



2.25.2025

Dear City Council President Harris-Dawson ,

I am writing as a concerned citizen who wants to be more civically engaged but is discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings. The behavior I have witnessed—ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics—creates a hostile environment that deters participation and undermines the purpose of these forums. Instead of dialogue and problem-solving, time is wasted on chaos and disrespect.

How much longer do we have to endure this? Council Chambers should be where voices are heard and our time is not wasted. This is our space for people, and we deserve better.

I urge Councilmembers to take action by setting and enforcing clear expectations for respectful dialogue and professional conduct. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone feels empowered to contribute, free from hostility and intimidation.

Sincerely,
Bishop Byron L. Smith Sr., M.Div., M.A., D.D.

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