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**Public Comment for the Sept. 1, 2020 General City Council Meeting**1 message

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**Jennifer Swan** <queedub@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 7:19 PM

To: "P.T. Wood" <ptwoodmayor@gmail.com>, Dan Shore <dansshore@yahoo.com>, mike.pollock@salidaelected.com, Alisa Pappenfort <alisapappenfort@gmail.com>, Harald Kaspar <harald.kaspar@gmail.com>, jane.templeton@salidaelected.com, justin.critelli@salidaelected.com, drew.nelson@cityofsalida.com, clerk@cityofsalida.com

Hello Mayor and Council Members.

Thank you for your time once again. I wanted to follow up my correspondence with you and Russ Johnson about the vandalism. I'd like to submit my "public comment" via email.

As you read in my previous email, I am growing more concerned about these hateful acts. I am a cisgen, hetero, white woman and recognize my privilege as so. This does not mean that I cannot be empathetic to how this might feel to someone who is not. I cannot sit silent about acts that are targeted, malicious and intimidating to people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community. If we do not recognize and denounce these acts as hate crimes, what are we saying to those populations? Please try to put yourself in the shoes of someone who does not benefit from your privilege.

I'm hoping you can see that these acts are serious in their effects on our whole community as well. What are we telling our young citizens with inaction? What about the people who stand up for inclusion and diversity in town, just to have the unease of trespassing, theft and vandalism happen on their property? What does it tell the vandals?

We would not be the first town to declare defacing pride flags and BLM signs as a hate crime, but this declaration would still be the right one for our town.

Thanks again for your time and your service to Salida.

Jennifer Swan

630 E Street, Salida

ps. Please see the 2 articles from the Ark Valley Voice describing the incidents as well as how Colorado defines hate crimes in Statutes Title 18. Criminal Code § 18-9-121

<https://arkvalleyvoice.com/what-happened-on-the-night-of-august-23-was-more-than-just-vandalism/>

<https://arkvalleyvoice.com/more-vandalism-in-salida/>