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Please include in council packet - thank you

1 message

Kim Puckett <kim.s.puckett@gmail.com>
To: citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 6:49 PM

Please include in council packet.

I am writing in regarding the topic of the pledge of allegiance in the City Council Meetings.

I have watched several Stevenson City Council meetings through covid that have been held virtually via zoom and then posted on YouTube. Maybe I arrived late or the zoom started late...or maybe some is cut out of the YouTube recording...but I don't remember ever seeing/hearing the pledge. I asked council member Annie McHale about this and she shared that the group agreed several months ago not to do the pledge at the meetings. I am curious as to why, all of a sudden, it is being done. I did some online checking with several city council groups and found that some do the pledge, some do not. It seems that if the group agreed to NOT do the pledge, then at the very least they should have a discussion (not an argument) about reinstating the pledge. And with this discussion, how about considering adding a Land Acknowledgement to the meeting **INSTEAD...as an act of reconciliation that involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous people who called this land home before we arrived**, and in many cases still do call it home.

As to the concern that has been raised about whether a council member must stand and place their hand on their heart...children in schools cannot even be forced to do this according to the Supreme Court so why would we force an adult who understands much more deeply WHY they are choosing not to participate. There are SO many reasons a person might choose not to stand, not to place hand on heart and/or not to repeat the words, many of which would have absolutely no bearing on their ability to serve the community.

And if the group previously agreed NOT to do the pledge...and bringing it back has caused such an uproar, why do it. It is difficult enough for you all to complete the important tasks and make the important decisions that you have to in the hours that you are given. If standing or not standing for the pledge takes important time away from city work, and the pledge is NOT a required part of the meeting...wouldn't it make sense to skip it?

Thank you for your time,
Kim Puckett

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Peace,
Kim Puckett