From: <u>City Council</u>

To:

**Subject:** RE: public comment: please go to in-person meetings

**Date:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:43:00 AM

Thank you for reaching out to the City of Sebastopol and providing your input and comments on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Sebastopol. This will confirm receipt of your email, and that it will be forwarded to the City Council and appropriate City Staff and posted to the city web site.

Please note that email correspondence with the City of Sebastopol, along with any attachments, may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and therefore may be subject to disclosure unless otherwise exempt.

----Original Message----

From: Kenna Lee

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:46 PM

To: City Council <a href="mailto:citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov">cityofsebastopol.gov</a>>
Subject: public comment: please go to in-person meetings

Hi council members,

I attended last meeting remotely from my kitchen with three friends. It felt like a great way to engage.

However, two of my three friends are Jewish, and were devastated by what happened at the meeting. In our discussion, it was our city's allowing it to happen that was felt damaging than the direct

It became clear to me that in our city's attempt to keep the civic space open to all, we are actually leaving out as many people as we are enabling to participate. If people belonging to certain groups are afraid to attend meetings for fear of exposure to hatred and threats directed at them, then they are effectively excluded. By keeping Zoom open for comment, we are ceding our public sphere to those who would sow fear and chaos.

I completely understand the urge to act in the most inclusive way possible. But I ask you to please, please find other solutions.

Thank you,

Kenna Lee