearings (PH) have additional public speaking time and speakers are not required to sign-up in advance to speak.

Special Note: The Consent Agenda (CA) consists of items requiring Council approval that are generated from staff work. Items on the CA are approved in one vote, unless a Council member asks for an item to be removed for discussion. If you see an item you think merits more thoughtful consideration, please draw my attention to it.



I apologize, but I will not be hosting Virtual Coffee Hours today. I was fortunate to receive my 2nd Covid vaccine on Thursday evening, but as a result much of Friday and Saturday morning were spent mostly in bed. I wanted to get this Council newsletter out this weekend, but I'm playing a bit of catch-up around the house. Please feel free to call me tomorrow (734-355-3931) if you have a topic you wish to discuss prior to the Council meeting tomorrow night.

[Learn More](#)



Copyright © Vote Erica Briggs. All rights reserved.
Paid for by Vote Erica Briggs, 538 Fifth Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

From: [LE Goldsmith](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: Re: Homophobia in City Council
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:13:19 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hey Erica —

I love the effort.

I would also love to point out the pronouns in my original message.

Performative regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 8:09 PM, Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Goldsmith,

Please know that CM Hayner's comments and behavior are not reflective of the views of most members of Ann Arbor City Council. Below are the comments I included in my Council newsletter earlier today.

--

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially strongly defended his use of the quote, but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the Jim Toy Center and elected officials from other governing bodies.

CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will consider a resolution (DC-5) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, "If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it." Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a history of making offensive statements on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an editorial in MLive seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, "Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society." MLive reporters are not alone. U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a 2018 Report by Freedom House highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly 1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in her letter to City Council earlier this week, "By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it." Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years

of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

<https://mailchi.mp/ericafora2/april19>

On Apr 18, 2021, at 7:48 PM, Lloyd Goldsmith
[REDACTED] wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all --

I've written to y'all before about homophobia, and I'm writing to you again about homophobia, but this time it's to say that I give up. You win. Go ahead and be homophobic, let homophobia run rampant in the city, chase us fags out and celebrate our absence. I don't care. You win.

It's become obvious to me over the years that the city of Ann Arbor doesn't care about us faggots. You care about the respectable gays, the fine upstanding homosexuals, but you don't give half a wet, loose shit about us faggots. Some of you are not only willing to tolerate someone using the word faggot in a truly abhorrent way, but are willing to back that tolerance up with legal action, so I concede: this post-gentrification city has had little for me before, and now that I'm on my way out I can admit that now it truly has nothing for me.

I won't be here for the next election, not because of this, but this makes me regret the move less. This is not a city for faggots, because try as we might to reclaim the word, some of y'all in power will fight tooth and nail for your right to make us feel like shit by using it against us. Feel free to fight for the cis het vote, or for the vote of the assimilationist, or for the vote of the respectable gay, but don't bother fighting for the faggot vote. Some of you have shown that vote matters to you, and some of you have shown you'd rather we die than live with dignity and respect.

Coldest regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

From: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Charles D Lewis](#)
Subject: RE: Response to your Newsletter re: CM Hayner
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:13:00 AM

Thank you for sending this email. Quite a lot of what is happening now is exactly the opposite of what is being professed. Procedurally and as precedent, this is horrifying. We are told that the harm done is so enormous, we must act quickly (without any meaningful discussion of that harm). We are told that CM Hayner has communicated in such a dangerous way that we must take drastic action (without any explanation – meaningful or otherwise – about how his continued service in places like the liquor license commission has anything to do with that danger).

I was told that this is all perfectly above board and within the scope of what is permitted because these are mayoral appointments. Imagine that: any excuse (with support from a majority of council) can remove any elected Council Member from positions on boards or commissions if that is the Mayor's wish! I'm waiting for the explanation that anyone who does not vote in support of removing CM Hayner from these positions is an apologist for LGBTQ hate speech, and then we may also be stripped of appointments.

It's a wild new standard if any Council Members can now be removed from responsibilities for any words that are broadly offensive (and potentially harmful) to people who are recognized, categorically, as vulnerable to harm. I think CMU is talking to some women who could describe quite a lot of harm done (I doubt a majority of Council would take up that cause on behalf of young, vulnerable women everywhere)

Elizabeth

From: Charles D Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:41 PM
To: erica@ericafora2.com
Cc: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Griswold, Kathy <KGriswold@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Subject: Response to your Newsletter re: CM Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CM Briggs,

In my personal experience, Jeff Hayner has always been a friend of the LGBTQ community, to which I belong. He can be counted on to walk the walk.

As one of your constituents, I want you to know that I do not believe that the allies of Mayor

Taylor on the City Council are motivated by a bona fide desire to defend the LGBTQ community against CM Hayner's Facebook quote, an offensive passage from Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Instead, I believe that the Council majority will use the struggles of the LGBTQ community as a weapon to attack Mr. Hayner, one of the Council majority's political opponents. Using the LGBTQ battle for equality as a political football in a contest between local political factions is a form of exploitation.

To deprive CM Hayner of his committee assignments is to deprive his constituents of representation and to violate the rules established by Council for the regulation of its members' behavior. These rules clearly provide for no such penalty for such an offense. Offenses of greater gravity committed by the Mayor's allies on Council have never drawn such fire from him or others in his camp. The notion that the Council majority is not acting politically in its all-out assault on CM Hayner is absurd.

Ann Arbor is a representative democracy with a City Charter, Code, and Rules governing disciplinary matters. If you vote to deprive CM Hayner of his committee memberships, you will be acting well beyond the bounds of your authority. The Fifth Ward elected a council member, not a member of an oligarchy which makes its own rules to suit its own political agenda. Please respect and represent Ann Arbor's democratic process.

Very truly yours,
Charles Lewis

From: [Erich Zechar](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: items on the agenda today
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:04:15 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello, lots on the agenda tonight so I wanted to support three or four items.

Yes on CA-2 - increasing maintenance for bike lanes from \$75k budget to \$100k. It's a drop in the bucket in the transportation budget and it's desperately needed if we are going to have safe complete streets downtown to encourage nonmotorized transit.

Yes on C-1: ADUs are a great way to age in place and support your income if you're a homeowner. They're too difficult to build with our onerous rules currently. Make them easier to build. The scare that investors will swoop in and build them is extremely unlikely as they're half as profitable as simply buying a home and renting it out, or doing a teardown and building a larger home to sell or buy.

Yes on C-2: Valhalla is a great project, electric only to help meet future carbon goals, walkable to amenities downtown, and in a great location. It should be approved

DC-5: I wrestle with this because I want to believe in CM Hayner's stated remorse and apology. Still, the words he posted on Facebook cannot be fully taken back and there should be consequences to using hate speech, whether it's your own original words or a quote weaponized against those you disagree with. He should be stripped of his committee assignments, maybe some education provided, and council should move on to conduct the business of the city.

Thank you

Erich Zechar
Ward 2

From: [alan haber](#)
To: [Elizabeth Nelson](#); [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:53:36 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Elizabeth.

I saw your newsletter comments on the Jeff Hayner Resolution. I had just written to my 5th Ward Representative, Erica Briggs, having just read her newsletter.

I will share with you my comments to Erica. I hope you will contribute to sending this ill considered resolution back for reconsideration.

Thank you

Alan

Hello Erica,

I read your Ward 5 newsletter,

Needless to say, I'm very disappointed in your reasoning and conclusion about the Jeff Hayner Resolution.

If you read the Council Rules, at least as quoted by Jack Eaton and I presume you have, there is a Due Process method to address a member's actions which are considered offensive. This procedure was not followed, nor is the "punishment" one that is prescribed.

It seems, when political advantage can be gained, or personal spite satisfied, or proper loyalty shown, then due process is easily out the window.

The higher road would have been to have a hearing, the more open a hearing the better in my view, and let the offense be stated and the context known and the matter mediated toward restorative justice, and if there is a conclusion for a Council Reprimand, then do so, after due process, or move to expel him, if this is indeed a "high crime and misdemeanor."

I know nothing of the situation, except for Jack Eaton's Statement and the quote you quoted. Jeff is a fairly straight talking person, In seeking an example of a critical view of the press, he might find the straight talking style of Hunter Thompson a memorable source ...back before the "f" word became an "n" word. I don't any of what he said or where or what he was taking about. I had a good friend in college named Walter Faggot, an African American, and I always found the word friendly. In any case, I heard that, on consideration, after seeking to explain himself, he apologized for the offense and distress he caused. And it seemed to me, everyone could be satisfied and would be slightly better educated.

I wish, on consideration, you too would be satisfied with "everyone better educated" as an outcome. Or if not return to the rules and due process and have a proper hearing, and propose a reprimand or what Council Rules allow..

Your sort of high minded justification of "protecting fellow commissioners and the public" from the possibility of being exposed to his uncontrollable behavior and the latent danger of being offended is lame, at best.

Your demur that the action is really alright because "he can still vote" is equally hollow. You

know Council Members are elected to function in the full range of government functions. It is not in the rules that one group of Council Members has the right to circumscribe the fullness of participation allowed to another Member.

Sadly, I consider this an ill considered, on your part, following of the Mayor, without whose assent, if not initiative, this would not be happening. The Mayor has shown himself sometimes loose with the rules when political advantage seemed at hand. You know my complaints: He violated his sworn Oath of Office, to defend the constitutional rights of Ann Arbor people, when he agreed to void the signatures of registered voters petitioning the government for redress of grievance, and when he refused to take initiative within his power to correct this abridgement of constitutional right, in 2016, thus requiring a second circulation of the petition, and then, when we got certified for the Ballot in 2018, he endeavored to attach a biased argumentative "preface" to the Proposal, which the Appeal Judge of the Court of Law threw out as inappropriate and "not legal."

Why he would want to stoke further division now, rather than seek more functional cooperation, I do not know.

I had hoped for better from you.

I wish you would take a lead in backing off from this ill considered, out of due process, attack on a fellow Council Member.

Kathy Griswold's "Get a Therapist" Resolution is more to the point. Though if "power rules" there is little incentive actually to improve the process, and the best organizational therapists won't help much. I suggest you Amend the amount to a symbolic \$1000, and advertize for "pro bono help." This needs to be a job of love, not money. I suggest you seek a team of 3, who could work together. There are many competent caring people in Ann Arbor who could help, ... if the Council, including you, would acknowledge "help is heeded." Kathy Griswold clearly raises the question.

And clearly, obviously "Help is needed! " Or this out of order resolution would not be before the Council at all.

Whatever you do in the larger sense of Council Functioning, on the Jeff Hayner resolution. Please reconsider what you wrote.

Recognize Jeff as he is, an experienced, hard working, valuable and diligent member of the Council, chastened by his ill considered posting of a poorly chosen quotation and slowness to get the message, and now, all Members are ready to go forward with Council Business, in a spirit of increased mutual understanding.

I am sensitive to the "due process question" because I'm Involved in supporting a friend who was banned from the People's Food Coop, accused of having said a banned word, (which was not said) and having no fair process, and not being considered an individual, and management aggregating authority to itself, ("there is no appeal and the punishment is proper.") I think I wrote you about this earlier on... still unresolved.

When management loses track of the humanity of its members, and their strengths and value, the institution soon loses its integrity. I experienced this, (besides being trained and practiced in Social Work and Community Organization) in watching the death of the Berkeley Consumers Coop, strong since the 1930's and into the 80's. It was a good all round store with

high member loyalty. One was proud to be a member. And then a new style business management got hired, more oriented to the new members that a growth plan would attract, than to the actual members who were the strength and ambassadors of the organization. Within surprisingly few years the Coop was over-extended and bankrupt and out of business, with an alienated membership who had forgotten what was supposed to be special about the coop.

In addressing the People's Food Coop, I suggested they see this transpass order against a long standing member as "a canary in the mine shaft" and correct their behavior.

I think the same is the case with the Resolution against Jeff Hayner.

The most graceful manner might be to refer the question to the administrative committee and rules committee to determine the best course of action.

However and in whatever way you don't do it, don't do it.

Thank you for your attention

Alan Haber

5th Ward



On Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM Elizabeth Nelson <contact@a2elnel.com> wrote:





Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and

site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:

We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: "internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling

or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link:
<https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2elnel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.



A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request

generated controversy.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint-planning-transportation-meeting>

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>



A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2inel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 (21-0769) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 1510 E Stadium as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified

Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700 North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays) (ORD-21-07)

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling)n in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)A

planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and

Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, 155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

ArborStormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nomination was introduced at the previous meeting, and will therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from

Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the previous Council approved a ballot proposal for an Affordable Housing Millage (I was a cosponsor). The Washington Post wrote about it here:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/how-a-small-property-tax-increase-can-boost-affordable-housing-inventories/2021/02/24/0c1c2554-6d8b-11eb-ba56-d7e2c8defa31_story.html

CLEANING UP THE GELMAN PLUME

Also this week: we received news that Governor Whitmer has formally requested intervention from the federal EPA to clean up the Gelman 1,4-Dioxane contamination. This pollution is spreading underground on the west side of Ann Arbor. Council efforts to engage the federal EPA started in October 2019. That resolution prompted many meetings in partnership with other local elected bodies, until we finally reached agreement in November 2020. For more explanation of the significance, see this MLive article:

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/state-approves-seeking-federal-superfund-cleanup-of-dioxane-pollution-in-ann-arbor.html>

LAND USE PLANNING

Agenda Item C-1 proposes amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Units ordinance. These amendments significantly change permitted use for all residential lots in the City, allowing the construction of an additional small house in any backyard, regardless of parcel size or ownership (i.e. two units on a single lot as investment rental).

In 2019, a majority of Council in 2019 resisted this change, suggesting that it could and should be considered as part of anticipated work to revise the City's Master Plan. Due to COVID-related budgeting challenges, that Master Plan work is delayed. The amendments proposed this week are actually more remarkable than what was presented in 2019: they remove the requirement for owner-occupancy in either structure. It is no longer accurate to describe these units as "granny flats" to help house family members in close proximity or to help residents stay in their homes (supervising on-site rentals to generate income). As proposed, these amendments are now aimed at providing an opportunity for commercial investment in rentals.

WARD 4: VALHALLA

Agenda item C-2 is a proposed re-zoning of 9.8 acres located in Ward 4, on South Main just south of the intersection at Scio Church. Valhalla is a dirt road, across from Pioneer High School, that currently has six houses on it. Staff recommended zoning for this area that would permit re-development with 84 housing units. Against staff recommendation, the Planning Commission approved and sent to Council a plan for 454 housing units. The proposed zoning includes “conditions” to justify the expansion: the project will not hook up to natural gas (except for “emergency back-up electrical generator”), will have solar panel installation expected to provide 12-13% of needed power, and will offer 15 affordable housing units (3% of total units). The University of Michigan has communicated to City Council, identifying serious concerns they have about this project’s proposed retaining walls and grading, stormwater management, sanitary sewer systems, and safety fencing needed due to its proximity to the golf course.

Note: this is first reading of the zoning change. There will be a public hearing at second reading.

Thank you for helping me represent Ward 4!

Elizabeth Nelson

ENelson@A2gov.org

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



You can unsubscribe from this list at any time using the link below.

Paid for by
Committee to Elect Elizabeth Nelson
PO Box 2243
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2243

[Add us to your address book](#)

Donate to my campaign: <https://www.a2elhel.com/donate>

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [LE Goldsmith](#)
Subject: Re: Homophobia in City Council
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:57:58 AM

Lloyd,

My sincere apologies for misgendering you. I really appreciate your patience in writing me back and pointing that out. Can I ask you to help educate me a bit more... is Mx. the appropriate formal introduction in a letter.

Sincerely,
Erica

On Apr 19, 2021, at 1:13 AM, LE Goldsmith <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hey Erica —

I love the effort.

I would also love to point out the pronouns in my original message.

Performative regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2021, at 8:09 PM, Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Goldsmith,

Please know that CM Hayner's comments and behavior are not reflective of the views of most members of Ann Arbor City Council. Below are the comments I included in my Council newsletter earlier today.

--

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially strongly defended his use of the quote, but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the Jim Toy Center and elected officials from other governing bodies. CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will consider a resolution (DC-5) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, "If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it." Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a history of making offensive statements on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an editorial in MLive seeking to raise awareness about the increase in

vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, "Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society." MLive reporters are not alone. U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a 2018 Report by Freedom House highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now.

Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly 1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in her letter to City Council earlier this week, "By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it." Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

<https://mailchi.mp/ericafora2/april19>

On Apr 18, 2021, at 7:48 PM, Lloyd Goldsmith
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all --

I've written to y'all before about homophobia, and I'm writing to you again about homophobia, but this time it's to say that I give up. You win. Go ahead and be homophobic, let homophobia run rampant in the city, chase us fags out and celebrate our absence. I don't care. You win.

It's become obvious to me over the years that the city of Ann Arbor doesn't care about us faggots. You care about the respectable gays, the fine upstanding homosexuals, but you don't give half a wet, loose shit about us faggots. Some of you are not only willing to tolerate someone using the word faggot in a truly abhorrent way, but are willing to back that tolerance up with legal action, so I concede: this post-gentrification city has had little for me before, and now that I'm on my way out I can admit that now it truly has nothing for me.

I won't be here for the next election, not because of this, but this makes me regret the move less. This is not a city for faggots, because try as we might to reclaim the word, some of y'all in power will fight tooth and nail for your right to make us feel like shit by using it against us. Feel free to fight for the cis het vote, or for the vote of the assimilationist, or for the vote of the respectable gay, but don't bother fighting for the faggot vote. Some of you have shown that vote matters to you, and some of you have shown you'd rather we die than live with dignity and respect.

Coldest regards,

Lloyd Goldsmith
they/them

From: [Lynn Borset](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Offended?
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 8:51:26 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, I am offended -- that you took the opportunity of your Newsletter, which is sent to what? about 4,000 Ward 5 residents? to circulate that very offensive quote. It is particularly stunning that you did not redact (with hyphens or stars) the most offensive words. By this action you have spread the potential harm to *many* more people than saw it on Facebook -- since it was deleted 10 minutes after posting!

This act rather undermines the 'moral indignation' espoused in your text, since it may alarm many more people.

In no way do I condone that post by CM Hayner! It was a bad mistake.

However, the actions underway by other Council Members, including you, show a combative and punitive, "morally superior" attitude that is very troubling. Once again, rather than trying to defuse and remedy a situation, it is being escalated to create more outrage and division. That is what sending this screen shot in your newsletter did -- a tactic of "spread the fear." All too reminiscent of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,
Lynn

--



From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Borset, Lynn](#)
Subject: Re: Offended?
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:11:44 AM

Good morning Lynn,

Appreciate you calling Erica out for her actions that are only flaming the the divisions within our community and choosing whatever means to do it, even bastardizing social justice issues to get the "job" done.

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 19, 2021, at 8:51 AM, Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, I am offended -- that you took the opportunity of your Newsletter, which is sent to what? about 4,000 Ward 5 residents? to circulate that very offensive quote. It is particularly stunning that you did not redact (with hyphens or stars) the most offensive words. By this action you have spread the potential harm to *many* more people than saw it on Facebook -- since it was deleted 10 minutes after posting!

This act rather undermines the 'moral indignation' espoused in your text, since it may alarm many more people.

In no way do I condone that post by CM Hayner! It was a bad mistake.

However, the actions underway by other Council Members, including you, show a combative and punitive, "morally superior" attitude that is very troubling. Once again, rather than trying to defuse and remedy a situation, it is being escalated to create more outrage and division. That is what sending this screen shot in your newsletter did -- a tactic of "spread the fear." All too reminiscent of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,
Lynn

--
[REDACTED]

From: [Elizabeth Vandermark](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Resolution 21-0752
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:29:46 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

I am writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Councilmember Hayner is entitled to his opinions and to express in whatever manner he chooses. However, as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor). While there are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, repeating slurs (even for emphasis) is never appropriate. If and when one does misspeak, which happens, acknowledging the mistake and apologizing it is the appropriate response. The ability to engage in civil discourse is a necessary skill to governing. We need to work together to identify language that is hurtful to our neighbors and friends and not perpetuate it. Jeff Hayner's inability to engage in that conversation is deeply troubling.

Council has important and serious work to do this year. I believe that Jeff Hayner's behavior continues to be a distraction to that endeavor.

Liz Vandermark



From: [Jeff Crockett](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Please Don't Go Down the DC-5 Rabbit Hole
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:42:32 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

You should understand that if you pass DC-5 to ban Jeff Hayner from Committee assignments you will be, in effect, descending into a rabbit hole from which there will be NO exit. You are headed into uncharted waters. Before proceeding, you just might want to read and think about John 8:7, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Certainly, CM Hayner's post was troubling. But, why is this more troubling than the allegations against CM Jen Eyer? Why are you so quick to pounce on a FB blunder and completely ignore the allegations whirling around Jen Eyer in the Vanguard scandal which played out over a period of three years? It is public knowledge that Jen denied knowing of the repeated sexual harassment by her former business association TJ Bucholtz. But, it is dumbfounding to think she knew nothing. It seems that CM Eyer owes Ann Arbor voters a detailed account of her side to these allegations, not a terse denial. She also misrepresented the truth during the campaign when she claimed that she was a small business owner. Why should anyone believe her now? If it turns out through the Vanguard litigation that CM Eyer did not reveal all that she knew, that would violate the trust voters have placed in her and she should resign. In that event, should DC-5 be passed and become a precedent, Council should immediately move to relieve her of her committee assignments, just as you are proposing for CM Hayner.

Jen, a reasonable assumption about your sponsorship of DC-5 is that you are doing this to distract from the Vanguard scandal. As you know from your PR career, public impressions are everything. The politics behind this appear to be to intimidate CM Hayner so that he won't run in 2022, leaving Ward 1 open for another mayoral ally. As the old saying goes, "That's as plain as the nose on your face."

But, also consider that by punishing CM Hayner with DC-5, **you are really punishing First Ward voters who will lose their representation on key committees.** This is a regressive, not a Progressive action. If you vote for DC-5, you have defaulted on your credibility to call yourself a Progressive. DC-5 is a Trumpian maneuver. Let's not deceive ourselves.

Please don't go down this rabbit hole. Reject DC-5 and vote for DC-6.

Thanks for your consideration, Jeff and Christine Crockett

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Borset, Lynn](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Offended?
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:44:18 AM

Morally superior? No. This is a consequential vote and residents deserve to understand fully the material, context, and reasoning of my vote. They may disagree, but they deserve to be presented with all the material and make their own decision. My goal is transparency and clarity. My newsletter is read by adults and I very clearly stated my concerns with the material. I followed the lead of Commissioner Scott who shared the most offensive portion of the quote in her public letter.

