

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#): [REDACTED]
Subject: Final Update Agenda Item 6d-B Listening Sessions- Anferny Jimauri
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:49:18 AM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

What is up with these listening sessions? Why would you have these before sensitivity training? Why not communicate directly with your community? What is the plan moving forward from these listening sessions that you can commit to right now? These listening sessions are another roadblock slowing Rohnert park from thriving and truly progressing with the rest of society. I am hereby formally stating that as a concerned resident, if you truly believe what you're doing is what's best for the city, one decent, responsible, and respectable thing to do is resign or not to seek re-election. Let new leadership build and repair the relationships in this community. Stop putting up roadblocks and resistance to the future. Retirement awaits. I'm sure you've all done great things for the community, but as we progress as a society and you're societal ideals and experiences remain stagnant, these negative traits you each possess will ultimately hinder our city from becoming the progressive, accepting and unifying city RP has the potential for, with the proper leadership. When the elections come around you will finally see how the population of RP is more informed, accepting, and powerful than you give them credit for! The first listening session was not what was expected. What did the city council think? This speaks volumes. If you really want to dedicate to progression then you need to make actions, changes, and policies to support what the community has been telling you all about law enforcement, transparency, lack of communication and publications, and even ignoring and blocking residents from addressing you. You don't get the privilege to hide while we all have to reTraumatize ourselves and publicly expose our weaknesses and fears! I need you all to have sensitivity training, intercultural communication skills, and communicate with concerned residents about what the community thinks and not what you all think is best, there are many solutions and resolutions to begin to change, Rohnert Park hasn't even reached the starting line with these listening sessions.

Thank you, A Black Concerned Citizen, wondering if the RPCC thinks or knows Black Lives Matter?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: 6D - B: Public Comment re: Listening Session
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:24:21 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

I participated in the first Listening Session on July 22. As a white woman, I expected to remain mostly silent and as advertised, listen to stories of lived experiences in Rohnert Park by Black, Indigenous and People of Color. However, very few stories were shared and in my opinion, the facilitator moved on rather quickly from encouraging additional stories to then having the group identify specific policies and procedures that needed updating. I personally wasn't well prepared to have that discussion yet.

In my opinion, it was not a successful session (as the City Manager and staff already heard).

I was also extremely disappointed to learn that the facilitator had previously worked closely with the City Manager and the Rohnert Park Leadership Class and I assume, had been paid by the City for that work. This made him and the organization feel less neutral and in general created a space that felt less safe.

I hope, hope, hope the other Listening Sessions go better.

Without some success from them, I'm very worried that members of this Council and this City will hear the Sessions or read the report and conclude that there is little to no injustice, racism or issues in the Friendly City.

Because I'm hearing a much different story from my non-white friends and residents that feel safer sharing their stories through social media or a microphone at local Black-led community gatherings.

Many, many people have spoken in previous public comments and I'm told through private emails as well, but I will conclude that I support the need to create a citizen oversight committee. The people have shared that desire and it should not be ignored.

With respect,

Julie M. Royes
Rohnert Park Resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment 6.D
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:44:31 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Council,

I am a life-long resident of Sonoma County and a home-owner in Rohnert Park. I am writing to urge you to ensure that the public listening sessions are handled with care. I would implore the council to create a safe and inclusive environment for the sessions. In particular, if we hope that the BIPOC community will step forward with their experiences, then we need to provide assurances and protections for them. I have been deeply saddened to hear the testimonies of even young children who feel that this city has wide-spread racism.

--

Sara Jordan