



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Annie McHale

1 message

Charlalalala Ann <charlaschuman@gmail.com>
To: citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 12:40 PM

Mayor Anderson and Fellow Council Members,

I'm writing to show my support for Annie McHale, the council member who chose not to stand for the pledge of allegiance at the last council meeting. I've seen multiple posts going around on social media (where I heard of this nonsense in the first place) saying that Annie does not represent our community because she chose to sit, and that she needs to be "held accountable."

To that I would start by saying *those* few people do not represent our *entire* community. Annie represents what I stand for in many ways. I also believe the pledge of allegiance, and the supposed requirement to stand for it to be outdated, and I would even add laughable. Who are we reciting it for?

During the time it was written, the only people that mattered in the "one nation" were white, hetero (at least outwardly), American, men. And as described in an article in the Smithsonian Magazine about it's first edit, they even went so far as to "...change "my flag" to "the flag of the United States," lest immigrant children be unclear just which flag they were saluting." In my opinion, continuing to recite this pledge of white patriotism suggests to me that many would like things to stay the way they were back then. I hope you all do not agree.

Clearly the pledge, as described above, is not inclusive of all people, nationalities, genders, etc., and therefore should not be required at a meeting that is supposed to be for the community as a whole. Do we not have people in our community who have immigrated from other countries? How can you be okay with continuing to recite this, knowing it was written to exclude them?

I would also add, for those of you calling yourselves Christians, this is a textbook case of "putting other gods before Him" is it not? If you're more worried about someone standing for the pledge than you are about them being by you in church on Sunday, you're doing it wrong.

I would end by saying I'm curious to know what they mean by "held accountable." Do they feel she should be publicly scolded? Kicked off the council? Forced to stand lest her legs be chopped off?

The fact that anyone, including myself, would need to take time out of their busy day to write a letter to show support for someone who used her freedom as an American to sit when everyone else stood, is ludicrous. How old are we?

You would think with everything happening in the world right now that people would have better things to do than worry about something as innocuous as this, but unfortunately that doesn't seem to be the case. I hope you take my show of support, as well as the many others I'm sure you will receive, and make the right choice in this matter.

Please include this in the council packet.

Thank you,
Charla Schuman