On Apr 19, 2021, at 8:51 AM, Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, I am offended -- that you took the opportunity of your Newsletter, which is sent to what? about 4,000 Ward 5 residents? to circulate that very offensive quote. It is particularly stunning that you did not redact (with hyphens or stars) the most offensive words. By this action you have spread the potential harm to *many* more people than saw it on Facebook -- since it was deleted 10 minutes after posting!

This act rather undermines the 'moral indignation' espoused in your text, since it may alarm many more people.

In no way do I condone that post by CM Hayner! It was a bad mistake.

However, the actions underway by other Council Members, including you, show a combative and punitive, "morally superior" attitude that is very troubling. Once again, rather than trying to defuse and remedy a situation, it is being escalated to create more outrage and division. That is what sending this screen shot in your newsletter did -- a tactic of "spread the fear." All too reminiscent of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,
Lynn

--
[REDACTED]

From: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: your social media post
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:56:36 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilmember Hayner,

It is my understanding that my role as the liaison is not a political one, but rather a position to provide the city council, the city, and the Mayor with a connection to the LGBTQ community. Never in my discussions with any city staff or elected officials re: this role were politics or my position on issues brought up. My activities to date have been focused on reviewing the conversion therapy ordinance, the Trans Day of Visibility resolution, and a police policy re: transgender people, as well as speaking to the Human Rights Commission.

It is that role - as the LGBTQ liaison - that I shared with you and the other members of council the information about the statements from key LGBTQ organizations in our community: Ozone House and Jim Toy Center. What surprises me is that there is this liaison position in our city yet you made no effort to reach out to me directly (or it seems to any of our LGBTQ community organizations) to express an apology, to communicate an apology to the community via me or through other organizations, or to discuss ways to repair this situation. Certainly, many people are disappointed and upset by your use of the slur, and I understand that you feel that some of that outrage is politically motivated. Yet, there is undoubtedly unique harm in your using it to those of us to whom that word has been used in a hateful, threatening, or violent way. While I am coming to understand the various factions that exist on the council, I would venture to guess that most LGBTQ people in our community know far less about that than they do about their own histories with that word.

I authored and circulated the parent letter I sent you on Tuesday morning in my individual constituent capacity, made no mention of my role as LGBTQ liaison, and did not coordinate with any elected officials in my drafting it. Notably, my letter did not make any call for punishment but rather asked that you meaningfully engage in repair. You mention that you shared your apology in the channels available to you, though I emailed you Tuesday morning (and included the names of more than 100 city residents) and did not receive any response, did not receive your apology, nor did you ask me to send it along to those signatories.

In hindsight, I probably should have made a distinction between sharing the statements from the LGBTQ organizations as the liaison and my own actions via the letter in my email yesterday. I will be more mindful of my dual roles as a liaison to the city and as an individual constituent.

I appreciate that you have been an ally to the LGBTQ community and count yourself as a champion. I have not made any assumptions about your character, but rather in all my communications, I have focused on the importance of an apology and the steps taken after an apology to do better. And given your strong lifetime commitment to our community, all the more reason then to actually engage with our community to move forward.

I remain here to connect with you, to help connect you with various LGBTQ communities in Ann Arbor, and to see how to move forward from this in a way that strengthens Ann Arbor and reduces the frequency with which our youth, in particular, hear slurs such as the one you quoted.

Naomi

On Sun, Apr 18, 2021 at 8:07 PM Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Goldberg,

Please clarify, are you writing as a resident of the city, or is this the official position of the LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office, and thereby the Mayor's Office? I have read both of the statements below, and the list of names. I have issued a public apology, using the limited resources I have to do so, it has been sent in response to concerned residents who have contacted me via email, posted on Facebook both on my own page and on the group in which the original quote was posted, and sent to a list of media organizations. I have had no opportunity to make a public apology at a council meeting as our Work Session of Monday April 12th was cancelled. If you have not yet seen it, it is as follows:

"I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community."

If you have not seen it, I can only say it is because bad news travels fastest, and there is no doubt my apology was not distributed on social media with the same zeal as the screen capture of my (long-since deleted) post was, by many of the same folks who signed your petition. I respectfully disagree that limiting or removing Ward 1 residents representation on council boards and commissions will have any benefit commensurate with the harm that came from those words. As for learning, I do not object to the idea that anyone in my position who would exercise the poor judgement to post it quote without considering the potential ramifications is in need of reflection and learning, however, I fully reject any notion that I am a homophobic person in need of reform. That quote was not directed at the LGBTQ community. Use of that quote does not define me, it does not erase my lifetime of support and action for the LGBTQ community, or a lifetime of treating my gay and trans family and friends and community members with respect.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: your social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:

<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg

[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur
To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1
Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1
Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2

J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayme Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3
Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4
Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4

Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5
James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Re: your social media post
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:16:41 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I got an email back from him and have responded again. Blah.

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 10:11 AM Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org> wrote:
Thank you for your continued leadership, Naomi!

On Apr 18, 2021, at 4:12 PM, Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:
<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg
[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM
Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur
To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1

John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1
Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1
Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayme Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3

Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3
Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4
Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4
Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5

Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5
James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Lynn Borset](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Offended?
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:53:01 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, and you have received one adult's opinion -- mine.

Unfortunately, you did not provide the entire context, only the isolated post out of an entire FB thread. Did you see the entire post? I did not.

Nor did I see Katie Scott's letter, and I question her use of the un-redacted quote too. Using her own words, *"By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia"* but, that is exactly what she, and you, did.

I also refer to your words, "As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it." The language in your Newsletter included statements about CM Hayner which are, in my opinion, very judgmental; he "issued a lackluster apology," he "has a history of making offensive comments (disparaging, attacking)." You said, "I do not do so to shame him." What else could these comments be taken as? They vilify the person, not the behavior.

Again, that quote is disgusting; it was absolutely improper to post it.

However, the language being used against CM Hayner is "divisive and derogatory" and the proposed action of removing him from committee appointments is, in effect, "shunning" him, a practice from the Puritan era.

So, I am speaking up as a member of this community to say that I think the methods being used and the action being proposed are not appropriate. I guess you could call that 'condemning and taking action' to address it.

Just my opinion.

Sincerely,

Lynn

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 9:44 AM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Morally superior? No. This is a consequential vote and residents deserve to understand fully the material, context, and reasoning of my vote. They may disagree, but they deserve to be presented with all the material and make their own decision. My goal is transparency and clarity. My newsletter is read by adults and I very clearly stated my concerns with the material. I followed the lead of Commissioner Scott who shared the most offensive portion of the quote in her public letter.

On Apr 19, 2021, at 8:51 AM, Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, I am offended -- that you took the opportunity of your Newsletter, which is sent to what? about 4,000 Ward 5 residents? to circulate that very offensive quote. It is particularly stunning that you did not redact (with hyphens or stars) the most offensive words. By this action you have spread the potential harm to *many* more people than saw it on Facebook -- since it was deleted 10 minutes after posting!

This act rather undermines the 'moral indignation' espoused in your text, since it may alarm many more people.

In no way do I condone that post by CM Hayner! It was a bad mistake.

However, the actions underway by other Council Members, including you, show a combative and punitive, "morally superior" attitude that is very troubling. Once again, rather than trying to defuse and remedy a situation, it is being escalated to create more outrage and division. That is what sending this screen shot in your newsletter did -- a tactic of "spread the fear." All too reminiscent of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,
Lynn

--


--


From: [Adam Goodman](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Council Meeting Tonight
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:18:30 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning.

I'm writing as a resident of Ward 5, and as somebody who identifies as gay, to express strong support for several items on tonight's agenda, including CA-2, CA-3, CA-4, CA-5, B-1 / DB-1, C-1, C-2, and DC-5.

On CA-2, I would like to note that in my experience, debris (particularly, broken glass) in bike lanes is a persistent problem. Less than two weeks ago I encountered a particularly bad situation on Miller and reported it via A2FixIt (<https://seeclickfix.com/issues/9669797-other-issue>). While I am pleased that the city did apparently sweep the street following my report, I wish this type of work would be done more frequently and proactively - if I stopped to report every single instance of potentially dangerous bike-lane debris that I encounter in the city, I wouldn't ever reach my destination!

On CA-3, CA-4, and CA-5, I will simply note that I am thrilled to see progress toward building publicly owned housing on these sites.

On B-1 / DB-1, C-1, and C-2, I will note that Ann Arbor has a dire need for more housing at all income levels. As excited as I am about publicly-subsidized affordable housing, there's no way that these projects alone will meet the needs of our community. If we are to meet our equity and climate-action goals, we need to allow many, many more people to live near the places in which they work, learn, and live their lives. We particularly need to add more housing in areas that have good walking, biking, and transit access to jobs and necessities to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in and around our community. All of these projects / ordinance changes would ultimately serve that goal.

To the extent that Ann Arbor has traffic congestion issues, these are most substantially caused by commuters coming into the city for their jobs. As I'm sure you all know, in non-pandemic times it was estimated that 60-80 thousand people do this every day. If anything, adding a significant amount of new housing in walking/biking distance from grocery stores and downtown - and on a major transit corridor to boot - could be a step in the direction of improving the efficiency of our transportation network. Therefore, I strongly support the Valhalla project in particular (and reject many of the doomsaying arguments I've heard against it) and urge you all to vote in favor.

On DC-5, if there's a single point I'd like to make, it's that intent is not the same as impact. I don't claim to know what's in CM Hayner's heart, and I'm willing to believe that he bears no actual ill will toward the LGBTQ community. However, as a member of that community, I will say that his intent is basically irrelevant; the impact of his words has done harm to us, and to this city. I did appreciate that he eventually provided a very terse statement of apology acknowledging these harms, but even in doing so he continued trying to deflect blame to others (As quoted in <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/ann-arbor-council->

[member-apologizes-for-use-of-quote-with-homophobic-slur.html](#): "Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect amplifying this for political purposes had on the community...").

Were this an isolated incident, I might suggest we leave things there. I really wish we weren't having this conversation; I want City Council to be taking substantive action to improve the lives of all who live or spend time in our community. However, this incident was part of a pattern of outrageous and unacceptable behavior for a public official. This is the same councilmember who referred to one of his female colleagues as having "RBF", who shared misogynistic memes about another female colleague's attire, who told a member of the public to "suck on that", who expressed discomfort at the last meeting about a resolution condemning white terrorism and white supremacy. Simply put, if Ann Arbor is to be a welcoming place to all comers, these actions cannot be tolerated and must draw a forceful response.

The minority communities in Ann Arbor - two weeks ago, the AAPI community; this week, the LGBTQ community - want to believe that Ann Arbor is a place where the community has our backs, always and unconditionally. Anything less than a forceful, unanimous vote on DC-5 will send a very different message. I have seen some "concerns" about whether an appropriate process is being followed with this resolution, but rest assured that your constituents see through the cowardly deflection that this is. Did you raise process concerns when the US House of Representatives removed Marjorie Taylor Greene from her committee assignments, or when the U-M Board of Regents removed Ron Weiser from his? Council has this power, and should use it.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

- Adam

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Borset, Lynn](#)
Subject: Re: Offended?
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:20:46 AM

Thank you for sharing your opinion.

On Apr 19, 2021, at 10:53 AM, Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, and you have received one adult's opinion -- mine.

Unfortunately, you did not provide the entire context, only the isolated post out of an entire FB thread. Did you see the entire post? I did not.

Nor did I see Katie Scott's letter, and I question her use of the un-redacted quote too. Using her own words, *"By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia"* but, that is exactly what she, and you, did.

I also refer to your words, "As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it." The language in your Newsletter included statements about CM Hayner which are, in my opinion, very judgmental; he "issued a lackluster apology," he "has a history of making offensive comments (disparaging, attacking)." You said, "I do not do so to shame him." What else could these comments be taken as? They vilify the person, not the behavior.

Again, that quote is disgusting; it was absolutely improper to post it.

However, the language being used against CM Hayner is "divisive and derogatory" and the proposed action of removing him from committee appointments is, in effect, "shunning" him, a practice from the Puritan era.

So, I am speaking up as a member of this community to say that I think the methods being used and the action being proposed are not appropriate. I guess you could call that 'condemning and taking action' to address it. Just my opinion.

Sincerely,
Lynn

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 9:44 AM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Morally superior? No. This is a consequential vote and residents deserve to understand fully the material, context, and reasoning of my vote. They may disagree, but they deserve to be presented with all the material and make their own decision. My goal is transparency and clarity. My newsletter is read by adults and I very clearly stated my concerns with the material. I followed the lead of Commissioner Scott who shared the most offensive portion of the quote in her public letter.

On Apr 19, 2021, at 8:51 AM, Lynn Borset

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica,

Yes, I am offended -- that you took the opportunity of your Newsletter, which is sent to what? about 4,000 Ward 5 residents? to circulate that very offensive quote. It is particularly stunning that you did not redact (with hyphens or stars) the most offensive words. By this action you have spread the potential harm to *many* more people than saw it on Facebook -- since it was deleted 10 minutes after posting!

This act rather undermines the 'moral indignation' espoused in your text, since it may alarm many more people.

In no way do I condone that post by CM Hayner! It was a bad mistake.

However, the actions underway by other Council Members, including you, show a combative and punitive, "morally superior" attitude that is very troubling. Once again, rather than trying to defuse and remedy a situation, it is being escalated to create more outrage and division.

That is what sending this screen shot in your newsletter did -- a tactic of "spread the fear." All too reminiscent of the Trump administration.

Sincerely,
Lynn

--
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: RE: your social media post
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:47:00 AM

Dear Ms. Goldberg,

I just want you to be aware, when I first heard that the Mayor and CM Radina were making social media posts about this already-removed post, before even contacting me about it, I immediately called them both, twice, neither time was my call taken. I called CM Radina a third time and he was in a meeting (my former seat on Energy Commission from which I was removed in the 2020 appointment process – with no respect given for my seniority request by CM Grand) and a return call was never made. I have tried to reach out to my accusing colleagues. They have no interest in dialog or accepting my apology. I think you know very well this is a political power play, using the LGBTQ community's outrage as a weapon against someone he perceives to be his political opponent. I find that offensive, but of course it is effective and is achieving the mayor's goal – not to heal but to shame and harm and permanently tarnish my reputation – he is poisoning the city against me and using the LGBTQ community to do so. His repeated unwillingness to engage in any way with those he sees as political opponents is nothing new. He has only responded to about 4 of my emails in the 2+ years I have been on council, and he has never once picked up the phone to take my call. His actions towards me are the very definition of intolerance. Have you spoken with him about that? I also suggest, as I did to CM Radina, that if you find the language in that book offensive, you contact the publisher and ask them to cease publication. That would certainly be a step towards preventing this from ever happening again, would it not?

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: your social media post

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilmember Hayner,

It is my understanding that my role as the liaison is not a political one, but rather a position to provide the city council, the city, and the Mayor with a connection to the LGBTQ community. Never in my discussions with any city staff or elected officials re: this role were politics or my position on

issues brought up. My activities to date have been focused on reviewing the conversion therapy ordinance, the Trans Day of Visibility resolution, and a police policy re: transgender people, as well as speaking to the Human Rights Commission.

It is that role - as the LGBTQ liaison - that I shared with you and the other members of council the information about the statements from key LGBTQ organizations in our community: Ozone House and Jim Toy Center. What surprises me is that there is this liaison position in our city yet you made no effort to reach out to me directly (or it seems to any of our LGBTQ community organizations) to express an apology, to communicate an apology to the community via me or through other organizations, or to discuss ways to repair this situation. Certainly, many people are disappointed and upset by your use of the slur, and I understand that you feel that some of that outrage is politically motivated. Yet, there is undoubtedly unique harm in your using it to those of us to whom that word has been used in a hateful, threatening, or violent way. While I am coming to understand the various factions that exist on the council, I would venture to guess that most LGBTQ people in our community know far less about that than they do about their own histories with that word.

I authored and circulated the parent letter I sent you on Tuesday morning in my individual constituent capacity, made no mention of my role as LGBTQ liaison, and did not coordinate with any elected officials in my drafting it. Notably, my letter did not make any call for punishment but rather asked that you meaningfully engage in repair. You mention that you shared your apology in the channels available to you, though I emailed you Tuesday morning (and included the names of more than 100 city residents) and did not receive any response, did not receive your apology, nor did you ask me to send it along to those signatories.

In hindsight, I probably should have made a distinction between sharing the statements from the LGBTQ organizations as the liaison and my own actions via the letter in my email yesterday. I will be more mindful of my dual roles as a liaison to the city and as an individual constituent.

I appreciate that you have been an ally to the LGBTQ community and count yourself as a champion. I have not made any assumptions about your character, but rather in all my communications, I have focused on the importance of an apology and the steps taken after an apology to do better. And given your strong lifetime commitment to our community, all the more reason then to actually engage with our community to move forward.

I remain here to connect with you, to help connect you with various LGBTQ communities in Ann Arbor, and to see how to move forward from this in a way that strengthens Ann Arbor and reduces the frequency with which our youth, in particular, hear slurs such as the one you quoted.

Naomi

On Sun, Apr 18, 2021 at 8:07 PM Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Goldberg,

Please clarify, are you writing as a resident of the city, or is this the official position of the LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office, and thereby the Mayor's Office? I have read both of the statements below, and the list of names. I have issued a public apology, using the limited resources I have to do so, it has been sent in response to concerned residents who have contacted me via email, posted on Facebook both on my own page and on the group in which the original quote was posted, and sent to a list of media organizations. I have had no opportunity to make a public apology at a council meeting as our Work Session of Monday April 12th was cancelled. If you have not yet seen it, it is as follows:

"I acknowledge the language I quoted is offensive, recognize my poor judgment in using it, and I sincerely apologize for the harm I have caused the community."

If you have not seen it, I can only say it is because bad news travels fastest, and there is no doubt my apology was not distributed on social media with the same zeal as the screen capture of my (long-since deleted) post was, by many of the same folks who signed your petition. I respectfully disagree that limiting or removing Ward 1 residents representation on council boards and commissions will have any benefit commensurate with the harm that came from those words. As for learning, I do not object to the idea that anyone in my position who would exercise the poor judgement to post it quote without considering the potential ramifications is in need of reflection and leaning, however, I fully reject any notion that I am a homophobic person in need of reform. That quote was not directed at the LGBTQ community. Use of that quote does not define me, it does not erase my lifetime of support and action for the LGBTQ community, or a lifetime of treating my gay and trans family and friends and community members with respect.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:12 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Cc: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: your social media post

follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Councilmember Hayner.

I'm writing to you - again - to share a few important items related to your social media comments and the use of a slur toward gay people.

1 - Please see this statement from Ozone House, a valued community organization that serves many at-risk LGBTQ youth:

<https://ozonehouse.org/2021/04/13/protect-lgbtq-youth-from-homophobia/>

2 - Please see this statement from the Jim Toy Center, which is our community's LGBTQ community center:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3985922224800510&id=134945283231576

3 - Finally, I am resending a letter I sent you Tuesday morning signed by more than 100 local parents asking for both a public apology and meaningful attempts to repair. I did not receive a response from you.

I hope that the resolution on Monday evening, which would require both learning and strip you of leadership will be passed and can begin to move us to a place of greater understanding about the power of words, especially for people in leadership.

Thank you,

Naomi Goldberg

[REDACTED]

LGBTQ Liaison to the Mayor's Office

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Naomi Goldberg** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 7:32 AM

Subject: Please issue a public apology for your use of an anti-gay slur

To: <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Dear Councilmember Hayner:

As parents in the City of Ann Arbor, we are writing to express our outrage at your use of a quote containing a derogatory slur about gay people in a social media post referring to journalists.

We, as parents, know that name-calling is never okay. We strive to help our children be respectful in communicating with others. Research finds that far too many LGBTQ children still hear anti-LGBTQ slurs at school. The 2017 GLSEN National School Climate found that 85% of LGBTQ

students in Michigan heard homophobic remarks like the word contained in the quote you shared. Regardless of whether they were your words or a quote, utilizing that slur to make a point is no less harmful or offensive and it sends the message to LGBTQ people they are not worthy of respect, safety, and dignity.

When even a member of our city council uses such language, it is disheartening. Our children listen to the leaders around them and look to you for models of leadership, including how to address conflict when it arises. Disagreeing with someone is one thing. Using a slur, especially one that has been used to justify violence against LGBTQ people, is not acceptable, especially right now when transgender kids in our community are already the target of harmful legislation here in Michigan and around the country.

Additionally, as parents, we work hard with our children to repair when they make mistakes. This includes apologizing for something they have done that may have hurt someone else and asking what they can do to make it better. Yet you have refused to publicly apologize for your hurtful actions. Your lack of humility, even when told by members of the council, your own constituents, and other city residents that your actions were hurtful, is not a model of leadership for our children.

We ask that you issue a public apology formally recognizing the harm your words have caused and that you outline the steps you will take to repair the hurt you have caused LGBTQ people in our city and those who love them.

