

## **Regarding Council Conduct - Posted by Councilmember Deets on March 4, 2019**

I firmly believe and said so during the Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, that we on Council must hold ourselves to a high standard of conduct, that we must strive to mirror the best aspirations of our Community by being courteous, respectful and civil. It should be self-evident that taking this approach to heart helps foster trust between the Community and their Government.

This is hardly a radical position to take, with people wiser than me endorsing this approach to public service. But one doesn't have to step off the Island to see a contrary view in action. I refer again to the Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, this time the Public Comments made during the Article I complaints discussion, which by the way, I agree with the assessments made separately by Councilmember Blossom and the Bainbridge Island Review that it resembled a political rally for Councilmember Peltier. The central theme that I heard was that his policies excused his personal conduct. Sure, folks said, his "passion can boil over" but that was ok because he was "tirelessly pushing to make this a better place". To help justify their argument that the ends justify the means, they often made light or downplayed his behavior, that what he does is nothing more than "a little bit of trouble". I find these arguments to be a chilling rationale for people to take, for the consequences are in plain sight. Ordinary citizens who dare to disagree with Councilmember Peltier are met with intimidation tactics by he and his followers, with the only obvious goal being to silence them.

This is the world that we live in now, which is why I support Resolution 2019-13, approving an amendment to the City's Ethics Program. The Resolution covers the authority by the Ethics Board to handle Article I complaints, sets standards to evaluate those complaints, and describes remedies. While there are areas in the current draft that I wish to amend, and I look forward to comments from the public, the Ethics Board and my colleagues, I believe that the Resolution is a direction that we need to go. For I am in full agreement with Councilman Tirman when he said that the conduct we have been witnessing cannot continue.

Lastly, let me finish by saying that I love fighting for a good cause. You can look forward to me waging one here.

With finest regards,

Joe Deets  
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