

I believe we are at a crossroads as a Council and I am concerned.

Fellow Council members, I ask that you all stand with me to stop the name calling. We set the standard, and if we cannot all rise to the occasion of believing that we are all here with good intent, even when we disagree on a vote, then we should step down. We are looked to as the leaders of the city, and when we don't lead with collaboration and trust, why should we expect anyone else to. It is by our actions that we set the temperature of this city. We want our citizens to trust us and we start by collaborating and trusting each other first, even when we have differing perspectives.

The recent statements of our Mayor, specifically the inflammatory rhetoric, and accusations of political motivations, set a tone of distrust. A high functioning team adheres to the leadership principle of Disagree and Commit. No name calling or questioning motivations when another member of the team, or in this case the Council, provides a differing lens and vote. Mayor, you were out of line and an apology is in order.

Specifically regarding my dissenting vote on the CTC route, Mayor - the vote to approve the seven option master plan was two years ago. Since the 2023 vote I was affected by a personal experience that influenced my questions and no vote. For you to claim that it was anything else insults my integrity and motivations.

As far as transparency, I believe as public officials, our discussions and questions with staff should not be behind closed doors. I believe we are asking the questions our citizens would ask. It's not an ambush, and it's not politically motivated.

So Mayor O'Neil I will say again, for the benefit of this city, apologize for your two statements accusing other councilors of political motivation and set a tone of collaboration and trust.