Sincerely,

The undersigned parents of the City of Ann Arbor

Scott Trudeau	Ward 1
Adam Boisvert	Ward 1
Sarah Pinkelman	Ward 1
John Scudder	Ward 1
Regan Knapp	Ward 1
Pamela Fine	Ward 1
Andrew Fine	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Anonymous	Ward 1
Grey Hendry	Ward 1
Tyler Brubaker	Ward 1
Jennie Allan	Ward 1
Shawn Perttunen	Ward 1
Candace Bulkley	Ward 1
Margaret Ging	Ward 1
Peter Honeyman	Ward 1
Tully Svekric	Ward 1

Elizabeth Trudeau	Ward 1
Deanne Neiburger	Ward 1
Erica Johnson	Ward 1
John Callewaert	Ward 2
J. Bruce Fields	Ward 2
Ned Staebler	Ward 2
Jayme Kunnath	Ward 2
Richard Pearson	Ward 2
Anne Sullivan	Ward 2
Tom W	Ward 2
Anonymous	Ward 2
Kirk Westphal	Ward 2
Beth Pearson	Ward 2
Kai Petainen	Ward 2
Sarah Thompson	Ward 2
Naomi Goldberg	Ward 3
Alice Collins-Thompson	Ward 3
Peyton Gilbert	Ward 3
Susie Shaefer	Ward 3
Libby Hemphill	Ward 3
Tatiana Konyha	Ward 3
Rachele Stucker	Ward 3
Kelly Zechmeister-Smith	Ward 3
Kristin Snyder, LGBTQIA community member and local business owner	Ward 3
Luke Shaefer	Ward 3
Connie Greer	Ward 3
Brian Chambers	Ward 3
Steph White	Ward 3
Kent Love-Ramirez	Ward 3
Jordan Else	Ward 4
Victoria Green	Ward 4
Margot Finn	Ward 4
Lori Shapiro	Ward 4
Carol Creech	Ward 4
Amanda Carlisle	Ward 4
Laura Houk	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Megan Fraga	Ward 4
Mandy Ammermann	Ward 4
Hallie Jewell	Ward 4
Emma Boley	Ward 4
Jessica Sendra	Ward 4
Jennifer Silva	Ward 4

Shannon Hautamaki	Ward 4
Leslie Gilbert	Ward 4
Molly Kleinman	Ward 4
Sara Adler	Ward 4
Susan Baughn	Ward 4
Anonymous	Ward 4
Julia Blough	Ward 5
Barbara McMullen	Ward 5
Evelyn Hollenshead	Ward 5
Ellen Lynch	Ward 5
Josh Woodward	Ward 5
Katherine Sharkey	Ward 5
Kevin Karpiak	Ward 5
Allison Camara	Ward 5
Eric Thompson	Ward 5
Suzanne Perkins	Ward 5
Chip Smith	Ward 5
Bryan Seitz	Ward 5
Dana Levin	Ward 5
Chuck Warpehoski	Ward 5
Alison Luk	Ward 5
Katherine Martinelli	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Cathy Murphy	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Nathan Phipps	Ward 5
Sarah Murray	Ward 5
Emily McGuire	Ward 5
James Pyke	Ward 5
Anonymous	Ward 5
Aaron and Rachel Levy	Ward 5
Lena Kauffman	Ward 5
Ellie Abrons	Ward 5
Jean Leverich	Ward 5
Katie Scott	Ward 5
Andy Blyler	Ward 5
Veronica Falandino	
Bret Hautamaki	
Lily Rushlow	North side of Ann Arbor

From: [Jose Romo-Puerta](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Do your job
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:52:03 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2021-04-19 at 10.49.38 AM.png](#)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali,

I saw your comment on Facebook and I want to make sure you understand that this community has no tolerance for hate. Jeff Hayner needs to face consequences for his actions. I will be watching how you decide to move forward.



Ali Ramlawi

Mark Lee. As a member of council, I have received fewer than 5 emails from the entire city regarding CM Hayner abhorrent post thus far. There have been equal number of people concerned who are disgusted by his actions as there are those who believe the proposed resolution is an overstep and it strips them of their political representation.


2h Like

Now you can say you have received more than 5 emails, bud.

All the best,
José
--

José Romo-Puerta
ToDoolie





Ali Ramlawi

Mark Lee. As a member of council, I have received fewer than 5 emails from the entire city regarding CM Hayner abhorrent post thus far. There have been equal number of people concerned who are disgusted by his actions as there are those who believe the proposed resolution is an overstep and it strips them of their political representation.

2h Like

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Jose Romo-Puerta](#)
Subject: Re: Do your job
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:10:24 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2021-04-19 at 10.49.38 AM.png](#)

Jose,

I agree that our community has no home for hate. It also is critically important to follow our processes which we already have in place to respectfully and rightfully deal with CM Hayner abhorrent behavior and the consequences of those terrible actions.

Warm regards
CM Ramlawi

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 19, 2021, at 11:52 AM, Jose Romo-Puerta [REDACTED] > wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Ali,

I saw your comment on Facebook and I want to make sure you understand that this community has no tolerance for hate. Jeff Hayner needs to face consequences for his actions. I will be watching how you decide to move forward.

<Screen Shot 2021-04-19 at 10.49.38 AM.png>

Now you can say you have received more than 5 emails, bud.


All the best,
José

--

José Romo-Puerta
ToDoolie

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received it by mistake, please let us know by e-mail reply and delete it from your system.



Ali Ramlawi

Mark Lee. As a member of council, I have received fewer than 5 emails from the entire city regarding CM Hayner abhorrent post thus far. There have been equal number of people concerned who are disgusted by his actions as there are those who believe the proposed resolution is an overstep and it strips them of their political representation.

2h Like

From: [Griswold, Kathy](#)
To: [Adam Goodman](#)
Subject: Re: Council Meeting Tonight
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:18:08 PM

Hello Adam Goodman,

Thank you for writing to Council. I am disappointed by your “power” statement. Having power does not give anyone the right to abuse that power, ignore rules and rely on hearsay. Hopefully, staff will introduce DC-5, as I have asked, with a detailed description of the actual process that is not yet known to the public or other Councilmembers. I welcome a discussion based on all of the facts.

Respectfully,
CM Griswold

It is American democracy that is being eroded today by our own divisiveness, by our own hands, and unless we get that fixed we can't help anyone — including ourselves. Thomas L. Friedman, NYT Opinion, April 18, 2021

From: Adam Goodman [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 11:18 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Council Meeting Tonight

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Good morning.

I'm writing as a resident of Ward 5, and as somebody who identifies as gay, to express strong support for several items on tonight's agenda, including CA-2, CA-3, CA-4, CA-5, B-1 / DB-1, C-1, C-2, and DC-5.

On CA-2, I would like to note that in my experience, debris (particularly, broken glass) in bike lanes is a persistent problem. Less than two weeks ago I encountered a particularly bad situation on Miller and reported it via A2FixIt (<https://seeclickfix.com/issues/9669797-other-issue>). While I am pleased that the city did apparently sweep the street following my report, I wish this type of work would be done more frequently and proactively - if I stopped to report every single instance of potentially dangerous bike-lane debris that I encounter in the city, I wouldn't ever reach my destination!

On CA-3, CA-4, and CA-5, I will simply note that I am thrilled to see progress toward building publicly owned housing on these sites.

On B-1 / DB-1, C-1, and C-2, I will note that Ann Arbor has a dire need for more housing at all income levels. As excited as I am about publicly-subsidized affordable housing, there's no way that these projects alone will meet the needs of our community. If we are to meet our equity and climate-action goals, we need to allow many, many more people to live near the places in which they work, learn, and live their lives. We particularly need to add more housing in areas that have good walking, biking, and transit access to jobs and necessities to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in and around our community. All of these projects / ordinance changes would ultimately serve that goal.

To the extent that Ann Arbor has traffic congestion issues, these are most substantially caused by commuters coming into the city for their jobs. As I'm sure you all know, in non-pandemic times it was estimated that 60-80 thousand people do this every day. If anything, adding a significant amount of new housing in walking/biking distance from grocery stores and downtown - and on a major transit corridor to boot - could be a step in the direction of improving the efficiency of our transportation network. Therefore, I strongly support the Valhalla project in particular (and reject many of the doomsaying arguments I've heard against it) and urge you all to vote in favor.

On DC-5, if there's a single point I'd like to make, it's that intent is not the same as impact. I don't claim to know what's in CM Hayner's heart, and I'm willing to believe that he bears no actual ill will toward the LGBTQ community. However, as a member of that community, I will say that his intent is basically irrelevant; the impact of his words has done harm to us, and to this city. I did appreciate that he eventually provided a very terse statement of apology acknowledging these harms, but even in doing so he continued trying to deflect blame to others (As quoted in <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/ann-arbor-council-member-apologizes-for-use-of-quote-with-homophobic-slur.html>: "Obviously they are not my words, and do not define who I am. I can't help the outsized effect amplifying this for political purposes had on the community...").

Were this an isolated incident, I might suggest we leave things there. I really wish we weren't having this conversation; I want City Council to be taking substantive action to improve the lives of all who live or spend time in our community. However, this incident was part of a pattern of outrageous and unacceptable behavior for a public official. This is the same councilmember who referred to one of his female colleagues as having "RBF", who shared misogynistic memes about another female colleague's attire, who told a member of the public to "suck on that", who expressed discomfort at the last meeting about a resolution condemning white terrorism and white supremacy. Simply put, if Ann Arbor is to be a welcoming place to all comers, these actions cannot be tolerated and must draw a forceful response.

The minority communities in Ann Arbor - two weeks ago, the AAPI community; this week, the LGBTQ community - want to believe that Ann Arbor is a place where the community has our backs, always and unconditionally. Anything less than a forceful, unanimous vote on DC-5 will send a very different message. I have seen some "concerns" about whether an appropriate process is being followed with this resolution, but rest assured that your constituents see through the cowardly deflection that this is. Did you raise process concerns when the US House of Representatives removed Marjorie Taylor Greene from her committee assignments, or when the U-M Board of Regents removed Ron Weiser from his? Council has this power, and should use it.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

- Adam

From: [Joe Schoch](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [Naomi Goldberg](#)
Subject: Re: Statement regarding CM Hayner
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:17:39 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

We are disappointed to see our previous statement on this matter inaccurately used as justification to avoid accountability for communicating an epithet that is too often hurled to demean LGBTQ individuals.

Councilmember Hayner's comment was homophobic and offensive, and is therefore inconsistent with our mission and vision to provide an "inclusive community" that promotes "respect" and "education". Although we take no position on what consequences there should be in this matter, "education" in these types of instances can take the form of a learning experience that may include expressions of remorse (e.g., an apology) as well as accountability for one's actions.

Thank you,
Joe Schoch and the Board of Directors of the Jim Toy Community Center


On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:30 PM Joe Schoch <joes@jimtoycenter.org> wrote:

Hello all,

Attached, you will find a statement from the Jim Toy Community Center in response to CM Hayner's choice of words on social media.

Thank you for your time,
Joe

--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride
joes@jimtoycenter.org


--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride

ioes@iimtoycenter.org



From: [Radina, Travis](#)
To: [Joe Schoch](#)
Subject: Re: Statement regarding CM Hayner
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:45:50 PM

Thank you for your continued leadership, Joe.

I appreciate your courage in continuing to speak out, despite the hateful letter we received this weekend.

I continue to be proud of leaving JTCC in such capable hands!

Travis

On Apr 19, 2021, at 1:17 PM, Joe Schoch <joes@jimtoycenter.org> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

We are disappointed to see our previous statement on this matter inaccurately used as justification to avoid accountability for communicating an epithet that is too often hurled to demean LGBTQ individuals.

Councilmember Hayner's comment was homophobic and offensive, and is therefore inconsistent with our mission and vision to provide an "inclusive community" that promotes "respect" and "education". Although we take no position on what consequences there should be in this matter, "education" in these types of instances can take the form of a learning experience that may include expressions of remorse (e.g., an apology) as well as accountability for one's actions.

Thank you,
Joe Schoch and the Board of Directors of the Jim Toy Community Center

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:30 PM Joe Schoch <joes@jimtoycenter.org> wrote:

Hello all,

Attached, you will find a statement from the Jim Toy Community Center in response to CM Hayner's choice of words on social media.

Thank you for your time,
Joe

--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride
joes@jimtoycenter.org
[REDACTED]

--

Joe Schoch

he | him | his

President, Jim Toy Community Center

Director, Ann Arbor Pride

joes@jimtoycenter.org



From: [Daniel Adams](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:58:00 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I was surprised and troubled by some of the comments made last night during the caucus session, which appear to foreshadow a 7-4 vote tonight on DC-5. It seems impossible to me that, in Ann Arbor in 2021, we're about to have a contested, party-line vote on whether it is appropriate to mete out slap-on-the-wrist punishment to an elected official for his use of a homophobic slur in a frothy, conspiratorial social-media rant against the press.

The indecency of CM Hayner's behavior and the imperative to modestly punish that behavior should not be a political or partisan issue. We deserve to hear unequivocally that we don't tolerate this kind of language in Ann Arbor in 2021.

Three votes against DC-5 will send the opposite message, and it will give CM Hayner political quarter that he doesn't deserve: the facts he needs to later recharacterize and delegitimize the council's response as a partisan act instead of an expression of the community's unified outrage.

I don't believe that CM Hayner is a bigot. He might even be, as some have claimed and despite his initial full-throated defense of his actions, sincerely remorseful. But not being a bigot and possibly being sorry do not entitle him to the council's continued confidence that he remains qualified to serve on these committees, or to protection from the natural consequences of a reckless, indefensible use of a hateful, disgusting word.

Please vote in favor of DC-5.

Daniel Adams
First Ward

From: [Dana Elliott](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:07:28 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I just wanted to write in to share my thoughts about several items on the agenda today.

I am very supportive of CA-2 to appropriate money to increase the bike lane level of service. A bike is my preferred mode of transportation and I wholly support anything that makes biking easier and safer for anybody who wants to ride a bike instead of drive a car to wherever they are going.

I'm also very supportive of CA-3, CA-4 and CA-5. We need a LOT more affordable housing and more housing in general. I can say from experience that it's getting harder and harder to find housing that I can afford in the city and I am not considered low income. Anything that adds to our housing stock is a good thing in my opinion and I hope that you all will support these.

I wish I could spend more time talking about how good all those are and how important housing and transportation is. But there's something else to discuss that I really wish I didn't have to address.

DC-5 is the resolution to remove Councilmember Hayner from current appointments. I'll be honest here. I have never been a fan of Councilmember Hayner. Were I a resident of his ward, I would not have voted for him in the election. I'm saying this even if explaining my priors makes me appear biased and thus reduces what I have to say somehow.

But I am a member of the LGBTQ community and I've only just started coming out to friends and family. The reason why I've waited so long to live my life openly as my authentic self is because I was worried about dealing with discrimination and homophobia. And now, less than a year after starting to come out, there is a member of the city council, in the city that is currently my home, using a homophobic slur to say how terrible reporters are. Apparently the worst thing he could think of was being gay. So it turns out that maybe I was right to wait as long as I did to come out because now I don't have faith that this city is entirely supportive of me and my community.

To be clear, this is not just about Councilmember Hayner either. This is much bigger than one person saying extremely hurtful and offensive things on social media. This is also everybody else who protects him, holds him up, slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences. This is about Councilmember Griswold, who said that another community member is an "insincere opportunist" looking for political gain instead of a human who is part of the LGBTQ community. This is about Councilmembers Nelson and Ramlawi, both of whom are joining Councilmember Griswold and threatening to sue the members of city council who vote to remove Councilmember Hayner from committee assignments. This is nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia.

I implore you to think this through and to be better. This is not a process problem and this is not a problem that can be solved with sensitivity training, though maybe that couldn't hurt. This is a problem that can only be solved by having everybody vote to remove CM Hayner from his committee assignments. We need to show that Ann Arbor is as inclusive and progressive as it says it

is and anything less is not enough. Please restore some of our trust in our elected officials and do the right thing.

Thank you,
Dana
Ward 4 Resident

From: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Joe Schoch](#)
Subject: RE: Statement regarding CM Hayner
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:25:00 PM

Hi,

I appreciate this clarification and I want to offer my own: the accountability and consequences in DC-5 are concerning insofar as they violate (in a rather shocking way) the norms that are established in our Rules, notably the Council's desire to have serious decisions happen with real opportunity for a hearing. As recently as 2016, our rules specifically included almost the exact maneuver described in DC-5, but that section of the rules was intentionally amended and replaced with procedures that were more substantial (notice, hearing, due process, etc.). **I believe that those procedures can lead to the exact same result and taking the time to follow them is in the interest of both the community and our body.** What is happening now has actually brought more sympathy to CM Hayner. People who might otherwise be open to a serious conversation about the impact of what he did (and able to engage in a community conversation to understand that impact) are distracted by how far this response departs from any conventions previously practiced, all they see is the over-reach and lack of fairness in having this thrown at him without any hearing. The rush to act is unprecedented and it is a huge distraction to what should be the focus. For members of our community who might actually need help in understanding the harm of what happened, DC-5 does not help.

I really hope we can thread this needle tonight. I have already seen people suggest that DC-5 is a litmus test for who is a bigot and who is homophobic. For me, it is something else entirely.

Elizabeth

From: Joe Schoch <joes@jimtoycenter.org>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:17 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Cc: Naomi Goldberg <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Statement regarding CM Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello all,

We are disappointed to see our previous statement on this matter inaccurately used as justification to avoid accountability for communicating an epithet that is too often hurled to demean LGBTQ individuals.

Councilmember Hayner's comment was homophobic and offensive, and is therefore inconsistent with our mission and vision to provide an "inclusive community" that promotes "respect" and "education". Although we take no position on what consequences there should be in this matter, "education" in these types of instances can take the form of a learning

experience that may include expressions of remorse (e.g., an apology) as well as accountability for one's actions.

Thank you,
Joe Schoch and the Board of Directors of the Jim Toy Community Center


On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:30 PM Joe Schoch <joes@jimtoycenter.org> wrote:

Hello all,


Attached, you will find a statement from the Jim Toy Community Center in response to CM Hayner's choice of words on social media.

Thank you for your time,
Joe

--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride
joes@jimtoycenter.org


--

Joe Schoch
he | him | his
President, Jim Toy Community Center
Director, Ann Arbor Pride
joes@jimtoycenter.org


From: [Luis Vazquez](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#); [James Leonard](#); [Ryan J. Stanton](#)
Subject: Discipline of Jeff Hayner
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:28:26 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to you today to express my support for Council Resolution DC-5, Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments. In my opinion, Mr Hayner's social media posts have crossed a line with his latest use of a slur which I feel endangers LGBTQ members of our community, as well as journalists. Although Mr Hayner, like every American, has free speech, the words he has chosen to post in public forums should not be without consequence. This latest incident highlights his unfitness to serve as a representative in Ann Arbor in any capacity, in my opinion, and the consequences proposed in DC-5 should be considered a minimum result. He has shown contempt for his fellow citizens in this and other instances, and I feel he does not deserve to hold any seat where he has to deal with the public at large. Mr Hayner is deserving of Council's censure and condemnation, and he should consider resignation rather than continue to harm the citizenry and Council's decorum with his poor choice of words.

In a subsequent communication to Council, I will describe in detail why I have filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union for potential violation of my, and other Ann Arbor citizens' First Amendment rights by Mr Hayner.

Thank you for your consideration

Luis Vazquez

[REDACTED]

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Dana Elliott](#)
Subject: RE: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:54:00 PM

Hi,

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify what has obviously been mischaracterized somewhere:

I have not “joined” CM Griswold in threats to sue members of City Council who vote to do this. I am accustomed to this sort of misinformation so I am always grateful when people correspond directly and alert me to it (I can only assume this has been repeated and shared widely, so this will be added to my to-do list in communications)

Also—and I cannot speak for others—this description is inaccurate in terms of my position re: due process on this issue:

slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences

We can reach the same result WITH a due process and I believe that would be quite a bit more unpleasant for CM Hayner and more legitimate to the community (which includes people who actually DO need to hear and understand voices like yours). People who would actually benefit from seeing this issue follow a process and reach a conclusion after a hearing are the exact same people who now have an easy path to finding sympathy for CM Hayner. We are hearing from LGBTQ in Ann Arbor who feel the offense of his words but also recognize the danger of skipping basic procedure for the satisfaction of a quick rebuke. It is possible to recognize both.

In response to this:

nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia

I can only say that the removal of CM Hayner from positions such as the liquor license commission does not feel like a strategy for protecting anyone. If CM Hayner had positions on the Human Rights Commission, the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission, or any other commission that directly weighs and contemplates situations where LGBTQ are vulnerable, I would be first in line to demand his removal from those positions. Again, what I am seeing is an opportunity for process that invites more community discussion about why and how it matters when an elected leader uses this language so casually and carelessly. There is a value to that conversation, with voices like yours at the center. E.g. If there's an argument for how the work of the liquor license commission is ripe for abuse from people who are offensive to LGBTQ, that should happen. I am suggesting that this process slow down for THAT purpose.

I agree with the assessment that this is completely inappropriate communication for an elected official. Presumably, people have the right to recall him, and if he had done this in 2018 it might have been held up as evidence that he was unsuitable for public service in a town that values

diversity. Moving forward, it is a huge black mark on his reputation. Every member of City Council was elected to serve by thousands of people and at a bare minimum it is appropriate for there to be a process for how ten people can move forward in restricting that service.

Elizabeth

From: Dana Elliott [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:07 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Today's City Council Meeting

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I just wanted to write in to share my thoughts about several items on the agenda today.

I am very supportive of CA-2 to appropriate money to increase the bike lane level of service. A bike is my preferred mode of transportation and I wholly support anything that makes biking easier and safer for anybody who wants to ride a bike instead of drive a car to wherever they are going.

I'm also very supportive of CA-3, CA-4 and CA-5. We need a LOT more affordable housing and more housing in general. I can say from experience that it's getting harder and harder to find housing that I can afford in the city and I am not considered low income. Anything that adds to our housing stock is a good thing in my opinion and I hope that you all will support these.

I wish I could spend more time talking about how good all those are and how important housing and transportation is. But there's something else to discuss that I really wish I didn't have to address.

DC-5 is the resolution to remove Councilmember Hayner from current appointments. I'll be honest here. I have never been a fan of Councilmember Hayner. Were I a resident of his ward, I would not have voted for him in the election. I'm saying this even if explaining my priors makes me appear biased and thus reduces what I have to say somehow.

But I am a member of the LGBTQ community and I've only just started coming out to friends and family. The reason why I've waited so long to live my life openly as my authentic self is because I was worried about dealing with discrimination and homophobia. And now, less than a year after starting to come out, there is a member of the city council, in the city that is currently my home, using a homophobic slur to say how terrible reporters are. Apparently the worst thing he could think of was being gay. So it turns out that maybe I was right to wait as long as I did to come out because now I don't have faith that this city is entirely supportive of me and my community.

To be clear, this is not just about Councilmember Hayner either. This is much bigger than one person saying extremely hurtful and offensive things on social media. This is also everybody else who protects him, holds him up, slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences. This is about Councilmember Griswold, who said that another community member is an "insincere opportunist" looking for political gain instead of a human who is part of the LGBTQ community. This is about Councilmembers Nelson and Ramlawi, both of whom are joining Councilmember Griswold and threatening to sue the members of city council who vote to remove Councilmember Hayner from committee assignments. This is nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more

important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia.

I implore you to think this through and to be better. This is not a process problem and this is not a problem that can be solved with sensitivity training, though maybe that couldn't hurt. This is a problem that can only be solved by having everybody vote to remove CM Hayner from his committee assignments. We need to show that Ann Arbor is as inclusive and progressive as it says it is and anything less is not enough. Please restore some of our trust in our elected officials and do the right thing.

