

From: [Carolyn N](#)
To: [cityclerk](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council tonight
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My comments are with respect to the alleged actions and behavior of Councilperson Perez that were discussed at the last City Council meeting and reported on on the front page of the November 4, 2021 issue of Merced County Times.

The concept that "Free Speech is for all citizens" was brought up as a defense for her behavior. However, when we take on a title, such as at a job or being a public representative, we give up some of our rights to enact the privilege and responsibility of service. For example, there are statements made in closed door meetings about city business that are expected to remain private. If Councilperson Perez wants unmitigated freedom of speech, then she must relinquish her title and the restrictions and responsibilities that come with it. As a Councilmember of the City of Merced, she represents ME when she speaks because she speaks with MY name and reputation, as well as that of every other citizen. To represent herself as any less than her best when she uses that title is to abuse her position as well as the trust we place in her to do so.

When we act in good faith, our accountability should be taken in good faith. However, with the language and behavior at question, there is no good faith demonstrated by Councilperson Perez. And so none should be shown.

So too should this council be admonished for their waning attention to decorum and responsibility; these behaviors are EXACTLY the kind that warrant Censure. To ignore or dismiss the significance of these evidenced actions is to weaken the perceived strength and dignity of the Council. Indeed, ONLY the City Council has the power to punish her for making these choices and actions. With no meaningful response to these behaviors, much like an unpunished spoiled child, the activities can escalate too easily and will be much harder to respond to in the future. And the next time Councilperson Perez is out of line, it could mean losing money in legal costs, as well as jeopardize the good faith cooperation of citizens, businesses, and other representatives in the long term.

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Carolyn Neumann

Notary Public - California

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