

ASHTON J. HAYWARD
MAYOR

September 22, 2017

Dear Council President Spencer,

I reviewed the video from the September 19 Special City Council meeting and spoke with the City Administrator about the manner in which you conducted the meeting. I am writing you now to express my displeasure with the tone of the discussion and the disparaging remarks that you allowed the public to direct toward the City Attorney. The days are long past where the governing body of a community can chain individuals to a post in the public square and invite anyone to throw stones at them.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a City Council agenda item from 2014 that was prepared and distributed at the then-Council President's request for research and recommendations regarding the issue of maintaining order and decorum during Council proceedings. In light of the improper decorum that was on display at Wednesday's meeting, now is a good time to review the procedural tools that you have as council president to conduct the business of City government, with full participation by the public, while prohibiting behavior that shows disrespect or that is unsuitable to the requirements of the occasion.

I want to also take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for the City Attorney. Lysia Bowling possesses in abundance all of the qualities that shape extraordinary municipal attorneys: discipline, intellect, wisdom, impeccable temperament, and above all, fundamental decency and humanity. I know that she works tirelessly to represent, not my interests, and not the City Council's interests, but the best interests of our City.

Sincerely,



Ashton J. Hayward
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: City Council Members
City Attorney