Thank you,
Dana
Ward 4 Resident

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Dana Elliott](#)
Subject: RE: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 4:31:00 PM

Thank you for writing Dana. I agree, but your letter was really compelling. I appreciate you being willing to open and share how this impacted you.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Dana Elliott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:07 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Today's City Council Meeting

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I just wanted to write in to share my thoughts about several items on the agenda today.

I am very supportive of CA-2 to appropriate money to increase the bike lane level of service. A bike is my preferred mode of transportation and I wholly support anything that makes biking easier and safer for anybody who wants to ride a bike instead of drive a car to wherever they are going.

I'm also very supportive of CA-3, CA-4 and CA-5. We need a LOT more affordable housing and more housing in general. I can say from experience that it's getting harder and harder to find housing that I can afford in the city and I am not considered low income. Anything that adds to our housing stock is a good thing in my opinion and I hope that you all will support these.

I wish I could spend more time talking about how good all those are and how important housing and transportation is. But there's something else to discuss that I really wish I didn't have to address.

DC-5 is the resolution to remove Councilmember Hayner from current appointments. I'll be honest here. I have never been a fan of Councilmember Hayner. Were I a resident of his ward, I would not have voted for him in the election. I'm saying this even if explaining my priors makes me appear biased and thus reduces what I have to say somehow.

But I am a member of the LGBTQ community and I've only just started coming out to friends and family. The reason why I've waited so long to live my life openly as my authentic self is because I was worried about dealing with discrimination and homophobia. And now, less than a year after starting to come out, there is a member of the city council, in the city that is currently my home, using a homophobic slur to say how terrible reporters are. Apparently the worst thing he could think of was being gay. So it turns out that maybe I was right to wait as long as I did to come out because now I don't have faith that this city is entirely supportive of me and my community.

To be clear, this is not just about Councilmember Hayner either. This is much bigger than one person saying extremely hurtful and offensive things on social media. This is also everybody else who protects him, holds him up, slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences. This is about Councilmember Griswold, who said that another community member is an "insincere opportunist" looking for political gain instead of a human who is part of the LGBTQ community. This is about Councilmembers Nelson and Ramlawi, both of whom are joining Councilmember Griswold and threatening to sue the members of city council who vote to remove Councilmember Hayner from committee assignments. This is nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia.

I implore you to think this through and to be better. This is not a process problem and this is not a problem that can be solved with sensitivity training, though maybe that couldn't hurt. This is a problem that can only be solved by having everybody vote to remove CM Hayner from his committee assignments. We need to show that Ann Arbor is as inclusive and progressive as it says it is and anything less is not enough. Please restore some of our trust in our elected officials and do the right thing.

Thank you,
Dana
Ward 4 Resident

From: [alan haber](#)
To: [Radina, Travis](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [Jim Toy](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: No on Jeff Hayner resolution.
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 4:41:07 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Travis.

I'm sharing with you my letter to my 5th Ward Representative. A punitive response to an ill-considered quotation is doubly ill-considered.

It ignores due process, it uses an arbitrary out of the rules punishment, it is punitive rather than restorative in its character. I would've thought your own integrity would have led you in a different direction. I have heard the sides are all lined up and you have joined in this power play. Please reconsider. It looks like one more underhanded move by the Mayor to undermine the work for the Center of the City Commons.

It would be better if you dissociate yourself, and your community, from this "power rules" authoritarian error. Send it back to the Administrative and Rules Committees for improvement.

Please read my further letter to Erica. as reminder of other excesses of the Mayor and the consequences of this kind of action diminishing the stature of the City Council as an institution itself.

Alan Haber [REDACTED]

Hello Erica,

I read your Ward 5 newsletter,

Needless to say, I'm very disappointed in your reasoning and conclusion about the Jeff Hayner Resolution.

If you read the Council Rules, at least as quoted by Jack Eaton and I presume you have, there is a Due Process method to address a member's actions which are considered offensive. This procedure was not followed, nor is the "punishment" one that is prescribed.

It seems, when political advantage can be gained, or personal spite satisfied, or proper loyalty shown, then due process is easily out the window.

The higher road would have been to have a hearing, the more open a hearing the better in my view, and let the offense be stated and the context known and the matter mediated toward restorative justice, and if there is a conclusion for a Council Reprimand, then do so, after due process, or move to expel him, if this is indeed a "high crime and misdemeanor."

I know nothing of the situation, except for Jack Eaton's Statement and the quote you quoted. Jeff is a fairly straight talking person, In seeking an example of a critical view of the press, he might find the straight talking style of Hunter Thompson a memorable source ...back before the "f" word became an "n" word. I don't any of what he said or where or what he was taking about. I had a good friend in college named Walter Faggot, an African American, and I always found the word friendly. In any case, I heard that, on consideration, after seeking to explain himself, he apologized for the offense and distress he caused. And it seemed to me, everyone could be satisfied and would be slightly better educated.

I wish, on consideration, you too would be satisfied with "everyone better educated" as an outcome. Or if not return to the rules and due process and have a proper hearing, and propose a reprimand or what Council Rules allow..

Your sort of high minded justification of "protecting fellow commissioners and the public" from the possibility of being exposed to his uncontrollable behavior and the latent danger of being offended is lame, at best.

Your demur that the action is really alright because "he can still vote" is equally hollow. You know Council Members are elected to function in the full range of government functions. It is not in the rules that one group of Council Members has the right to circumscribe the fullness of participation allowed to another Member.

Sadly, I consider this an ill considered, on your part, following of the Mayor, without whose assent, if not initiative, this would not be happening. The Mayor has shown himself sometimes loose with the rules when political advantage seemed at hand. You know my complaints: He violated his sworn Oath of Office, to defend the constitutional rights of Ann Arbor people, when he agreed to void the signatures of registered voters petitioning the government for redress of grievance, and when he refused to take initiative within his power to correct this abridgement of constitutional right, in 2016, thus requiring a second circulation of the petition, and then, when we got certified for the Ballot in 2018, he endeavored to attach a biased argumentative "preface" to the Proposal, which the Appeal Judge of the Court of Law threw out as inappropriate and "not legal."

Why he would want to stoke further division now, rather than seek more functional cooperation, I do not know.

I had hoped for better from you.

I wish you would take a lead in backing off from this ill considered, out of due process, attack on a fellow Council Member.

Kathy Griswold's "Get a Therapist" Resolution is more to the point. Though if "power rules" there is little incentive actually to improve the process, and the best organizational therapists won't help much. I suggest you Amend the amount to a symbolic \$1000, and advertize for "pro bono help." This needs to be a job of love, not money. I suggest you seek a team of 3, who could work together. There are many competent caring people in Ann Arbor who could help, ... if the Council, including you, would acknowledge "help is heeded." Kathy Griswold clearly raises the question.

And clearly, obviously "Help is needed! " Or this out of order resolution would not be before the Council at all.

Whatever you do in the larger sense of Council Functioning, on the Jeff Hayner resolution. Please reconsider what you wrote.

Recognize Jeff as he is, an experienced, hard working, valuable and diligent member of the Council, chastened by his ill considered posting of a poorly chosen quotation and slowness to get the message, and now, all Members are ready to go forward with Council Business, in a spirit of increased mutual understanding.

I am sensitive to the "due process question" because I'm Involved in supporting a friend who

was banned from the People's Food Coop, accused of having said a banned word, (which was not said) and having no fair process, and not being considered an individual, and management aggregating authority to itself, ("there is no appeal and the punishment is proper.") I think I wrote you about this earlier on... still unresolved.

When management loses track of the humanity of its members, and their strengths and value, the institution soon loses its integrity. I experienced this, (besides being trained and practiced in Social Work and Community Organization) in watching the death of the Berkeley Consumers Coop, strong since the 1930's and into the 80's. It was a good all round store with high member loyalty. One was proud to be a member. And then a new style business management got hired, more oriented to the new members that a growth plan would attract, than to the actual members who were the strength and ambassadors of the organization. Within surprisingly few years the Coop was over-extended and bankrupt and out of business, with an alienated membership who had forgotten what was supposed to be special about the coop.

In addressing the People's Food Coop, I suggested they see this transpass order against a long standing member as "a canary in the mine shaft" and correct their behavior.

I think the same is the case with the Resolution against Jeff Hayner.

The most graceful manner might be to refer the question to the administrative committee and rules committee to determine the best course of action.

However and in whatever way you don't do it, don't do it.

Thank you for your attention

Alan Haber

5th Ward



From: [Dana Elliott](#)
To: [Nelson, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Re: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 4:52:22 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Councilmember Nelson,

I appreciate your response to my letter. I don't actually think further discussion on my part for most of it will be fruitful because I suspect that we may not be able to come to an agreement.

That said, I would like to point out that, even though I'm kind of "newer" to the LGBTQ community as an out person, I'm pretty sure that we don't only do gay things. LGBTQ people in this community have lives just like straight people do and those lives may intersect with a bunch of different committees and boards. I can't actually find anything about what the liquor licensing commission does as it doesn't appear on the boards and commissions list on the Ann Arbor city government website. But I assume that they make decisions about businesses and liquor licenses? If that's the case, if I were a restaurant owner that needed to work with the liquor licensing commission on something, I might not enjoy doing so knowing that Councilmember Hayner is on that commission. Additionally, community members serve on many of these committees. There's no reason why we can't protect LGBTQ community members who feel inspired to serve on our boards and commissions. There's no reason why we can't protect community members who have to interact with those boards and commissions from homophobia.

All of this is to say that I would argue that you are being rather narrow in what you're describing as an appropriate action to take. LGBTQ people shouldn't just be protected in vulnerable situations. We should be protected from homophobia whenever we are interacting with the government in some way. We shouldn't have to talk to somebody who felt comfortable using and defending homophobic slurs on social media when we're applying for liquor licenses, dog licenses, wedding licenses, or anything else.

Thank you,
Dana

On Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 3:54 PM Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org> wrote:

Hi,

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify what has obviously been mischaracterized somewhere:

I have not "joined" CM Griswold in threats to sue members of City Council who vote to do this. I am accustomed to this sort of misinformation so I am always grateful when people correspond directly and alert me to it (I can only assume this has been repeated and shared widely, so this will be added to my to-do list in communications)

Also—and I cannot speak for others—this description is inaccurate in terms of my position re: due process on this issue:

slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences

We can reach the same result WITH a due process and I believe that would be quite a bit more unpleasant for CM Hayner and more legitimate to the community (which includes people who actually DO need to hear and understand voices like yours). People who would actually benefit from seeing this issue follow a process and reach a conclusion after a hearing are the exact same people who now have an easy path to finding sympathy for CM Hayner. We are hearing from LGBTQ in Ann Arbor who feel the offense of his words but also recognize the danger of skipping basic procedure for the satisfaction of a quick rebuke. It is possible to recognize both.

In response to this:

nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia

I can only say that the removal of CM Hayner from positions such as the liquor license commission does not feel like a strategy for protecting anyone. If CM Hayner had positions on the Human Rights Commission, the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission, or any other commission that directly weighs and contemplates situations where LGBTQ are vulnerable, I would be first in line to demand his removal from those positions. Again, what I am seeing is an opportunity for process that invites more community discussion about why and how it matters when an elected leader uses this language so casually and carelessly. There is a value to that conversation, with voices like yours at the center. E.g. If there's an argument for how the work of the liquor license commission is ripe for abuse from people who are offensive to LGBTQ, that should happen. I am suggesting that this process slow down for THAT purpose.

I agree with the assessment that this is completely inappropriate communication for an elected official. Presumably, people have the right to recall him, and if he had done this in 2018 it might have been held up as evidence that he was unsuitable for public service in a town that values diversity. Moving forward, it is a huge black mark on his reputation. Every member of City Council was elected to serve by thousands of people and at a bare minimum it is appropriate for there to be a process for how ten people can move forward in restricting that service.

Elizabeth

From: Dana Elliott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:07 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Today's City Council Meeting

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I just wanted to write in to share my thoughts about several items on the agenda today.

I am very supportive of CA-2 to appropriate money to increase the bike lane level of service. A bike is my preferred mode of transportation and I wholly support anything that makes biking easier and safer for anybody who wants to ride a bike instead of drive a car to wherever they are going.

I'm also very supportive of CA-3, CA-4 and CA-5. We need a LOT more affordable housing and more housing in general. I can say from experience that it's getting harder and harder to find housing that I can afford in the city and I am not considered low income. Anything that adds to our housing stock is a good thing in my opinion and I hope that you all will support these.

I wish I could spend more time talking about how good all those are and how important housing and transportation is. But there's something else to discuss that I really wish I didn't have to address.

DC-5 is the resolution to remove Councilmember Hayner from current appointments. I'll be honest here. I have never been a fan of Councilmember Hayner. Were I a resident of his ward, I would not have voted for him in the election. I'm saying this even if explaining my priors makes me appear biased and thus reduces what I have to say somehow.

But I am a member of the LGBTQ community and I've only just started coming out to friends and family. The reason why I've waited so long to live my life openly as my authentic self is because I was worried about dealing with discrimination and homophobia. And now, less than a year after starting to come out, there is a member of the city council, in the city that is currently my home,

using a homophobic slur to say how terrible reporters are. Apparently the worst thing he could think of was being gay. So it turns out that maybe I was right to wait as long as I did to come out because now I don't have faith that this city is entirely supportive of me and my community.

To be clear, this is not just about Councilmember Hayner either. This is much bigger than one person saying extremely hurtful and offensive things on social media. This is also everybody else who protects him, holds him up, slows the process down so that he doesn't experience consequences. This is about Councilmember Griswold, who said that another community member is an "insincere opportunist" looking for political gain instead of a human who is part of the LGBTQ community. This is about Councilmembers Nelson and Ramlawi, both of whom are joining Councilmember Griswold and threatening to sue the members of city council who vote to remove Councilmember Hayner from committee assignments. This is nearly half of the current city council who thinks that it's more important to protect one of their own from consequences for his actions than it is to protect the LGBTQ community from his ignorance and homophobia.

I implore you to think this through and to be better. This is not a process problem and this is not a problem that can be solved with sensitivity training, though maybe that couldn't hurt. This is a problem that can only be solved by having everybody vote to remove CM Hayner from his committee assignments. We need to show that Ann Arbor is as inclusive and progressive as it says it is and anything less is not enough. Please restore some of our trust in our elected officials and do the right thing.

Thank you,

Dana

Ward 4 Resident

From: [alan haber](#)
To: [Song, Linh](#); [Disch, Lisa](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [Briggs, Erica](#); [Radina, Travis](#)
Subject: Vote NO on the Jeff Hayner Resolution
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:42:32 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Council Members Linh, Lisa and Jen

I have heard you all are lined up with the Mayor's power play against Jeff Hayner. I hope I'm misinformed. And in case slate loyalty to the bully's pulpit is not stronger than the concern for the integrity of the action, I am sharing with you two letters addressed to other Council Members, urging you all to back off from this ill considered action. Please do so. It grieves me deeply to see this willful increasing polarization of the Council. Imposing a sanction without the required due process and a punishment not provided in the rules sullies the Council as a whole. Take a higher road, ask for reconsideration and restorative justice rather than punitively depriving an elected Member of the Council of his capacity to function on the various committees and commissions of which he is member.

Alan Haber
5th Ward
[REDACTED]

Hello Travis.

I'm sharing with you my letter to my 5th Ward Representative. A punitive response to an ill-considered quotation is doubly ill-considered.

It ignores due process, it uses an arbitrary out of the rules punishment, it is punitive rather than restorative in its character. I would've thought your own integrity would have led you in a different direction. I have heard the sides are all lined up and you have joined in this power play. Please reconsider. It looks to me like one more underhanded move by the Mayor to undermine the work for the Center of the City Commons.

It would be better if you dissociate yourself, and your community, from this "power rules" authoritarian error. Send it back to the Administrative and Rules Committees for improvement.

Please read my further letter to Erica. as a reminder of other excesses of the Mayor and the consequences of this kind of action diminishing the stature of the City Council as an institution itself.

Alan Haber [REDACTED]

Hello Erica,

I read your Ward 5 newsletter,

Needless to say, I'm very disappointed in your reasoning and conclusion about the Jeff Hayner Resolution.

If you read the Council Rules, at least as quoted by Jack Eaton and I presume you have, there is a Due Process method to address a member's actions which are considered offensive. This procedure was not followed, nor is the "punishment" one that is prescribed.

It seems, when political advantage can be gained, or personal spite satisfied, or proper loyalty shown, then due process is easily out the window.

The higher road would have been to have a hearing, the more open a hearing the better in my view, and let the offense be stated and the context known and the matter mediated toward restorative justice, and if there is a conclusion for a Council Reprimand, then do so, after due process, or move to expel him, if this is indeed a "high crime and misdemeanor."

I know nothing of the situation, except for Jack Eaton's Statement and the quote you quoted. Jeff is a fairly straight talking person, In seeking an example of a critical view of the press, he might find the straight talking style of Hunter Thompson a memorable source ...back before the "f" word became an "n" word. I don't any of what he said or where or what he was taking about. I had a good friend in college named Walter Faggot, an African American, and I always found the word friendly. In any case, I heard that, on consideration, after seeking to explain himself, he apologized for the offense and distress he caused. And it seemed to me, everyone could be satisfied and would be slightly better educated.

I wish, on consideration, you too would be satisfied with "everyone better educated" as an outcome. Or if not return to the rules and due process and have a proper hearing, and propose a reprimand or what Council Rules allow..

Your sort of high minded justification of "protecting fellow commissioners and the public" from the possibility of being exposed to his uncontrollable behavior and the latent danger of being offended is lame, at best.

Your demur that the action is really alright because "he can still vote" is equally hollow. You know Council Members are elected to function in the full range of government functions. It is not in the rules that one group of Council Members has the right to circumscribe the fullness of participation allowed to another Member.

Sadly, I consider this an ill considered, on your part, following of the Mayor, without whose assent, if not initiative, this would not be happening. The Mayor has shown himself sometimes loose with the rules when political advantage seemed at hand. You know my complaints: He violated his sworn Oath of Office, to defend the constitutional rights of Ann Arbor people, when he agreed to void the signatures of registered voters petitioning the government for redress of grievance, and when he refused to take initiative within his power to correct this abridgement of constitutional right, in 2016, thus requiring a second circulation of the petition, and then, when we got certified for the Ballot in 2018, he endeavored to attach a biased argumentative "preface" to the Proposal, which the Appeal Judge of the Court of Law threw out as inappropriate and "not legal."

Why he would want to stoke further division now, rather than seek more functional cooperation, I do not know.

I had hoped for better from you.

I wish you would take a lead in backing off from this ill considered, out of due process, attack on a fellow Council Member.

Kathy Griswold's "Get a Therapist" Resolution is more to the point. Though if "power rules" there is little incentive actually to improve the process, and the best organizational therapists won't help much. I suggest you Amend the amount to a symbolic \$1000, and advertize for "pro bono help." This needs to be a job of love, not money. I suggest you seek a team of 3,

who could work together. There are many competent caring people in Ann Arbor who could help, ... if the Council, including you, would acknowledge "help is heeded." Kathy Griswold clearly raises the question.

And clearly, obviously "Help is needed! " Or this out of order resolution would not be before the Council at all.

Whatever you do in the larger sense of Council Functioning, on the Jeff Hayner resolution. Please reconsider what you wrote.

Recognize Jeff as he is, an experienced, hard working, valuable and diligent member of the Council, chastened by his ill considered posting of a poorly chosen quotation and slowness to get the message, and now, all Members are ready to go forward with Council Business, in a spirit of increased mutual understanding.

I am sensitive to the "due process question" because I'm Involved in supporting a friend who was banned from the People's Food Coop, accused of having said a banned word, (which was not said) and having no fair process, and not being considered an individual, and management aggregating authority to itself, ("there is no appeal and the punishment is proper.") I think I wrote you about this earlier on... still unresolved.

When management loses track of the humanity of its members, and their strengths and value, the institution soon loses its integrity. I experienced this, (besides being trained and practiced in Social Work and Community Organization) in watching the death of the Berkeley Consumers Coop, strong since the 1930's and into the 80's. It was a good all round store with high member loyalty. One was proud to be a member. And then a new style business management got hired, more oriented to the new members that a growth plan would attract, than to the actual members who were the strength and ambassadors of the organization. Within surprisingly few years the Coop was over-extended and bankrupt and out of business, with an alienated membership who had forgotten what was supposed to be special about the coop.

In addressing the People's Food Coop, I suggested they see this transpass order against a long standing member as "a canary in the mine shaft" and correct their behavior.

I think the same is the case with the Resolution against Jeff Hayner.

The most graceful manner might be to refer the question to the administrative committee and rules committee to determine the best course of action.

However and in whatever way you don't do it, don't do it.

Thank you for your attention

Alan Haber

5th Ward



From: [Marieka Kaye](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Hayner's homophobic slur
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:15:20 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilman Ramlawi -

As a resident of Ward 5 I am shocked to see that you have no desire to support the removal of Hayner's powers as councilman after his abhorrent and childish homophobic statement on social media. Saying that only 5 people have written to you about this issue, thus implying that it's not important, is dismissive and insulting to your constituents.

You were elected to keep the inclusive needs of everyone in our Ward in mind. You are excluding a huge part of the people in our Ward by voting against reprimanding Hayner's bigotry.

You are not responsive to people's emails so they have given up contacting you - that's why you haven't heard from many about this issue. Erica Briggs has proven to be approachable, responsive, and participates in her Ward in real and meaningful ways. People likely contact her more when deciding who to reach out to with concerns.


Your support of Hayner sends a message made loud and clear - you do not care about those you are supposed to be representing. You have blinders on, and this will only impede your ability to serve Ward 5. I certainly will not turn to you when the need arises.

Regards -
Marieka Kaye

From: [Eric Lipson](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: DC 5
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:09:47 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Councilperson Briggs repeated your words in HER website after yours was removed.. How is her quoting you quoting hunter thompson any different from you quoting Hunter thompson. ??

