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June 16, 2020

Hon. Cedric Crear
Las Vegas City Council
495 S. Main Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

* * * WARNING: GRAPHIC LANGUAGE * * *

Councilman Crear,

It is unfortunate that I'm forced to send you this correspondence in response to your politically-motivated effort last week to publicly damage your colleague, Councilwoman Michele Fiore, by taking advantage of the recent protests, riots and looting that occurred on the streets of Las Vegas.

I'm referring, of course, to your letter dated June 11, 2020 to Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman accusing Ms. Fiore of making "racist and inflammatory statements."

I characterize your letter as political theater primarily because you chose not to express your concerns directly with Ms. Fiore but instead enflamed the situation by making it public without even the courtesy of giving Ms. Fiore and Ms. Goodman a heads up in advance.

Indeed, the true motive behind your letter was exposed by your call for Mayor Goodman to immediately "remove Councilwoman Fiore" from her position as Mayor Pro Tempore rather than seek private redress and dialogue.

But what really bothers me is the raw hypocrisy of the accusations you made against Ms. Fiore.

You complained in your letter about a statement Ms. Fiore “injected” at the June 3 council meeting that “protesting does not give you the right of beating up white people;” choosing to characterize that statement as “biased” and “beyond irresponsible.”

You went on to write that “no person has the right to beat anyone up, yet when stated this way, the implication is that white people are rampantly being singled out by black people.”

“It adds kerosene to an already explosive fire,” you continued, “and serves only to divide.”

Of course, going public with your letter rather than first discussing the matter privately and directly with Councilwoman Fiore and Mayor Goodman also added kerosene to the already explosive fire and served only to divide.

People in glass houses.

In addition, you don’t appear to hold Democrat Party Chairman William McCurdy II to the same standard you’ve set for Councilwoman Fiore. To wit...

In an op-ed published on June 10, 2020 by the Las Vegas Sun, Mr. McCurdy rambled on and on in a clearly biased, partisan and irresponsible manner that also added kerosene to an already explosive fire and served only to divide.

In his screed, Mr. McCurdy attacked Donald Trump, claiming the President “has left black communities to bear the brunt of both a public health catastrophe and a cratering economy.”

He went on to accuse our President of “hurting black Nevadans,” and bemoaned difficulties in paying the rent and keeping food on the table for “black families.”

First, the economic hardships facing Nevada lay at the feet of Gov. Steve Sisolak, not President Trump. Secondly, such problems are affecting ALL Nevadans, not just “black communities,” “black Nevadans” and “black families.”

Where is your letter of public rebuke of Chairman McCurdy for his racially divisive and irresponsible rhetoric?

I would also take issue with your decision to “quote” Ms. Fiore’s remarks at the recent Clark County Republican Party on the issue of racial preferences and affirmative action even though you weren’t there and no recording of those remarks has been released.

What you intentionally chose to portray as a quote wasn’t a quote at all. And the quote you chose to manufacture is at odds with the verbiage recounted by Mr. Niger Innis who was there and actually heard the remarks first-hand.

That is, of course, totally irresponsible and dishonest.

The manufactured outrage in your letter seems to have been triggered by Ms. Fiore's inelegant use of the term "black ass" – even though the more reliable recitation of the quote included use of the term "white ass," as well. Twice, in fact.

Nevertheless, you characterized her statement as "totally repugnant, and spit in the face of all black persons."

This is, of course, absolutely false. Ms. Fiore clearly was talking only about less-qualified black applicants being afforded hiring preferences over better-qualified white applicants. While that may be an issue position you disagree with, it's hardly spitting in the face of "all" black persons.

Compounding the hypocrisy on this, I noticed on your campaign website this morning a photograph featuring a young black man holding a sign reading: "We Won't Be Silent While Police Are Violent. #BlackLivesMatter"

The implication of this message is that all police officers are violent, especially against black people; an absolute absurdity. Yet you're irresponsibly promoting this divisive message on your own website.

In addition, where is your outrage at protestors carrying signs and writing graffiti on private property calling law enforcement officers "pigs" and "bastards"? Does that not offend your sensibilities?

And wouldn't you agree that the phrase "Black Lives Matter" is itself divisive? Since you're big on "implications," doesn't that imply that the lives of white people don't matter? What's wrong with "ALL Lives Matter"?

Also, while you appear riled up over Ms. Fiore's use of the term "black ass," I don't recall you getting so exercised over far more incendiary language used in rap lyrics.

For example, in a rap titled "Fuck the Police," Dr. Dre waxes poetic with...

"Order, order, order / Ice Cube, take the motherfucking stand / Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to help your black ass?"

Shouldn't you be equal in your condemnation? Or is the term "black ass" only offensive when used by a white person? And if so, isn't that, in itself, inherently racist?

Later in the rap, MC Ren declares...

*"I'm sneaky as fuck when it comes to crime
But I'mma smoke 'em now and not next time
Smoke any motherfucker that sweats me*

*or any asshole that threatens me
I'm a sniper with a hell of a scope
Taking out a cop or two, they can't cope..."*

Please direct me to your letter of condemnation directed to Dr. Dre and MC Ren and other rappers who have advocated for cop-killing, because I apparently missed it. Or do you excuse such incendiary speech as an exercise of their First Amendment rights?

But if so, why are you not affording Ms. Fiore similar consideration?

I'll close with this...

As you well know, FAR more black lives are lost at the hands of other blacks than police officers. But I haven't seen any letters from you condemning violent black-on-black crime in urban areas. Why is that?

The unfortunate truth is, your letter to Mayor Goodman did absolutely nothing to advance the cause of bridging the racial divide in our community. It served only to make a bad situation worse.

Your choice to use words such as "racist," "inflammatory," "irresponsible," "explosive," "derogatory," "biased," "repugnant," "reprehensible" and "bigoted" in your letter certainly wasn't helpful in defusing the situation.

If you are truly interested in working to "heal our country," I respectfully suggest you and Councilwoman Fiore go have a private "beer summit" and work this out between the two of you rather than trying to drag the Mayor and the rest of us into your disagreement.

If you truly want to end the divisiveness, lead my example. Sit down and talk to each other privately in a respectful, open-minded manner rather than popping off politically-charged press releases and calling for Ms. Fiore to be removed from her position as Mayor Pro Tempore.

As the saying goes, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Sincerely yours,



Chuck Muth
President

P.S. If you want, I'll not only volunteer to serve as your beer summit host, but will pick up the bar tab. Just say where and when.