

## Exhibit C

Lake Park Town Council Meeting April 17, 2024  
Threats to our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Testimony  
Michael Steinhauer  
435 Greenbriar Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33043

Good evening. My name is Michael Steinhauer and I am a Lake Park resident. I was completely dismayed when I read this proposal last month when it was introduced to the Town Council. To me, it is a distortion of what is perceived as a needed new standard of communication between Lake Park residents and the Town Council. It is a threat to the delicate rights contemplated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. It is a distraction of the real and important challenges that we together need to address.

This is a bad solution in search of a non-existent problem. The proposed language is much more alienating than it is inviting residents to participate in their community, something that you should be striving to achieve. Our collective wisdom is greater than yours

Lake Park residents are educated and believe in the democratic process. We are not revolutionaries, we do not scream to be heard, and we do not get violent. We mostly stop at stop signs. It seems highly unlikely that this is a necessary ordinance.

I understood only once, someone from Riviera Beach got passionate about something. There was no inciting violence, no need to use security or call the police, no disrupting the meeting, no breach of the peace, and no need

to terminate the meeting. I am led to believe you have never had to exercise that level of control.

I suggest better use of a Sargeant at Arms or a Parliamentarian, an objective third party. These positions are used to mediate and reconcile those occasional moments when someone might be uncivil outside the law, or outside of Robert's Rules. To serve in these positions, the attorney for the town is not an objective, third party.

How is it that the Town Manager initiated this proposal. He was not asked to do so by you or the residents. He runs day-to-day ops. You were elected because of our confidence in your leadership skills to achieve consensus in addressing and resolving an issue, not to spend time and resources to set us apart from peacefully sharing our views.

I would much rather see you spending your time addressing the quality of life here in Lake Park and issues around growth and public services, etc. Your goal should be to encourage citizen engagement, rather than to consider an opportunity to discourage thoughtful comment. This is a shield you do not need. It contributes to weakening our relationship.

Recommendations? 1) Move to indefinitely table this proposal. 2) Delete the entire (3) language. Or 3) Rewrite with citizen input and re-submit. There is much more to do for our town to make it an even better place to live. So please let's get onto the real work.