From: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>
Date: April 18, 2021 at 2:54:36 PM EDT
To: Friends and Neighbors <>
Subject: Erica's Council Newsletter, 4/18/21
Reply-To: Erica Briggs <erica@ericafora2.com>



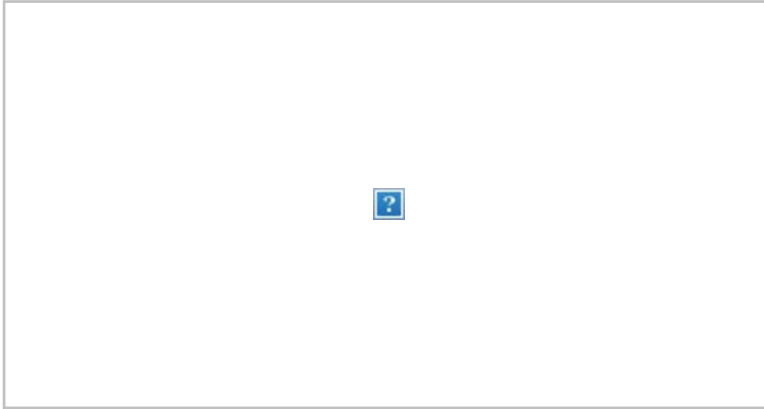
I send this newsletter prior to every regular Council meeting in an effort to keep residents in the 5th Ward informed about Council work. Help me connect with more neighbors by passing this edition along. It's especially important that I hear from folks whose voices are often [underrepresented](#) in local policy making (renters and younger, less affluent, and/or nonwhite residents). The more residents I hear from, the better decisions I can make on your behalf. To learn more/ask me questions, sign-up for one of my virtual coffee hours at www.ericafora2.com. Or email me at ebriggs@a2gov.org with City issues/policy questions.

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I generally devote the bulk of my newsletter to the substantive policy issues under consideration by Council, but this week I must deviate from that norm to discuss issues related to Council behavior and the role elected officials play in building trust in government, advancing community values, and fostering respectful and civil dialogue. Last week, my colleague from the First Ward Councilmember Hayner attacked the press on social media by posting a quote by Hunter S. Thompson that utilized a homophobic slur.

**Content warning: Picture below includes explicit and offensive language.*



This quote violated Facebook's standard of conduct and was removed by Facebook. CM Hayner initially [strongly defended his use of the quote](#), but subsequently issued a lackluster apology crafted with the help of another Council colleague after facing mounting criticism from leaders in LGBTQ community including the [Jim Toy Center](#) and [elected officials from other governing bodies](#). CM Hayner claims that because this language was a quote, not his own original thought, that he should not be held accountable for its offensive nature. But simply using someone else's offensive language, does not remove our culpability.

At tomorrow night's Council meeting, we as a Council body will [consider a resolution \(DC-5\)](#) that would remove CM Hayner from the appointed Committees that he serves on at Council's will for the remainder of 2021. Removal from these Committee's would not impact CM Hayner's ability to carry out his duties as an elected official since he would continue to serve and vote on City Council. Rather, removal from appointed Committees would indicate a lack of faith in CM Hayner's ability to lead and represent Council on external and internal Committees, as well as reflect our concern that the language he used is not reflective of our community values or the climate we seek to foster in Ann Arbor. I have been considering the merits of this resolution and the signal it sends to our community and our Commissions and personally believe removal is appropriate. CM Hayner told the Michigan Daily reporter, *"If you take something out of context to stir up outrage, then you're gonna get outrage," "If you read things in context or you know where it came from or know what kind of person I am, you're not outraged by it."* Unfortunately, this was not the case for me. It was considering the quote in context that convinced me that action should be taken by Council.

CM Hayner has a [history of making offensive statements](#) on social media, making disparaging remarks about a variety of professions, and repeatedly attacking the press both on social media and at Council meetings. He has not been sanctioned for these comments by Council. But this recent action, in my opinion, deserves different treatment. CM Hayner's attack on the press last Saturday came in response to an [editorial in MLive](#) seeking to raise awareness about the increase in vitriol, harassment, and doxing journalists at MLive are experiencing. John Hiner writes, "*Reasonable and respectful exchanges aren't quaint relics of a better time- they are the glue that holds together personal relationships, and a civil society.*" MLive reporters are not alone. [U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) has tracked increased violence towards the press in recent years and a [2018 Report by Freedom House](#) highlights how leaders in major democracies are increasingly working to undermine press freedom. For a member Ann Arbor City Council to viciously attack the press in this climate and in this manner is unfathomable.

But CM Hayner didn't just attack the press, he was inspired by and shared a quote that utilized homophobic language and weaponized sexual orientation. This language was written in 1971. It was offensive and harmful then and is offensive and harmful now. Numerous battles have been fought and won by the LGBTQ community since then to combat discrimination and hate. Yet the FBI reports that even today nearly [1 in 5 hate crimes are motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias](#) with the majority (60%) of these crimes targeting gay men. As Commissioner Katie Scott wrote in [her letter to City Council](#) earlier this week, "*By using quotes like this in a public forum, it paves the way for more hatred and homophobia, it legitimizes it.*" Ann Arbor strives to be a welcoming and inclusive community. A community where who you love doesn't matter, only that you treat others with love and kindness. As a nation, we have experienced the demoralizing impact of four years of divisive and derogatory language on social media by former President Trump and the ripple effects when members of his own party did not condemn and take meaningful action to address it. Although CM Hayner and I are both Democrats, I will not condone his behavior. His actions are not in line with our community values, don't demonstrate leadership, degrade trust in local government, and foster a climate of hatred. Community members serving on our Boards and Commissions need to know that the Councilmembers they serve with can be trusted and foster a respectful civic space. Members of our LGBTQ community needs to have faith that their elected leader recognize the power of their words and are committed to doing everything in our power to create a safe community. And our community deserves to know that their elected officials will take action when one of their colleagues crosses a line.

Please know that I do not relish sharing these statements about a Council colleague and I do not do so to shame him, but only to explain to voters in the 5th Ward my motivations

and reasoning as I cast my vote tomorrow night.

Sincerely,

Erica

From: [Ariah Schugat](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:32:46 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Ariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Ariah Schugat <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and

other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable.

CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Ariah Schugat](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:34:57 AM

It's unfortunate that this is where we are. My offer is a standing one and I hope it will be taken up one day.

I hope you can find some peace in all of this somehow. I know where my heart is.

Respectfully
Ali.

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Ariah Schugat <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:
Ariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable. CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Ariah Schugat](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:31:08 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

The city knows where your heart is now. it's self evident that you lack the qualities of a leader and merely follow the beat of your party. I will call you this week but I'm currently too busy with my jobs and helping the homeless community, another marginalized group that City Council shows no empathy towards.

I thought you would rise above the circus and show some actual convictions but you obtusely act with indignation about how the "processes and procedures" are more important to you than what this says is acceptable in this city.


On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 10:34 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

It's unfortunate that this is where we are. My offer is a standing one and I hope it will be taken up one day.

I hope you can find some peace in all of this somehow. I know where my heart is.

Respectfully
Ali.

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Ariah Schugat <> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:
Ariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable.

CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Rory Neuner](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Disappointed
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:34:33 AM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Former constituent here chiming in to say that I have been tracking the events of your homophobic slur from states away. It's 2021, man. Think before you quote. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I think you should know better and issue a heartfelt and unequivocal apology.


Ann Arbor deserves better than this.

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Ariah Schugat](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:42:27 AM

The vote yesterday would of been 10-0 if proper Democratic protocols were followed and dirty politics were not being played. There is a lot behind the curtain that the public does not bare witness to, the hypocrisy that the Mayor and his rubber stamp operate under is the biggest local disease that threatens us all.

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 11:31 AM, Ariah Schugat <> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

The city knows where your heart is now. it's self evident that you lack the qualities of a leader and merely follow the beat of your party. I will call you this week but I'm currently too busy with my jobs and helping the homeless community, another marginalized group that City Council shows no empathy towards.

I thought you would rise above the circus and show some actual convictions but you obtusely act with indignation about how the "processes and procedures" are more important to you than what this says is acceptable in this city.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 10:34 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

It's unfortunate that this is where we are. My offer is a standing one and I hope it will be taken up one day.

I hope you can find some peace in all of this somehow. I know where my heart is.

Respectfully
Ali.

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali
<ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Aariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards

Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable.

CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Ariah Schugat](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:06:42 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Your lack of accountability for the farce presented to the City last night is very telling and this political Bogey man you and the others have warped into a conspiracy shows that you stand for nothing.

On the Sunday caucus, you spoke confidently and without melodramatic overtones because no one was there to openly challenge you and the other stooges.

You spit in the faces of countless generations of marginalized groups including those of Middle Eastern descendants and the many injustices and discrimination and violence faced by them to defend a repugnant unprincipled narcissist.


You're a disgrace to the seat you occupy

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 11:42 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

The vote yesterday would of been 10-0 if proper Democratic protocols were followed and dirty politics were not being played. There is a lot behind the curtain that the public does not bare witness to, the hypocrisy that the Mayor and his rubber stamp operate under is the biggest local disease that threatens us all.

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 11:31 AM, Ariah Schugat <> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

The city knows where your heart is now. it's self evident that you lack the qualities of a leader and merely follow the beat of your party. I will call you this week but I'm currently too busy with my jobs and helping the homeless community, another marginalized group that City Council shows no empathy towards.

I thought you would rise above the circus and show some actual convictions but you obtusely act with indignation about how the "processes and procedures" are more important to you than what this says is acceptable in this city.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 10:34 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

It's unfortunate that this is where we are. My offer is a standing one and I hope it will be taken up one day.

I hope you can find some peace in all of this somehow. I know where my heart is.

Respectfully
Ali.

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali
<ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Aariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable.

CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
To: [Marieka Kaye](#)
Subject: Re: Hayner's homophobic slur
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:09:47 PM

Marieka,

I do not defend CM Hayner's abhorrent post on social media and have made many public statements denouncing his action. My attempt to uphold due process in our government institutions should in no way be misconstrued as supporting CM Hayner and his unacceptable behavior.

When I posted a response on social media last Thursday, there had been only a handful of emails I received from constituents- that is a fact and not an attempt to diminish the gravity of the situation. All of those early communications started that CM Hayner's actions were wrong and deserved council action. My issue with all of this was the problematic, unprecedented and questionable process that this resolution took on since April 13th. I believe that the questionable process in which this resolution took will have a detrimental effect on council bodies going forward.

I strongly believe that if this was handled correctly, a vote to strip CM Hayner of all his assignments would have undoubtedly been 10-0.

I am sorry that tribal politics have clouded the perception of my core values and beliefs.

Respectfully
CM Ramlawi

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 19, 2021, at 9:15 PM, Marieka Kaye <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

>

>

> Dear Councilman Ramlawi -

>

> As a resident of Ward 5 I am shocked to see that you have no desire to support the removal of Hayner's powers as councilman after his abhorrent and childish homophobic statement on social media. Saying that only 5 people have written to you about this issue, thus implying that it's not important, is dismissive and insulting to your constituents.

>

> You were elected to keep the inclusive needs of everyone in our Ward in mind. You are excluding a huge part of the people in our Ward by voting against reprimanding Hayner's bigotry.

>

> You are not responsive to people's emails so they have given up contacting you - that's why you haven't heard from many about this issue. Erica Briggs has proven to be approachable, responsive, and participates in her Ward in real and meaningful ways. People likely contact her more when deciding who to reach out to with concerns.

>

> Your support of Hayner sends a message made loud and clear - you do not care about those you are supposed to be representing. You have blinders on, and this will only impede your ability to serve Ward 5. I certainly will not turn to you when the need arises.

>

> Regards -

> Marieka Kaye

From: [Ariah Schugat](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Holy Hell
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:23:00 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

If you want i will give you an hour on Saturday or Sunday of this weekend at a time of your choosing for a 1 on 1 call.

My number is [REDACTED]

If you can convince me that the punishment befallen Hayner is unjust without trying to push conspiracy theory nonsense, I would consider changing my position but I won't hold my breath.

Yes this resolution was pushed through quickly because it was important for the city to swiftly condemn this behavior and move forward as a community but you and the others stole that sense of justice from the victims by focusing on how this is unfair to the person actively causing the harm and you should resign with a sincere apology for your actions in that meeting.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 12:06 PM Ariah Schugat <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Your lack of accountability for the farce presented to the City last night is very telling and this political Bogey man you and the others have warped into a conspiracy shows that you stand for nothing.

On the Sunday caucus, you spoke confidently and without melodramatic overtones because no one was there to openly challenge you and the other stooges.

You spit in the faces of countless generations of marginalized groups including those of Middle Eastern descendants and the many injustices and discrimination and violence faced by them to defend a repugnant unprincipled narcissist.

You're a disgrace to the seat you occupy

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 11:42 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

The vote yesterday would of been 10-0 if proper Democratic protocols were followed and dirty politics were not being played. There is a lot behind the curtain that the public does not bare witness to, the hypocrisy that the Mayor and his rubber stamp operate under is the biggest local disease that threatens us all.

Warm regards
Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 11:31 AM, Ariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

The city knows where your heart is now. it's self evident that you lack the qualities of a leader and merely follow the beat of your party. I will call you this week but I'm currently too busy with my jobs and helping the homeless community, another marginalized group that City Council shows no empathy towards.

I thought you would rise above the circus and show some actual convictions but you obtusely act with indignation about how the "processes and procedures" are more important to you than what this says is acceptable in this city.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 10:34 AM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

It's unfortunate that this is where we are. My offer is a standing one and I hope it will be taken up one day.

I hope you can find some peace in all of this somehow. I know where my heart is.

Respectfully
Ali.

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Aariah Schugat
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Cut the bullshit Ramlawi, you are a factor in what occurred what last night and the lasting effects it will have on this community. You've sold out marginalized communities to defend an unprincipled bigot while also failing to condemn white supremacists adequately yourself. You are helping spread harm to these folks on no other grounds than party lines.

You and the other CM'S i mentioned in my email are an embarrassment to this City and if you stood for anything besides being a roadblock you would rightly resign.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 9:37 AM Ramlawi, Ali

<ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Ariah,

I am deeply disappointed and saddened by the course of actions and words our council body has taken over the last several months. I agree with the notion that Ann Arbor is lead by many who have double standards and speak from both ends, as I experience that on a weekly basis on many different levels.

If you would like to have a phone conversation soon to discuss matters more, I would appreciate it. If not, I respect that as well.

My phone number is [REDACTED]

Warm regards

Ali

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Ariah Schugat

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Last night's meeting was an utter embarrassment for this city.

A now public record for all to see, showing where the Members of this acting body priorities truly lie. CM Griswold as well as various residents of the city vocalized their defense of Hayner using the suffering of black and brown people as well as conspiracy theory rhetoric.

Many people also called in and gave heart felt speeches how homophobia and other forms of LGBT discrimination have impacted them but it clearly fell on deaf ears for four members of this body.

I'm the adopted child of a white family and I suffered many hardships because of this color of my skin not matching that of my adopted family

as well as the usual bigotry and hatred built into the foundations of this Nation.

Griswold saying her adopted children struggled and are fine does not diminish the harm that Hayner has caused.

Cm Radina came with evidence and proof that Griswold, Ramlawi and Hayner are hypocrites in their performative outrage over Hayner being held accountable.

CM Nelson made a big song and dance before voting to revoke Hayners powers.. good time wasting exercise.

Watching this City try to claim inclusivity after that circus last night will be tough but I'm sure you will try to sweep this under the rug and "move on" but Ann Arbor's mask is off.

people have seen the festering wound underneath and are scared.

I may not have the authority to make this claim but I state unequivocally Ann Arbor is not a safe place for black and brown people as well as the LGBT community as long as members of this body are willing to throw its residents under the bus to protect bigoted individuals in positions of power.

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [alan.haber](#)
Subject: Re: Vote NO on the Jeff Hayner Resolution
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:30:05 PM

Dear Mr. Haber,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience and was not bullied into anything by the Mayor or anyone else on Council.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: alan.haber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Song, Linh <LSong@a2gov.org>; Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>; jeneyer@gmail.com <jeneyer@gmail.com>
Cc: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>
Subject: Vote NO on the Jeff Hayner Resolution

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Council Members Linh, Lisa and Jen

I have heard you all are lined up with the Mayor's power play against Jeff Hayner. I hope I'm misinformed. And in case slate loyalty to the bully's pulpit is not stronger than the concern for the integrity of the action, I am sharing with you two letters addressed to other Council Members, urging you all to back off from this ill considered action. Please do so. It grieves me deeply to see this willful increasing polarization of the Council. Imposing a sanction without the required due process and a punishment not provided in the rules sullies the Council as a whole. Take a higher road, ask for reconsideration and restorative justice rather than punitively depriving an elected Member of the Council of his capacity to function on the various committees and commissions of which he is member.

Alan Haber
5th Ward

Hello Travis.

I'm sharing with you my letter to my 5th Ward Representative. A punitive response to an ill-considered quotation is doubly ill-considered.

It ignores due process, it uses an arbitrary out of the rules punishment, it is punitive rather than restorative in its character. I would've thought your own integrity would have led you in a different direction. I have heard the sides are all lined up and you have joined in this power play. Please reconsider. It looks to me like one more underhanded move by the Mayor to undermine the work for the Center of the City Commons.

It would be better if you dissociate yourself, and your community, from this "power rules" authoritarian error. Send it back to the Administrative and Rules Committees for improvement.

Please read my further letter to Erica. as a reminder of other excesses of the Mayor and the consequences of this kind of action diminishing the stature of the City Council as an institution itself.

Alan Haber

Hello Erica,

I read your Ward 5 newsletter,

Needless to say, I'm very disappointed in your reasoning and conclusion about the Jeff Hayner Resolution.

If you read the Council Rules, at least as quoted by Jack Eaton and I presume you have, there is a Due Process method to address a member's actions which are considered offensive. This procedure was not followed, nor is the "punishment" one that is prescribed.

It seems, when political advantage can be gained, or personal spite satisfied, or proper loyalty shown, then due process is easily out the window.

The higher road would have been to have a hearing, the more open a hearing the better in my view, and let the offense be stated and the context known and the matter mediated toward restorative justice, and if there is a conclusion for a Council Reprimand, then do so, after due process, or move to expel him, if this is indeed a "high crime and misdemeanor."

I know nothing of the situation, except for Jack Eaton's Statement and the quote you quoted. Jeff is a fairly straight talking person, In seeking an example of a critical view of the press, he might find the straight talking style of Hunter Thompson a memorable source ...back before the "f" word became an "n" word. I don't any of what he said or where or what he was taking about. I had a good friend in college named Walter Faggot, an African American, and I always found the word friendly. In any case, I heard that, on consideration, after seeking to explain himself, he apologized for the offense and distress he caused. And it seemed to me, everyone could be satisfied and would be slightly better educated.

I wish, on consideration, you too would be satisfied with "everyone better educated" as an outcome. Or if not return to the rules and due process and have a proper hearing, and propose a reprimand or what Council Rules allow..

Your sort of high minded justification of "protecting fellow commissioners and the public" from the possibility of being exposed to his uncontrollable behavior and the latent danger of

being offended is lame, at best.

Your demur that the action is really alright because "he can still vote" is equally hollow. You know Council Members are elected to function in the full range of government functions. It is not in the rules that one group of Council Members has the right to circumscribe the fullness of participation allowed to another Member.

Sadly, I consider this an ill considered, on your part, following of the Mayor, without whose assent, if not initiative, this would not be happening. The Mayor has shown himself sometimes loose with the rules when political advantage seemed at hand. You know my complaints: He violated his sworn Oath of Office, to defend the constitutional rights of Ann Arbor people, when he agreed to void the signatures of registered voters petitioning the government for redress of grievance, and when he refused to take initiative within his power to correct this abridgement of constitutional right, in 2016, thus requiring a second circulation of the petition, and then, when we got certified for the Ballot in 2018, he endeavored to attach a biased argumentative "preface" to the Proposal, which the Appeal Judge of the Court of Law threw out as inappropriate and "not legal."

Why he would want to stoke further division now, rather than seek more functional cooperation, I do not know.

I had hoped for better from you.

I wish you would take a lead in backing off from this ill considered, out of due process, attack on a fellow Council Member.

Kathy Griswold's "Get a Therapist" Resolution is more to the point. Though if "power rules" there is little incentive actually to improve the process, and the best organizational therapists won't help much. I suggest you Amend the amount to a symbolic \$1000, and advertize for "pro bono help." This needs to be a job of love, not money. I suggest you seek a team of 3, who could work together. There are many competent caring people in Ann Arbor who could help, ... if the Council, including you, would acknowledge "help is heeded." Kathy Griswold clearly raises the question.

And clearly, obviously "Help is needed! " Or this out of order resolution would not be before the Council at all.

Whatever you do in the larger sense of Council Functioning, on the Jeff Hayner resolution. Please reconsider what you wrote.

Recognize Jeff as he is, an experienced, hard working, valuable and diligent member of the Council, chastened by his ill considered posting of a poorly chosen quotation and slowness to get the message, and now, all Members are ready to go forward with Council Business, in a spirit of increased mutual understanding.

I am sensitive to the "due process question" because I'm Involved in supporting a friend who was banned from the People's Food Coop, accused of having said a banned word, (which was not said) and having no fair process, and not being considered an individual, and management aggregating authority to itself, ("there is no appeal and the punishment is proper.") I think I wrote you about this earlier on... still unresolved.

When management loses track of the humanity of its members, and their strengths and value,

the institution soon loses its integrity. I experienced this, (besides being trained and practiced in Social Work and Community Organization) in watching the death of the Berkeley Consumers Coop, strong since the 1930's and into the 80's. It was a good all round store with high member loyalty. One was proud to be a member. And then a new style business management got hired, more oriented to the new members that a growth plan would attract, than to the actual members who were the strength and ambassadors of the organization. Within surprisingly few years the Coop was over-extended and bankrupt and out of business, with an alienated membership who had forgotten what was supposed to be special about the coop.

In addressing the People's Food Coop, I suggested they see this transpass order against a long standing member as "a canary in the mine shaft" and correct their behavior.

I think the same is the case with the Resolution against Jeff Hayner.

The most graceful manner might be to refer the question to the administrative committee and rules committee to determine the best course of action.

However and in whatever way you don't do it, don't do it.

Thank you for your attention

Alan Haber

5th Ward



From: [Megan Jenkins](#)
To: [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Subject: Re: Council meeting - DC-5
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:05:15 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

We should stop corresponding. Your responses are just making this worse. You have just tried to say to me that CM Nelson was "bullied" to censure a man who publicly said words that I would not repeat, even by using the defense, "It's a quote! It's not my words." CM Nelson should not have needed to be convinced. And do not martyr yourself and CM Griswald by insinuating that you two resisted such bullying. Again, you have to live with your decisions, as do CMs Nelson and Griswald. But to try to insinuate that the 3 of you, and CM Hayner, as being victimized at all is absolutely reprehensible. The victims here are the marginalized communities that you all failed to represent last night.

