

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** 7/14 Public Comment on Agenda Item 6C - Update on Community Listening Sessions  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:27:05 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL

Jim Duffy. I live in the M section.

The council's "outreach" strategy relying on public "listening sessions" is problematic. You were informed of this by several public commenters at your last regularly scheduled meeting. Your choice to ignore those warnings has taken this process from being unintentionally racist to being intentionally cruel.

You, charter members of the entitled ruling class in Rohnert Park, can not play White Savior and declare you are now going to have a couple of Town Halls as "listening sessions" after decades of not addressing the racism in our community and realistically expect Black, Indigenous, People of Color to show up and fully engage. This kind of outreach is much more complicated and needs to be done in more of a conflict resolution modality starting with asking permission to engage, and then cooperatively coming to agreement on the terms of engagement. Then you move forward in the agreed upon format to collect your data.

It is apparent that neither you nor your city staff possess the Cultural Competency required for the task at hand. I am very concerned about the fact that this seems to be a contract that will be granted without a competitive bidding process. That should not happen. Instead, you should direct staff to develop an RFP for consultants to not only do the outreach and write the report, but to develop the methods of outreach. Then the process of selecting the appropriate consultant for this critical work needs to be done in an open, public, and transparent manner.

You should also be aware that the expressed desire of the Council to "rush" and "do this fast" comes across to this constituent as you really saying that you do not want to have a serious

process, you just want it to be over with. You seem more annoyed than engaged. That is my take.

Thank you.

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Jim Duffy

