

AI 7: Councillor Rich again attempts to stifle free speech and information sharing

Councillor/mayor Rich has asked her followers that it would be particularly helpful for those who attended the March 19 council meeting 'who experienced the Zoom bombing' to share their experiences and thoughts about future meetings.

We have of course been here before. Instead of sticking to the basics of running a very small city in financial crisis, a result of past councils choosing to focus on pretentious proclamations and funding pet projects, incredibly we are once again inviting dissenting voices to comment on issues that should be well beyond the council's purview.

The inevitable result is first amendment expression of profane views by meeting participants, something which is also increasingly common in San Francisco and elsewhere.

It is not council's place to police these rants or curtail them.

If an individual says something that is considered legally

to be a racial or other slur that is a subsequent law enforcement issue.

The obvious solution is to not encourage dialog at council meeting over contentious issues, rather than shutting down '**participation, the cornerstone of our community**' as the city website claims the city aspires to.

It is clear some factions would relish the opportunity to remove remote participation in the name of 'zoom bombing' but this invites lawsuits while making a mockery of city inclusivity for those not able to participate in meetings in person.

This is another council created mess. Keep council meetings strictly about city matters. Councillors should feel free as individuals to wave placards and shout at passing traffic and be shouted at on the 12/116 corner in their own time on matters that are not directly city related.

Keep remote participation in place. We have some very important issues coming up that will require citizen participation and focus. [L T L]
[SEP SEP] The last thing we need is less engagement and focus as city staff dig us out of the hole we find ourselves in.

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