Again, please stop emailing me at this point. I do not know what I hoped to leave this exchange with, but it certainly was not to feel more disgusted by your explanations. But that is where we are now.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 1:51 PM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:


I must respect your thoughts on this and the decisions you make in who represents you locally. Sorry to have not been able to meet the expectations you had of me.

Last night was the lowest point of my political career. It was a gut wrenching awful experience as witnessed by many, CM Nelson was brought to visible tears as she felt compelled to vote yes. Being bullied into a yes vote even on principle in which we all can agree on under the process in which was done under, is not a democracy I believe in.

Respectfully
CM Ramlawi

Respectfully.
CM Ramlawi

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 1:38 PM, Megan Jenkins <> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Ramlawi,

You have said the same variation of this explanation multiple times. As I stated, it cannot excuse your defense of CM Hayner's comments, which I was present to watch unfold. I am saddened as well. I have followed your presence on council since your victory against former CM Warpehoski. I will admit that you and I seem to have very different ideas about the community, but until last night I would have described you as a seemingly decent person who appears to be working very hard to learn about local politics, as my understanding is that this is your first elected office. Before last night I would have commended you for that. After DC-5 there really isn't much else to say. You can defend your actions as much as you want, and perhaps that eases your conscience when speaking to the constituents that you have let down. That said, you are now on public record as a person who cosigns homophobia and racism. You can cloak it as defense of "tribalism and commitment to procedure" all that you want. That certainly is the tone of current politicians, particularly when they are defending things that should be indefensible. As I said, you have lost my vote permanently. I actually do hope that you continue to find some way to justify this to yourself, because I can't imagine having to carry that legacy otherwise. I wish you well in your personal life, but I also respectfully hope that you are no longer my representative after 2022. DC-5 was a bridge too far.

Megan

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 1:24 PM Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org> wrote:

Megan.

I am saddened and disappointed to know learn that this is the impression you have of myself on DC-5.

My objection to this resolution last night was simply in the method and process in which it unfolded, this unprecedented process has set a dangerous precedent for all council body's going forward. In fact, our city attorneys office had requested a 2 week postponed in the vote so that the process could be played out in a more responsible.

Unfortunately local tribal politics have deprived me the ability to vote in a way consistent with my core values and beliefs. I felt the principle of due process was more important in this case as it will have profound consequences far beyond the issues discussed last night.

My sincere apologies on what is going on behind the scenes that is causing so much pain and stress in our coming.

Respectfully
CM Ramlawi

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 20, 2021, at 1:12 PM, Megan Jenkins

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear CMs Briggs and Ramlawi,

I am a Ward 5 resident/voter and watched the entire council meeting last night, to the very bitter end of the morning hours. I wanted to reach out to both of you today regarding DC-5.

CM Briggs - Thank you for your remarks and your vote last night. As a fellow cis-white woman, I am grateful to have a representative of my ward that understands the importance of calling out hateful rhetoric against marginalized groups, particularly by elected officials with the power to shape policy. I commend you.

CM Ramlawi - I was shocked and ashamed to know that you represent my ward. Your comments and vote last night were ugly and dangerous. It seems that you are committed to cloaking your defense of CM Hayner in "policies and procedures" and "behind the scenes things that the public are not privy to." In both cases I would say that I cannot think of a single reason why those things are connected. If Council has these issues that you speak of, it cannot excuse the language that CM Hayner used, which was what the vote was about. Your explanations and defense of him were shameful. At this point, you have poisoned the well. There is nothing that you could do that would make me ever cast a vote in your name. And I never miss an election. And I now plan to make sure that every Ward 5 resident that I know hears of your decisions on this matter.

This vote has made it clear that I cannot count on City Council to be stewards for a community that I am proud of, not while marginalized groups are openly attacked by a CM, and at least 2 other CMs publicly defend those comments. I am committed to being much more aware of every council vote, and doing my best to make sure that my friends and neighbors are as well. The fact that the DC-5 vote was not unanimous to remove CM Hayner is a disgrace. And you played a key role in that disgrace, CM Ramlawi. I am horrified and disappointed that someone who would defend that language is my representative.

Sincerely,

Megan Jenkins

Ward 5 resident/voter

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Luis Vazquez](#)
Subject: Re: Discipline of Jeff Hayner
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:37:44 PM

Thank you for writing, Luis.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Luis Vazquez [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:28 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; James Leonard <jimleonard@comcast.net>; Ryan J. Stanton <rstanton@mlive.com>
Subject: Discipline of Jeff Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of City Council,

I am writing to you today to express my support for Council Resolution DC-5, Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments. In my opinion, Mr Hayner's social media posts have crossed a line with his latest use of a slur which I feel endangers LGBTQ members of our community, as well as journalists. Although Mr Hayner, like every American, has free speech, the words he has chosen to post in public forums should not be without consequence. This latest incident highlights his unfitness to serve as a representative in Ann Arbor in any capacity, in my opinion, and the consequences proposed in DC-5 should be considered a minimum result. He has shown contempt for his fellow citizens in this and other instances, and I feel he does not deserve to hold any seat where he has to deal with the public at large. Mr Hayner is deserving of Council's censure and condemnation, and he should consider resignation rather than continue to harm the citizenry and Council's decorum with his poor choice of words.

In a subsequent communication to Council, I will describe in detail why I have filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union for potential violation of my, and other Ann Arbor citizens' First Amendment rights by Mr Hayner.

Thank you for your consideration

Luis Vazquez
[REDACTED]
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Daniel Adams](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:41:36 PM

Dan,

Thank you for writing. It was a brutal meeting and the 8-3 vote may have done more harm than the outcome--removing CM Hayner from his board and commission assignments temporarily--may have accomplished. Nonetheless, it was the right thing to do.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Daniel Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:57 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I was surprised and troubled by some of the comments made last night during the caucus session, which appear to foreshadow a 7-4 vote tonight on DC-5. It seems impossible to me that, in Ann Arbor in 2021, we're about to have a contested, party-line vote on whether it is appropriate to mete out slap-on-the-wrist punishment to an elected official for his use of a homophobic slur in a frothy, conspiratorial social-media rant against the press.

The indecency of CM Hayner's behavior and the imperative to modestly punish that behavior should not be a political or partisan issue. We deserve to hear unequivocally that we don't tolerate this kind of language in Ann Arbor in 2021.

Three votes against DC-5 will send the opposite message, and it will give CM Hayner political quarter that he doesn't deserve: the facts he needs to later recharacterize and delegitimize the council's response as a partisan act instead of an expression of the community's unified outrage.

I don't believe that CM Hayner is a bigot. He might even be, as some have claimed and despite his initial full-throated defense of his actions, sincerely remorseful. But not being a

bigot and possibly being sorry do not entitle him to the council's continued confidence that he remains qualified to serve on these committees, or to protection from the natural consequences of a reckless, indefensible use of a hateful, disgusting word.

Please vote in favor of DC-5.

Daniel Adams
First Ward

From: [Daniel Adams](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:52:28 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Councilmember Disch: Thank you very much for your comments last night, for your vote, and for your public service.

Dan

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 2:41 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dan,

Thank you for writing. It was a brutal meeting and the 8-3 vote may have done more harm than the outcome--removing CM Hayner from his board and commission assignments temporarily--may have accomplished. Nonetheless, it was the right thing to do.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Daniel Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:57 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I was surprised and troubled by some of the comments made last night during the caucus session, which appear to foreshadow a 7-4 vote tonight on DC-5. It seems impossible to me that, in Ann Arbor in 2021, we're about to have a contested, party-line vote on whether it is appropriate to mete out slap-on-the-wrist punishment to an elected official for his use of a homophobic slur in a frothy, conspiratorial social-media rant against the press.

The indecency of CM Hayner's behavior and the imperative to modestly punish that

behavior should not be a political or partisan issue. We deserve to hear unequivocally that we don't tolerate this kind of language in Ann Arbor in 2021.

Three votes against DC-5 will send the opposite message, and it will give CM Hayner political quarter that he doesn't deserve: the facts he needs to later recharacterize and delegitimize the council's response as a partisan act instead of an expression of the community's unified outrage.

I don't believe that CM Hayner is a bigot. He might even be, as some have claimed and despite his initial full-throated defense of his actions, sincerely remorseful. But not being a bigot and possibly being sorry do not entitle him to the council's continued confidence that he remains qualified to serve on these committees, or to protection from the natural consequences of a reckless, indefensible use of a hateful, disgusting word.

Please vote in favor of DC-5.

Daniel Adams
First Ward

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Daniel Adams](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:40:07 PM

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Daniel Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Councilmember Disch: Thank you very much for your comments last night, for your vote, and for your public service.

Dan

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 2:41 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dan,

Thank you for writing. It was a brutal meeting and the 8-3 vote may have done more harm than the outcome--removing CM Hayner from his board and commission assignments temporarily--may have accomplished. Nonetheless, it was the right thing to do.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Daniel Adams <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 1:57 PM

To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Subject: Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I was surprised and troubled by some of the comments made last night during the caucus session, which appear to foreshadow a 7-4 vote tonight on DC-5. It seems impossible to me that, in Ann Arbor in 2021, we're about to have a contested, party-line vote on whether it is appropriate to mete out slap-on-the-wrist punishment to an elected official for his use of a homophobic slur in a frothy, conspiratorial social-media rant against the press.

The indecency of CM Hayner's behavior and the imperative to modestly punish that behavior should not be a political or partisan issue. We deserve to hear unequivocally that we don't tolerate this kind of language in Ann Arbor in 2021.

Three votes against DC-5 will send the opposite message, and it will give CM Hayner political quarter that he doesn't deserve: the facts he needs to later recharacterize and delegitimize the council's response as a partisan act instead of an expression of the community's unified outrage.

I don't believe that CM Hayner is a bigot. He might even be, as some have claimed and despite his initial full-throated defense of his actions, sincerely remorseful. But not being a bigot and possibly being sorry do not entitle him to the council's continued confidence that he remains qualified to serve on these committees, or to protection from the natural consequences of a reckless, indefensible use of a hateful, disgusting word.

Please vote in favor of DC-5.

Daniel Adams
First Ward

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Jeff Crockett](#)
Subject: Re: Please Don't Go Down the DC-5 Rabbit Hole
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:01:17 PM

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience for the reasons I explained last night.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Jeff Crockett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:42 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Please Don't Go Down the DC-5 Rabbit Hole

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

You should understand that if you pass DC-5 to ban Jeff Hayner from Committee assignments you will be, in effect, descending into a rabbit hole from which there will be NO exit. You are headed into uncharted waters. Before proceeding, you just might want to read and think about John 8:7, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Certainly, CM Hayner's post was troubling. But, why is this more troubling than the allegations against CM Jen Eyer? Why are you so quick to pounce on a FB blunder and completely ignore the allegations whirling around Jen Eyer in the Vanguard scandal which played out over a period of three years? It is public knowledge that Jen denied knowing of the repeated sexual harassment by her former business association TJ Bucholtz. But, it is dumbfounding to think she knew nothing. It seems that CM Eyer owes Ann Arbor voters a detailed account of her side to these allegations, not a terse denial. She also misrepresented the truth during the campaign when she claimed that she was a small business owner. Why should anyone believe her now? If it turns out through the Vanguard litigation that CM Eyer

did not reveal all that she knew, that would violate the trust voters have placed in her and she should resign. In that event, should DC-5 be passed and become a precedent, Council should immediately move to relieve her of her committee assignments, just as you are proposing for CM Hayner.

Jen, a reasonable assumption about your sponsorship of DC-5 is that you are doing this to distract from the Vanguard scandal. As you know from your PR career, public impressions are everything. The politics behind this appear to be to intimidate CM Hayner so that he won't run in 2022, leaving Ward 1 open for another mayoral ally. As the old saying goes, "That's as plain as the nose on your face."

But, also consider that by punishing CM Hayner with DC-5, **you are really punishing First Ward voters who will lose their representation on key committees.** This is a regressive, not a Progressive action. If you vote for DC-5, you have defaulted on your credibility to call yourself a Progressive. DC-5 is a Trumpian maneuver. Let's not deceive ourselves.

Please don't go down this rabbit hole. Reject DC-5 and vote for DC-6.

Thanks for your consideration, Jeff and Christine Crockett

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Elizabeth Vandermark](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution 21-0752
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:03:25 PM

Dear Liz,

Thank you for writing. You're spot on. There were so many marvels on that agenda last night and it is entirely overshadowed by the tussle over CM Hayner's harmful speech.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Elizabeth Vandermark [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:29 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Resolution 21-0752

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

I am writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Councilmember Hayner is entitled to his opinions and to express in whatever manner he chooses. However, as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor). While there are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, repeating slurs (even for emphasis) is never appropriate. If and when one does misspeak, which happens, acknowledging the mistake and apologizing it is the appropriate response. The ability to engage in civil discourse is a necessary skill to governing. We need to work together to identify language that is hurtful to our neighbors and friends and not perpetuate it. Jeff Hayner's inability to engage in that conversation is deeply troubling.

Council has important and serious work to do this year. I believe that Jeff Hayner's behavior continues to be a distraction to that endeavor.

Liz Vandermark
[REDACTED]

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Erich Zechar](#)
Subject: Re: items on the agenda today
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:05:07 PM

Thank you for writing Erich, you remind me of all the great stuff that was on the agenda last night! It got overshadowed.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Erich Zechar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 7:02 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: items on the agenda today

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello, lots on the agenda tonight so I wanted to support three or four items.

Yes on CA-2 - increasing maintenance for bike lanes from \$75k budget to \$100k. It's a drop in the bucket in the transportation budget and it's desperately needed if we are going to have safe complete streets downtown to encourage nonmotorized transit.

Yes on C-1: ADUs are a great way to age in place and support your income if you're a homeowner. They're too difficult to build with our onerous rules currently. Make them easier to build. The scare that investors will swoop in and build them is extremely unlikely as they're half as profitable as simply buying a home and renting it out, or doing a teardown and building a larger home to sell or buy.

Yes on C-2: Valhalla is a great project, electric only to help meet future carbon goals, walkable to amenities downtown, and in a great location. It should be approved

DC-5: I wrestle with this because I want to believe in CM Hayner's stated remorse and apology. Still, the words he posted on Facebook cannot be fully taken back and there should be consequences to using hate speech, whether it's your own original words or a quote weaponized against those you disagree with. He should be stripped of his committee assignments, maybe some education provided, and council should move on to conduct the business of the city.

Thank you

Erich Zechar
Ward 2

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [Rachel Francisco](#)
Subject: Re: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:58:11 PM

Hi Rachel

Thank you for writing!! It was technically not a "censure" but I know what you mean. I totally agree that it's been a major distraction.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Rachel Francisco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:51 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support of resolution to censure J. Hayner

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and members of the Ann Arbor City Council

We are writing to support the passage of resolution 21-0752 to censure Councilmember Jeff Hayner and remove him from his committee assignments.

Language matters. Is Councilmember Hayner entitled to his opinions and have a first amendment right to express in whatever manner he chooses? Absolutely. But as an elected official, he has a responsibility to those he represents directly (Ward 1) and indirectly (City of Ann Arbor) to choose and sometimes temper the language he uses in public forums. There are many ways to express displeasure or disagreement with an issue, but using slurs is never the correct option. Hiding behind "those aren't my words, it's a published quote" is a disingenuous excuse at best. And if and when one does misspeak, which does happen (which is more than a little difficult to accept as a response in this matter, with an attributed quote and all), apologizing sincerely, truly understanding why certain language hurts, is important. This is what Hayner has refused, or is unable to do.

There is much work to be done, and we believe that Hayner's behavior has become an insurmountable distraction.

Rachel Francisco (she/hers)
Timo Anderson (he/his)



From: [Jeff Crockett](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: Please Don't Go Down the DC-5 Rabbit Hole
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:02:26 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Lisa,

I appreciate that you took the time to explain your vote, probably one of the most difficult Council votes in a long time. You're right. Either way, there was no satisfactory outcome. It was painful to watch, but undoubtedly far more painful for you. I am very upset with Jeff Hayner and don't excuse his actions. But, I am also very upset with Jen Eyer and the fact that she misrepresented the truth when she stated she was a small business owner. She should not have made the statement if it were not a certainty. Then, there is the disturbing Vanguard matter. I don't know for sure what happened. But, the accusations of three female employees can't be written off just because Jen denies wrongdoing. Quoting former Vanguard employee, Megdi Abebe, "Jen did nothing while we were being harassed. She blamed some of my colleagues for the harassment when they came to her for help." That statement alone is damning and, if true, warrants her immediate resignation.

Agreed? In the Detroit News

[article https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2021/03/25/political-consultant-resigns-lansing-board-after-sexual-harassment-allegations/6997513002/](https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2021/03/25/political-consultant-resigns-lansing-board-after-sexual-harassment-allegations/6997513002/), this story was verified by two other women, Abby Clark and Chelsea Coffee. In response, Eyer stated, [she] was "stunned" by the revelations, but noted she was shown inappropriate text messages by employees from Bucholz twice several years ago. She said she advised the employee to contact management other than Bucholz and believed the situation was resolved." Lisa, the last sentence just doesn't pass the smell test. In light of such charges, Jen should have followed up with regular meetings with the three women. She should have arranged meetings with the three women AND Bucholz and documented these meetings. Worse, she tried to minimize the pain experienced by these women and attempted to characterize HERSELF as the victim of Bucholtz.

Now that Hayner has received his punishment and we have gone down this rabbit hole, I am looking toward the council majority to do the right thing and ask Jen to prepare a full accounting of her involvement in the Vanguard scandal. Council should then schedule a public hearing to decide on an appropriate course of action.

Thanks for listening, Lisa.

Jeff

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 4:01 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go

without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience for the reasons I explained last night.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Jeff Crockett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:42 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Please Don't Go Down the DC-5 Rabbit Hole

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

You should understand that if you pass DC-5 to ban Jeff Hayner from Committee assignments you will be, in effect, descending into a rabbit hole from which there will be NO exit. You are headed into uncharted waters. Before proceeding, you just might want to read and think about John 8:7, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Certainly, CM Hayner's post was troubling. But, why is this more troubling than the allegations against CM Jen Eyer? Why are you so quick to pounce on a FB blunder and completely ignore the allegations whirling around Jen Eyer in the Vanguard scandal which played out over a period of three years? It is public knowledge that Jen denied knowing of the repeated sexual harassment by her former business association TJ Bucholtz. But, it is dumbfounding to think she knew nothing. It seems that CM Eyer owes Ann Arbor voters a detailed account of her side to these allegations, not a terse denial. She also misrepresented the truth during the campaign when she claimed that she was a small business owner. Why should anyone believe her now? If it turns out through the Vanguard litigation that CM Eyer did not reveal all that she knew, that would violate the trust voters have placed in her and she should resign. In that event, should DC-5 be passed and become a precedent, Council should immediately move to relieve her of her committee assignments, just as you are proposing for CM Hayner.

Jen, a reasonable assumption about your sponsorship of DC-5 is that you are doing this to distract from the Vanguard scandal. As you know from your PR career, public impressions are everything. The politics behind this appear to be to intimidate CM Hayner so that he won't run in 2022, leaving Ward 1 open for another mayoral ally. As the old saying goes,

"That's as plain as the nose on your face."

But, also consider that by punishing CM Hayner with DC-5, **you are really punishing First Ward voters who will lose their representation on key committees.** This is a regressive, not a Progressive action. If you vote for DC-5, you have defaulted on your credibility to call yourself a Progressive. DC-5 is a Trumpian maneuver. Let's not deceive ourselves.

Please don't go down this rabbit hole. Reject DC-5 and vote for DC-6.

Thanks for your consideration, Jeff and Christine Crockett

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [B R](#)
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:18:14 PM

Dear Mr. Rosen,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. You will not have agreed with my vote but it reflects my own judgment and independent thought, as I explained at the meeting.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I felt compelled to send you a message regarding the action City Council has taken with regard to my other Council member, Jeff Hayner. While I do not condone his actions, I am disappointed to the extreme in the manner his indiscretion is being handled, especially in light of other council member indiscretions. Once again, the mayor has taken the coward's path by electing to step out of standard processes to manage the situation. I'll be watching closely how you act and vote on this matter. When you ran, I was hoping beyond hope you would not blindly follow the mayor's path. So far, the jury is out.

Please be an adult and please follow procedure. A reprimand of some kind is in order. But that doesn't mean you should be underhanded like the Mayor.

If you diminish Ward 1 representation by supporting the mayor's position, you will not be representing your constituents well. It will be remembered.

