

## Taylor Day

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**From:** Larry Hoffman [REDACTED]  
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Council Members and Staff.

It was 15 years ago when I attended a Grass Valley City Council meeting at which the following happened. I would like you to take this incident and type of behavior into account when discussing expectations and consequences for city officials and employees, per the item on your agenda.

The council was discussing a referendum measure that was placed on the ballot by a citizen. At the previous council meeting that man (who was a member of a group called CCAT - Citizens Concerned About Traffic) was in attendance with a lawyer to explain and answer questions about the measure. He was questioned and in my opinion harassed by Councilmember Dan Miller.

The chamber was nearly full as the council members expressed their concerns. At one point Miller started talking about communism and how bad it was. He then went on to state that he didn't want to see a person like that sitting on the council. He was specifically referring to the man who wrote the measure.

Ironically, most of the audience started clapping. A few other council members were smiling and seemingly encouraging Dan's behavior. At the time I was a sitting planning commissioner. I found the incident revolting and felt compelled to leave. I expressed my concern the next day to then Mayor Mark Johnson.

It was clear none of the council members even considered censuring Miller for his outburst. Nor did anyone suggest that Miller make an apology, which he never did. In other council meetings I attended, Miller also bragged about his "Republican" roots.

City and county elected (and appointed positions) are and should be non-partisan. Calling out a citizen as a liberal, radical, right wing nut, communist or any other political label should never be tolerated. Furthermore there should be consequences for those who do.

I'll be very interested in watching how this unfolds.

Regards,

Larry Hoffman  
266 N Auburn Street