

February 27, 2025

Dear City of Los Angeles Councilmembers:

I am writing as a concerned citizen who values both civic engagement and our First Amendment rights to free speech. However, I have become discouraged by the language and conduct displayed during Council Meetings during public comment. While our right to express diverse opinions is fundamental, it must be balanced with a commitment to decorum. Behavior ranging from hate speech to disruptive antics creates a hostile environment, deterring participation and undermining the purpose of these public forums.

Council Chambers should be a place where we exchange ideas, seek solutions, and respect each other's right to speak without fear or intimidation. Instead, meaningful dialogue often yields to chaos and disrespect, wasting time that could be better spent addressing issues that affect us all.

I respectfully urge Councilmembers to protect the spirit of free speech by setting and enforcing clear guidelines for respectful dialogue and professional conduct during public comment. Our community deserves a public forum where everyone—regardless of background—feels empowered to share their views in an environment that promotes open communication and effective problem-solving.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the city council to uphold everyone's First Amendment rights while fostering a space that truly represents and serves our community.

Sincerely,
/s/ Ismael Venegas
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