Your constituent,
Bill

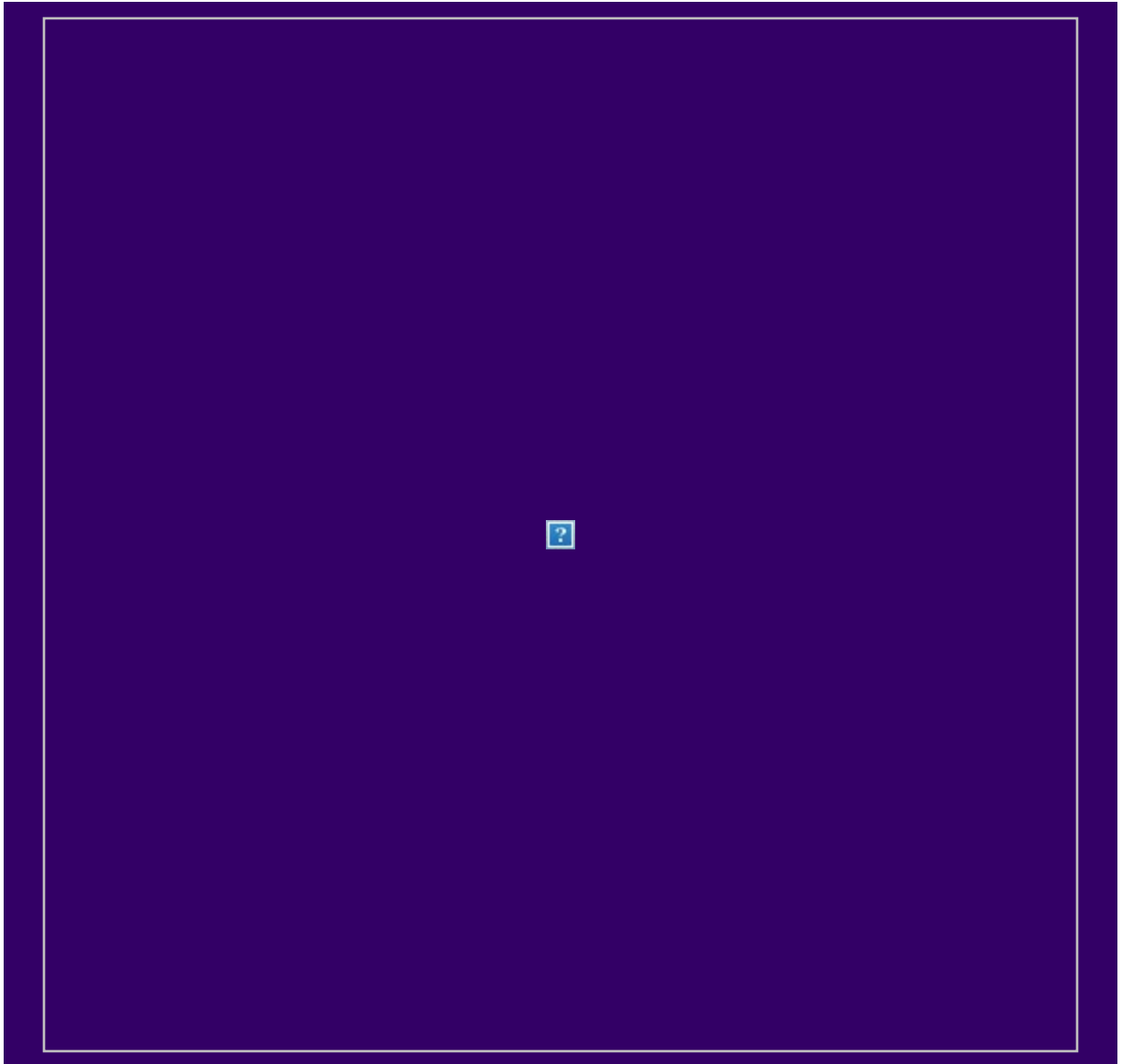
----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Nelson** <contact@a2elnel.com>

Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM

Subject: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

To: <



Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details

that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:
We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: “internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is

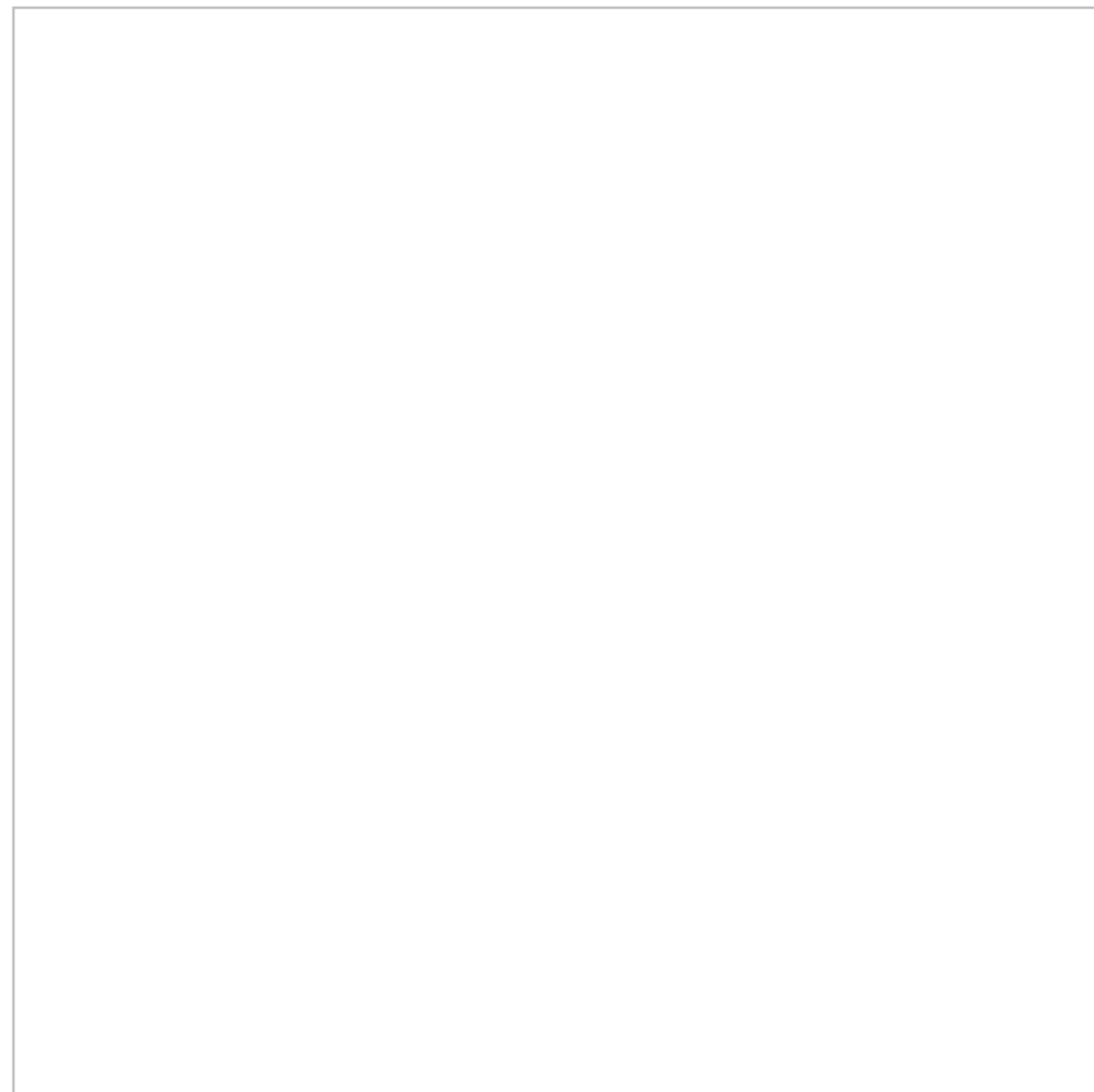
responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2elnel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.

A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request generated controversy.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint-planning-transportation-meeting>

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>

A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2inel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 ([21-0769](#)) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop [1510 E Stadium](#) as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700 North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays) (ORD-21-07)

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling) in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)

A planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts"

section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, [155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive](#) and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

Arbor Stormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nominated was introduced at the previous meeting, and will therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the previous Council approved a ballot proposal for an Affordable Housing Millage (I was a cosponsor). The Washington Post wrote about it here:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/how-a-small-property-tax-increase-can-boost-affordable-housing-inventories/2021/02/24/0c1c2554-6d8b-11eb-ba56-d7e2c8defa31_story.html

CLEANING UP THE GELMAN PLUME

Also this week: we received news that Governor Whitmer has formally requested intervention from the federal EPA to clean up the Gelman 1,4-Dioxane contamination. This pollution is spreading underground on the west side of Ann Arbor. Council efforts to engage the federal EPA started in October 2019. That resolution prompted many meetings in partnership with other local elected bodies, until we finally reached agreement in November 2020. For more explanation of the significance, see this MLive article:

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/04/state-approves-seeking-federal-superfund-cleanup-of-dioxane-pollution-in-ann-arbor.html>

LAND USE PLANNING

Agenda Item C-1 proposes amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Units ordinance. These amendments significantly change permitted use for all residential lots in the City, allowing the construction of an additional small house in any backyard, regardless of parcel size or ownership (i.e. two units on a single lot as investment rental).

In 2019, a majority of Council in 2019 resisted this change, suggesting that it could and should be considered as part of anticipated work to revise the City's Master Plan. Due to COVID-related budgeting challenges, that Master Plan work is delayed. The amendments proposed this week are actually more remarkable than what was presented in 2019: they remove the requirement for owner-occupancy in either structure. It is no longer accurate to describe these units as "granny flats" to help house family members in close proximity or to help residents stay in their homes (supervising on-site rentals to generate income). As proposed, these amendments are now aimed at providing an opportunity for commercial investment in rentals.

WARD 4: VALHALLA

Agenda item C-2 is a proposed re-zoning of 9.8 acres located in Ward 4, on South Main just south of the intersection at Scio Church. Valhalla is a dirt road, across from Pioneer High School, that currently has six houses on it. Staff recommended zoning for this area that would permit re-development with 84 housing units. Against staff recommendation, the Planning Commission

approved and sent to Council a plan for 454 housing units. The proposed zoning includes “conditions” to justify the expansion: the project will not hook up to natural gas (except for “emergency back-up electrical generator”), will have solar panel installation expected to provide 12-13% of needed power, and will offer 15 affordable housing units (3% of total units). The University of Michigan has communicated to City Council, identifying serious concerns they have about this project’s proposed retaining walls and grading, stormwater management, sanitary sewer systems, and safety fencing needed due to its proximity to the golf course.

Note: this is first reading of the zoning change. There will be a public hearing at second reading.

Thank you for helping me represent Ward 4!

Elizabeth Nelson

ENelson@A2gov.org

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Copyright © 2021 Committee to Elect Elizabeth Nelson, All rights reserved.

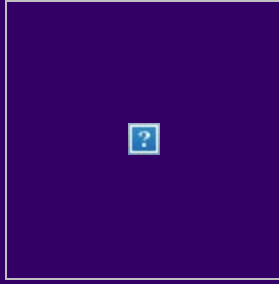
You can unsubscribe from this list at any time using the link below.

Paid for by
Committee to Elect Elizabeth Nelson
PO Box 2243
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2243

[Add us to your address book](#)

Donate to my campaign: <https://www.a2elnel.com/donate>

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [vnarmentrout](#)
Subject: Re: DC-5 April 19, 2021
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:25:23 PM

Dear Vivienne,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. As I have come to think about it, certain words have a power to do violence that exceeds the intent of the speaker because they are embedded in a longer history of domination, erasure, harassment, and more. I don't believe CM Hayner intended to do harm, but the harm his post caused called for a response that was more than mere reprimand.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: vnarmentrout [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:28 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: DC-5 April 19, 2021

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is to ask you to withdraw this resolution from the agenda, or if not, to vote against it. But for all our sakes, it would be best to withdraw.

I was deeply embarrassed on behalf of all our City to see this item emerge in the local news media. The information I have seen about CM Hayner's tweet was that it was deleted not long after it was posted. I don't know the history or context of the statement. Obviously he was very unwise to post a message that contained the term which we all understand to be offensive. As he has noted, it was in a literary quote and was not directed at any named person. But I hope that this has taught him the trick I learned long ago: Delete before sending! I make no apology for him. Nevertheless, the publicity assigned to this item only enlarges the problem. If we have any pride in our name and our city, this is not the kind of incident that we want enlarged on the public stage.

Here are reasons to withdraw the resolution.

1. The action contained in the resolution is contrary to the published Council rules. Former CM Jack Eaton has published this information with a lengthy brief on Facebook and I assume has shared it with you as well. The manner in which the Administrative Committee's vote was publicized in the local press and the lack of anything resembling due process makes it obvious that the action does not follow any accepted protocol.
2. The resolution places an undue burden on the CM who were not involved in the committee decision. Should they vote for a resolution which is patently unfair, or vote against it at the risk of being accused of approving this offensive language?
3. The resolution is undemocratic. Aside from the lack of due process (I understand that he was not informed about the impending action, and given no chance to respond), it is an assault on the representation for the First Ward. CM Hayner was elected to represent these voters, and removing him from all committees lessens that representation.
4. According to the news media, the reason given by Mayor Taylor for this action was considered in concordance with the action of the Board of Regents vs. Ron Weiser. But the two circumstances are not at all similar. Mr. Weiser not only addressed insults to our top three elected (Democratic) officials, but also called for them to be "burned at the stake". Thus, it was actually a threat in that it called for injury or death. CM Hayner's quote mentioned journalists as a class but named no individual, and did not call for any action against them.
5. The action promotes further division on Council at a time when our City faces many likely challenges. It is obvious that all members of Council do not share the same vision for the future of Ann Arbor, but I hope and expect that all wish to promote the welfare of the City. They should be able to consider the multitude of issues and decisions before them, rather than being entangled in this nastiness.
6. And, again, this is embarrassing and a detriment to our public image as a City that has intelligent leadership. I'd like to see no more headlines like this for a while.

CM Hayner has apologized. Give him a chance to do that again, and move on. There is work to do.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Armentrout

Ann Arbor

From: [B R](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:45:51 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Disch,
Certainly he deserved censure of some type. All I asked was that you respectfully follow due process. Instead, you caved in to the Mayor's wishes. Only Donald Trump would create his own process and sidestep an established procedure. Shame on you.

Whoever runs against you, I'll be going door to door working to unseat you. You never know, I might even run against you myself.

Sadly yours,
Bill

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:18 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Rosen,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. You will not have agreed with my vote but it reflects my own judgment and independent thought, as I explained at the meeting.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[301 E. Huron Street](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647](#)

Ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I felt compelled to send you a message regarding the action City Council has taken with regard to my other Council member, Jeff Hayner. While I do not condone his actions, I am disappointed to the extreme in the manner his indiscretion is being handled, especially in light of other council member indiscretions. Once again, the mayor has taken the coward's path by electing to step out of standard processes to manage the situation. I'll be watching closely how you act and vote on this matter. When you ran, I was hoping beyond hope you would not blindly follow the mayor's path. So far, the jury is out.

Please be an adult and please follow procedure. A reprimand of some kind is in order. But that doesn't mean you should be underhanded like the Mayor.

If you diminish Ward 1 representation by supporting the mayor's position, you will not be representing your constituents well. It will be remembered.

Your constituent,
Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Nelson** <contact@a2cnel.com>

Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM

Subject: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

To: <>





Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and

site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:

We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: "internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling

or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link:
<https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2elnel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.

A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request

generated controversy.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint-planning-transportation-meeting>

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>



A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2inel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 ([21-0769](#)) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop [1510 E Stadium](#) as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified

Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700 North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays) (ORD-21-07)

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling)n in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)A

planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and

Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, [155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive](#) and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

ArborStormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nomination was introduced at the previous meeting, and will therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from

Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the previous Co

From: [Disch, Lisa](#)
To: [B R](#)
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:50:42 PM

Mr. Rosen,

There wasn't a procedural violation. I would have preferred a more collaborative process, however. And feel welcome to run, campaign...!

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live
At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Disch,

Certainly he deserved censure of some type. All I asked was that you respectfully follow due process. Instead, you caved in to the Mayor's wishes. Only Donald Trump would create his own process and sidestep an established procedure. Shame on you.

Whoever runs against you, I'll be going door to door working to unseat you. You never know, I might even run against you myself.

Sadly yours,
Bill

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:18 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Rosen,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. You will not have agreed with my vote but it reflects my own judgment and independent

thought, as I explained at the meeting.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[301 E. Huron Street](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647](#)

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15 AM

To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>

Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I felt compelled to send you a message regarding the action City Council has taken with regard to my other Council member, Jeff Hayner. While I do not condone his actions, I am disappointed to the extreme in the manner his indiscretion is being handled, especially in light of other council member indiscretions. Once again, the mayor has taken the cowards path by electing to step out of standard processes to manage the situation. I'll be watching closely how you act and vote on this matter. When you ran, I was hoping beyond hope you would not blindly follow the mayor's path. So far, the jury is out.

Please be an adult and please follow procedure. A reprimand of some kind is in order. But that doesn't mean you should be underhanded like the Mayor.

If you diminish Ward 1 representation by supporting the mayor's position, you will not be representing your constituents well. It will be remembered.

Your constituent,
Bill

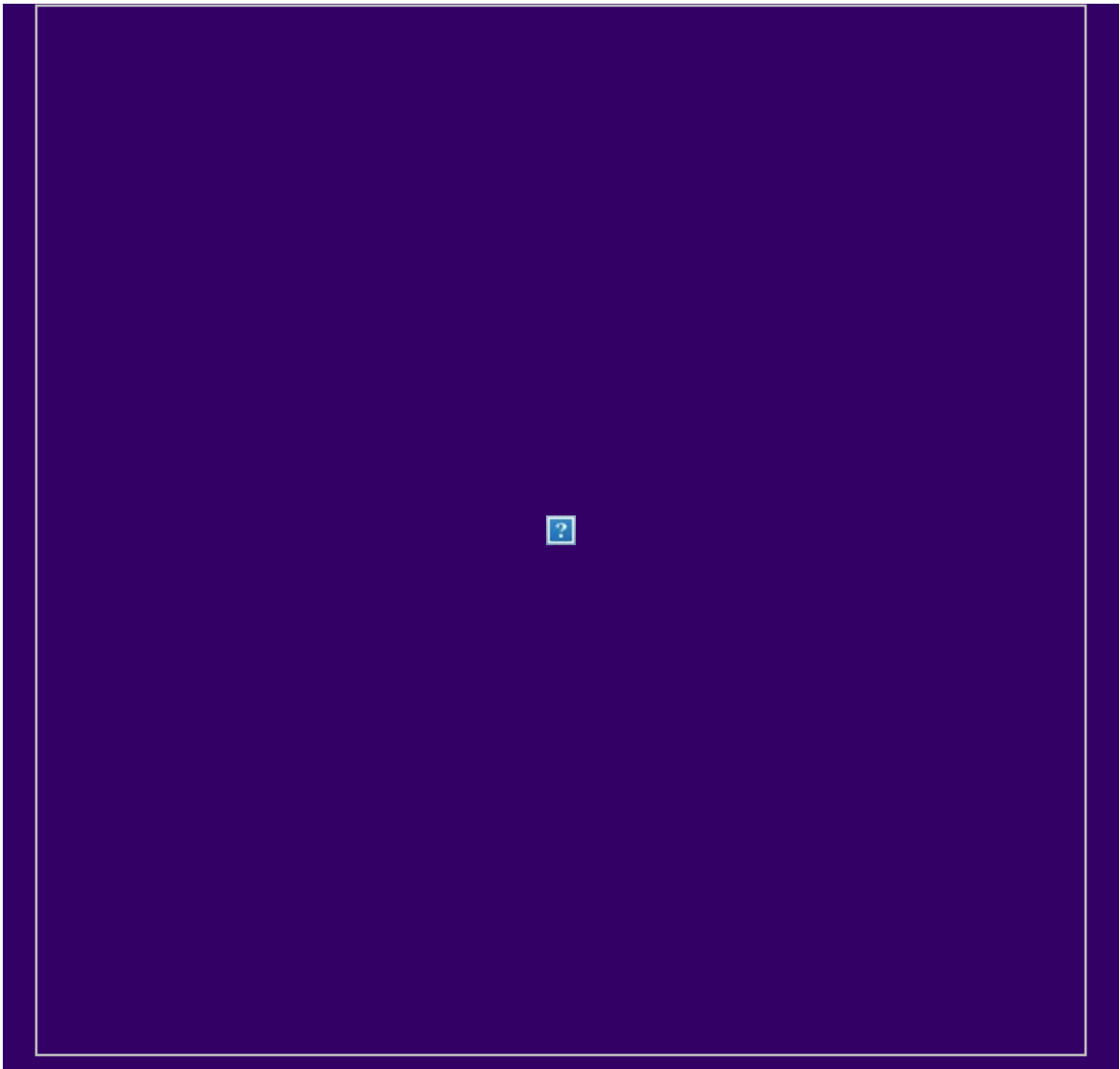
----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elizabeth Nelson <contact@a2cnel.com>

Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM

Subject: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

To: <[REDACTED]>



Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and

site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:
We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: "internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling

or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link:
<https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2elnel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.

A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request

generated controversy.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint-planning-transportation-meeting>

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>



A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 ([21-0769](#)) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop [1510 E Stadium](#) as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified

Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700 North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays) (ORD-21-07)

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling)n in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)A

planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and

Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, [155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive](#) and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

ArborStormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nomination was introduced at the previous meeting, and will therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from

Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the previous Co

From: [vnarmentrout](#)
To: [Disch, Lisa](#)
Subject: Re: DC-5 April 19, 2021
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:53:56 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you for your answer. I knew this would place all CM in an impossible situation. The fault lies with the makers of the resolution. There are a clear set of Council rules and they were not followed. Are they inconsequential?

I've known Jeff for quite a while and he has always been difficult, headstrong and unwilling to moderate his speech. But he beat his record on this one. The sad thing is that he does often have useful perceptions and understanding of issues. I doubt that this will have taught him much of a lesson, though I know he was damaged. No good outcomes from all this.

Vivienne

On 4/20/2021 5:25 PM, Disch, Lisa wrote:

Dear Vivienne,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. As I have come to think about it, certain words have a power to do violence that exceeds the intent of the speaker because they are embedded in a longer history of domination, erasure, harassment, and more. I don't believe CM Hayner intended to do harm, but the harm his post caused called for a response that was more than mere reprimand.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647
734.769.2100

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: vnarmentrout [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:28 PM

To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

Subject: DC-5 April 19, 2021

1/2

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

This is to ask you to withdraw this resolution from the agenda, or if not, to vote against it. But for all our sakes, it would be best to withdraw.

I was deeply embarrassed on behalf of all our City to see this item emerge in the local news media. The information I have seen about CM Hayner's tweet was that it was deleted not long after it was posted. I don't know the history or context of the statement. Obviously he was very unwise to post a message that contained the term which we all understand to be offensive. 1/2 As he has noted, it was in a literary quote and was not directed at any named person. But I hope that this has taught him the trick I learned long ago: Delete before sending! I make no apology for him. Nevertheless, the publicity assigned to this item only enlarges the problem. 1/2 If we have any pride in our name and our city, this is not the kind of incident that we want enlarged on the public stage.

Here are reasons to withdraw the resolution.

1. The action contained in the resolution is contrary to the published Council rules. Former CM Jack Eaton has published this information with a lengthy brief on Facebook and I assume has shared it with you as well. The manner in which the Administrative Committee's vote was publicized in the local press and the lack of anything resembling due process makes it obvious that the action does not follow any accepted protocol.
2. The resolution places an undue burden on the CM who were not involved in the committee decision. Should they vote for a resolution which is patently unfair, or vote against it at the risk of being accused of approving this offensive language?
3. The resolution is undemocratic. Aside from the lack of due process (I understand that he was not informed about the impending action, and given no chance to respond), it is an assault on the representation for the First Ward. CM Hayner was elected to represent these voters, and removing him from all committees lessens that representation.
4. According to the news media, the reason given by Mayor Taylor for this action was considered in concordance with the action of the Board of Regents vs. Ron Weiser. But the two circumstances are not at all similar. Mr. Weiser not only addressed 1/2 insults to our top three elected (Democratic) officials, but also called for them to be "burned at the stake". Thus, it was actually a threat in that it called for injury or death. CM Hayner's quote mentioned journalists as a class but named no individual, and did not call for any action against them.
5. The action promotes further division on Council at a time when our City faces many likely challenges. It is obvious that all members of Council do not share the same vision for the future of Ann Arbor, but I hope and expect that all wish to promote the welfare of the City. They should be able to consider the multitude of issues and decisions before them, rather than being entangled in this nastiness.
6. And, again, this is embarrassing and a detriment to our public image as a City that has intelligent leadership. I'd like to see no more headlines like this for a while.

CM Hayner has apologized. Give him a chance to do that again, and move on. There is work to do.

Sincerely,

Vivienne Armentrout

Ann Arbor

From: B R
To: Disch, Lisa
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 6:32:40 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

You can justify it to yourself I guess in that way, but the news articles I have read say different. And this would be the first time your buddy the Mayor sidestepped due process which is why I find the news articles believable.

And what about the Council person who was caught DUI and that news was buried? Was that equal and fair? He might have hit someone and killed them. I guess that was ok since he p, like you, is one of the Mayor's buddies.

Shame in you and Donald Trump.

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:50 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Mr. Rosen,

There wasn't a procedural violation. I would have preferred a more collaborative process, however. And feel welcome to run, campaign...!

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[301 E. Huron Street](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647](#)

Ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms.Disch,

Certainly he deserved censure of some type. All I asked was that you respectfully follow due process. Instead, you caved in to the Mayor's wishes. Only Donald Trump would create his own process and sidestep an established procedure. Shame on you.

Whoever runs against you, I'll be going door to door working to unseat you. You never know, I might even run against you myself.

Sadly yours,

Bill

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:18 PM Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Rosen,

Thank you for writing. I understand your perspective on this situation. There really was no way to win. Many residents wrote to let us know that if we let CM Hayner's speech go without a consequential response they would feel that Ann Arbor is a different place than they thought they lived in, and want to live in. To take a response that imposed sanctions that he did not assent to feeds the picture of divisiveness. In the end, I voted my conscience. You will not have agreed with my vote but it reflects my own judgment and independent thought, as I explained at the meeting.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

[City of Ann Arbor](#)

[301 E. Huron Street](#)

[Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647](#)

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: B R <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:15 AM

To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>

Subject: Fwd: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I felt compelled to send you a message regarding the action City Council has taken with regard to my other Council member, Jeff Hayner. While I do not condone his actions, I am disappointed to the extreme in the manner his indiscretion is being handled, especially in light of other council member indiscretions. Once again, the mayor has taken the coward's path by electing to step out of standard processes to manage the situation. I'll be watching closely how you act and vote on this matter. When you ran, I was hoping beyond hope you would not blindly follow the mayor's path. So far, the jury is out.

Please be an adult and please follow procedure. A reprimand of some kind is in order. But that doesn't mean you should be underhanded like the Mayor.

If you diminish Ward 1 representation by supporting the mayor's position, you will not be representing your constituents well. It will be remembered.

Your constituent,
Bill

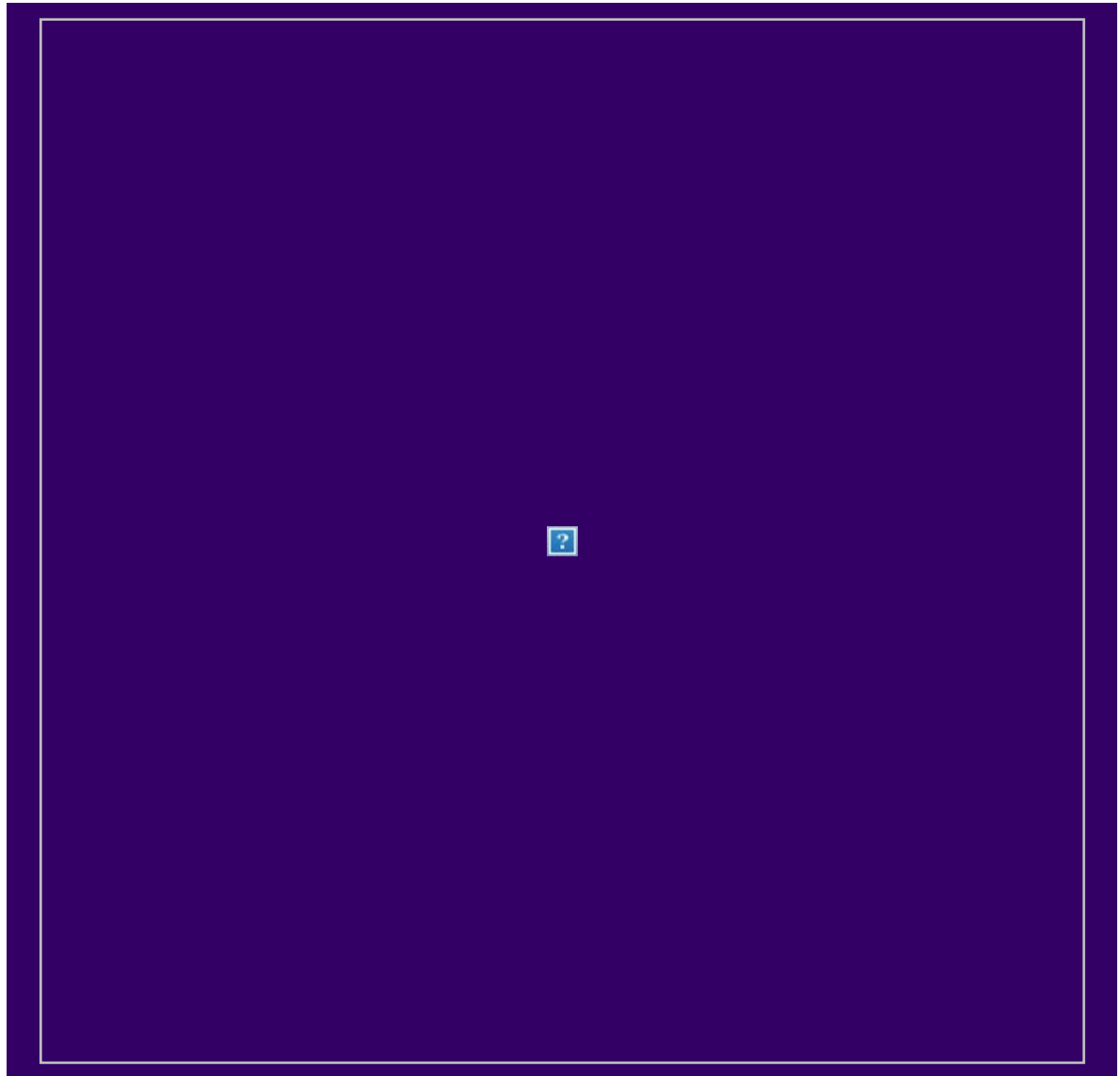
----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Nelson** <contact@a2elnel.com>

Date: Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 3:35 PM

Subject: Elizabeth Nelson's City Council Newsletter (Apr 17, 2021)

To: <



Hello neighbors!

Welcome to everyone who is new to this newsletter! Before every Council meeting, I write up my own summary of each agenda item and try to pull details that I think are most relevant to understanding them. My hope is that these

summaries can help residents keep track of what City Council is doing. For issues that matter to you, I encourage you to follow links (next to each agenda item) to the City's Legistar website, where you can find all the background information.

This week, City Council considers a short Consent Agenda, re-zoning of a large parcel in Ward 4 (Valhalla) and amendments to our Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Additionally, there are two public hearings for a re-zoning and site plan at 700 North Main Street.

I need to acknowledge a topic on our agenda because it warrants a public statement (as well as community conversation). In agenda item DC-5, three members of the Council Administrative committee recommend action against a Council member, in response to his use of offensive language in a social media post. The offensive language was a homophobic slur.

I unequivocally denounce the use of this word.

The offensive language was posted as part of a quotation from Hunter S Thompson. This detail - that the word was part of a quote, from a significant piece of well-known literature - has been offered as explanation/excuse. This past week, I have seen a whole range of reactions: confused, disappointed, outraged, defensive, resentful, dismissive, and thoughtful.

Words matter. There are some words so wildly offensive that context is unhelpful in diffusing their power to harm. In identifying those words (and measuring the harm of them), our conversation should be centered on the perspective of those who are hurt. To that end, I urge everyone to read a statement from the Jim Toy Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter/posts/3985922224800510>

I appreciate leadership from the Jim Toy Center. From their statement:
We encourage our fellow Ann Arbor residents to use this situation as a learning opportunity instead of a shaming one. Discussions around word choice are very important. The intent of language matters and we plan to help facilitate respectable conversations within our community.

I agree that Council should respond to this. The DC-5 resolution includes anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. I strongly support this because it is wholly relevant and responsive to the problem. My colleague must invest time and effort in understanding the perspective of the people he hurt. Publicly and privately, he must make amends.

This element of DC-5 is similar to what currently exists in the Council Rules: “internal regulation of the behavior of City Councilmembers through counseling or reprimand.” Council can impose counseling and reprimand within a specific due process that includes written notice, hearing, and defense. None of that process was observed in crafting DC-5. The resolution also proposes to remove an elected Ward 1 representative from his appointed positions on six committees and commissions. This spontaneous maneuver does not exist anywhere in our Rules and nothing like it has happened in recent history, even when concerns were directly relevant to a Council member’s appointments.

E.g. In 2019, a Council Member was arrested and convicted of a crime (pleading a felony down to a misdemeanor) and concealed it for nearly three months. After MLive revealed what happened, that Council Member continued to serve on the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission (ICPOC). He insisted that his experience as a white elected official reflected no special privilege or advantage because he “wasn’t in the room” when his lawyer negotiated the deal. He *voluntarily* stepped down from that ICPOC appointment only after five weeks of negotiations behind the scenes. **Previous Councils have not weaponized majority-rule for the purpose of targeting individual members.**

In just the first six months of their service, new members of Council have prompted serious, independent complaints about internal rules and procedure. Last month, the local ACLU sent the City a memo, warning that new, majority-approved Rules potentially violated the First Amendment rights of Council Members. This month, local media (Ryan Stanton, MLive) challenged the City for a lack of transparency regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests about specific Council Members. I do not believe this record would be enhanced by an attempt to ignore Rules and process, for the purpose of punishing a colleague.

The work of Council can accomplish policy for the good of the City that is

responsive to both community goals and resident concerns (for more on that, see my "Additional Thoughts" section below). I urge new Council members to consider that our priority. I appreciate that agenda item DC-6 (allocating funds for a mediator/professional) acknowledges that Council clearly needs some help to re-focus on what matters.

Barrier Busters

Residents in need of financial help during this crisis (e.g. to avoid eviction, pay utility bills, cover emergency medical expenses) can find resources at this link: <https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List>

If you were forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please click here to signup: <https://eepurl.com/dGDKXf>



Virtual Coffee Hours

Sunday Apr 18th 3:00pm

During the COVID-19 crisis I have been holding "virtual" coffee hours with Zoom on Sunday afternoons before scheduled City Council meetings. Please email me for a link:

contact@a2inel.com

Council Caucus

Sunday Apr 18th 6:00pm

We have been holding Council Caucus on Sunday nights before Council meetings since March 2019. All Council Members are invited to participate.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829858&GUID=ABEE6D8E-CAFC-445A-B240-6965F984947A>

City Council Regular Meeting

Monday Apr 19th 7:00pm

My summary of this Council meeting agenda is posted below in this newsletter.

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Note that Council is still meeting "virtually" using the Zoom application. Video feeds of Council meetings are broadcast on CTN and YouTube. Public comment is audio only using dial-in numbers. Please check the Legistar link for the latest information.

A2ELNEL.com Website Updates

In addition to writing this newsletter, I post updates to my website with my perspectives on how issues were resolved at City Council and details on how Council voted at each meeting. I also post information about meetings and issues that affect Ward 4 residents, along with news that affects all city residents.

You can see a listing of all my posts here: <https://www.a2elnel.com/blog/>

City Council Voting Chart for Apr 5, 2021

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/city-council-voting-chart-for-apr-5-2021>

Pattern of Attack

A local reporter from MLive (Ryan Stanton) recently challenged the City's apparent violation of state law related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This is an explanation of how and why a recent FOIA request generated controversy.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/pattern-of-attack>

Transportation Plan Review on April 20th at Joint Planning/Transportation Meeting

The City's Transportation Plan was recently updated, and will be reviewed at a joint Planning/Transportation Commission meeting on April 20th.

<https://www.a2elnel.com/post/transportation-plan-review-on-april-20th-at-joint->

[planning-transportation-meeting](#)

Scio Church Road Improvements to start July 2021

Construction on Scio Church Road originally scheduled to begin in April will now start in July.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/scio-church-road-improvements-to-start-july-2021>

Ann Arbor City Hall building closure extended through Summer 2021 or until further notice

The closure of City Hall has through Summer 2021 or until further notice to allow more time for the vaccine to penetrate into the community and among city employee groups. Per state order, the city will continue to conduct all nonessential operations remotely.

<https://www.a2inel.com/post/ann-arbor-city-hall-building-closure-extended-through-summer-2021-or-until-further-notice>

A2COUNCIL.com Updates

For anyone interested in understanding and analyzing the recent work of Council, I have created a resource at A2COUNCIL.com with summaries of issues and direct links to City documents. For each City Council meeting since November 2018, you can find links to the City's Legistar website, CTN's YouTube video, and links to my newsletters and voting charts. I have listed agenda items of interest from each meeting, along with articles I've written and articles published on MLive.

<https://www.a2inel.com/a2council>

<http://a2council.com>

Council Meeting Agenda 4/19/21

Below is my summary of issues on the City Council Agenda this week, with links to more information about each of them. If you have comments about any of these issues, feel free to email me at my official City

email: ENelson@A2gov.org

The full agenda (including a link to the latest published PDF agenda) can be found on the A2Gov Legistar website:

<https://a2gov.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=829768&GUID=C9AF3223-311E-4D31-9B1C-6E37698C3C93>

Ann Arbor City Council
Monday April 19th (7:00pm)
Electronic Meeting

City Council meetings are broadcast live by CTN on Comcast (channel 16) and AT&T (channel 99). They are also streamed live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ctnannarbor>

Questions to the Agenda

In preparation for a Council meeting, Council members can ask questions of staff about scheduled agenda items. Questions must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday before a Council Meeting, and answers are returned the next day (Thursday) by 5pm.

AC-7 ([21-0769](#)) Agenda Response Memo and eComments - April 19, 2021

This agenda item has a PDF attachment with all questions raised by Council Members, and the answers provided by staff.

Communications from the Mayor

There are no board or commission nominations on the agenda from the Mayor at the time this newsletter was published.

Consent Agenda

Below is the list of items included on the Consent Agenda. If no one on Council specifically requests that an item be pulled for discussion, the whole of this list will be approved in a single vote. I encourage you to look at this list and offer suggestions to me about anything you would like to see pulled for discussion.

CA-1 ([21-0646](#)) Resolution to Approve Construction Contract Change Order No. 1 with E.T. MacKenzie Company RFP No. 19-04 (\$54,731.67 Increase, with Total Contract Amount of \$304,731.67)

CA-2 ([21-0615](#)) Resolution to Appropriate Funds and to Amend the Public Services Area Alternative Transportation Fund Operations and Maintenance Budget to Support increased Bike Lane Level-of-Service (\$100,000.00) (8 Votes Required)

CA-3 ([21-0610](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Complete Due Diligence to Enable Rezoning and Land Division of 721 N Main to Develop Affordable Housing on the W Summit Portion of the Property

CA-4 ([21-0647](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop 353 S Main as Affordable Housing

CA-5 ([21-0648](#)) Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and its Affiliated Legal Entities, to Develop [1510 E Stadium](#) as Affordable Housing

CA-6 ([21-0649](#)) Resolution to Approve Amendment Number 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Rivenoak Law Group, P.C. for Legal Services Relative to Sustainability Initiatives (\$20,000.00; total not to exceed \$65,000.00)

Public Hearings

*Anyone wanting to comment on these issues may speak for 3 minutes, without having specifically reserved time. **Issues subject to public hearing will also be up for a vote by Council later in the meeting.***

PH-1/B-1 ([21-0341](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Zoning of 1.2 Acres from PUD (Planned Unit Development) to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling), Near North Rezoning, 700 North Main Street, (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays) (ORD-21-07)

A 1.2 acre parcel at 700 North Main would be re-zoned from Planned Unit Development (PUD to R4C (Multiple-Family Dwelling) in order to permit the construction of 22 townhomes with reduced setbacks and increased height. See DB-1, Planned Project Modification.

PH-2/DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) Resolution to Approve Near North Site Plan with Planned Project Modifications and Development Agreement, 700 North Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 9 Yeas and 0 Nays)

A planned project at 700 N. Main would be modified to increase height by 3 feet 6 inches, reduce the south side setback by 4 feet 3 inches, and decrease the rear setback by 25 feet 3 inches. (The most significant change - at rear - abuts homes on N. Fourth). The project includes 22 townhomes.

Ordinances - Second Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances were approved at a previous Council meeting, and are also subject to a public hearing as listed above

B-1 ([21-0341](#)) is the same as PH-1 above.

New Business - Boards and Commissions

The following resolution had a public hearing, as listed above.

DB-1 ([21-0342](#)) is the same as PH-2 above.

Ordinances - First Reading

In order to amend the city code, Council must vote to approve the change, via ordinance, at two Council meetings. The following proposed ordinances are being introduced for "first reading". If approved, the ordinance will be voted on at a subsequent Council meeting ("second reading"), where it will also be subject to a public hearing.

C-1 ([21-0589](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 5.15 (Table 5-15-2) and Section 5.16.6 of Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code) of Title V of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Accessory Dwelling Units)

Amendments to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance will permit the construction of additional dwelling units on any residential lot in the City, without requirements for owner occupancy. Lot size requirements (minimum 5,000 sq. Ft.) would be removed. Requirements that the property owner reside in either the primary home or ADU would also be removed. The required rear and side setback for ADUs would be three feet. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-2 ([21-0634](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 55 (Unified Development Code), Rezoning of 9.8 Acres from TWP(Township), R1C (Single-Family) and R1A (Single-Family) to R4E With Conditions (Multiple-Family Dwelling District with Conditions), Valhalla Ann Arbor Conditional Rezoning, 31, 50, 57, 77, 97, 98, 107, 145, 147, 151, [155, 159, 163 Valhalla Drive](#) and 2065, 2099 South Main Street (CPC Recommendation: Approval - 8 Yeas and 1 Nay)

A cluster of fifteen parcels (a total of 9.8 acres) at South Main would be re-zoned from Township/R1C/R1A to R4E (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) with Conditions. This zoning would permit the construction of 454 Dwelling units in four stacked apartment buildings and five townhouse buildings, as well as two additional buildings. Staff recommended zoning would permit the construction of 84 dwelling units. See my "Additional Thoughts" section below.

C-3 ([21-0542](#)) An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:69 of Chapter 29 (Stormwater Rates) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann

Arbor Stormwater rates would be increased by 5%. It is estimated to generate additional revenue \$606,909 to the Stormwater Disposal System, to fund operations and capital investments.

Motions and Resolutions

The following agenda items are motions and resolutions, which are approved or rejected in a single meeting. Agenda items marked "DC" are proposed by Council members, items marked "DB" are proposed by City boards and commissions, items marked "DS" are proposed by City staff.

DC-1 ([21-0576](#)) Resolution to Appoint Deaver Armstrong to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

This nomination is from CM Grand, who serves on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. This nominated was introduced at the previous meeting, and will therefore be voted on at this Council meeting.

- Deaver Armstrong - Greenbelt Advisory Commission

DC-2 ([21-0715](#)) Resolution to Recommend Approval of Issuance of a Downtown Development District Liquor License to Kouzina Ann Arbor, LLC

Kouzina at 332 South Main would be granted a Liquor License to serve beer and wine.

DC-3 ([21-0737](#)) Resolution Declaring April 2021 Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness Month in Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 2021 would be proclaimed Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy Awareness month to increase the awareness and understanding of mental ailments, the need for appropriate and accessible treatment options, and the transformative power of psychedelic-assisted therapy for all those suffering or looking to improve their mental health.

DC-4 ([21-0736](#)) Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement in Michigan Public Service Commission Case Nos. U-20713 and U-20851 Regarding DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing Program and Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with DTE to Work Together to Explore Potential Landfill Solar Project

A settlement agreement with DTE (through the Michigan Public Service Commission) is the result of a City challenge to DTE's Voluntary Green Pricing (VGP) program and its renewable energy build plans. This settlement will eliminate differential treatment of residential customers vs. larger users in the VGP program and allow all categories of customers to access the same lower-cost projects. The City will partner with DTE in meetings and discussion to reduce energy demand or eliminate fossil-fueled units. Solar installations at the Ann Arbor landfill will be a pilot program for Community Solar Offering, so the City (the "anchor tenant") can sponsor the solar project and subscribers (any DTE customer - residential or business) will get the same deal per kilowatt hour as the "anchor tenant."

DC-5 ([21-0752](#)) Resolution to Remove Councilmember Hayner from Current Appointments

City Council recommends that Council Member Hayner attend relevant anti-discrimination, diversity, and sensitivity training. He will be removed from appointments on six boards and commissions for seven months (through December 1, 2021). See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

DC-6 ([21-0779](#)) Resolution to Improve Council Effectiveness, Performance and Communications for Professional Services in the Amount of \$20,000 (8 Votes Required)

In consultation with the director of Human Resources, the City Administrator would be asked to spend up to \$20,000 to retain a professional mediator to teach effective meeting management and discourse methodology for

Councilmembers. See the top of this newsletter for more explanation.

Additional thoughts...

City Council is a lot more productive when it focuses on policy. This agenda - and recent news - highlights what we were able to achieve during my first two years on Council. This week's agenda also includes new concerns that should prompt thoughtful consideration.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Three Consent Agenda items move us forward in developing affordable housing projects at the following City-owned properties:

- CA-3 721 N. Main
- CA-4 353 S. Main
- CA-5 1510 E. Stadium

These projects are a result of the resolution approved by a majority of Council in 2019, asking our City staff to assess ten under-utilized City-owned properties for development as affordable housing. In 2019 - in response to a resolution identifying two City-owned parcels - a majority of Council asked for a comprehensive analysis of all under-utilized City properties (NOTE: that analysis revealed that the two parcels identified in the original resolution were not ideal). I am particularly proud of CA-5 (1510 E. Stadium) because in 2019, we had to push back on suggestions that the parcel simply be sold for revenue.

We have funding for these affordable housing plans because in 2020, the previous Co