

Censure Rebuttal

Todd Edelman

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"To my fellow Commissioners,

I regret that my behavior has elicited the negative reaction shown in the letter. I sincerely apologize for the times I was clearly out of order and disrespectful to the Chair and other Commissioners.

I do not apologize for my extreme passion in making Davis a better place for everyone moving inside and to and from Davis. I believe that my style was clear for the many months I attended BTSSC meetings before I was on it, often the only member of the public present. I admit that I personally don't generally mind if people get angry at official meetings in the City, unless of course it's a personal or worse type of attack. I don't see my goal as to calmly opine on infrastructure which can kill people or programs that can exclude them, and go against City policy and goals. I grew up knowing that four of my g-grandparents were not killed in traffic accidents, not killed in traffic crashes... they were murdered by their own governments; it affects everything I do. It's who I am!

I agree that often times my actions would contribute to meetings going over the scheduled ending time, but it's very clear - and I believe most would agree - that we have simply too much to deal with in general. To put it clearly, what's 15 min if it saves a life? I do admit that I am inspired by the City Council's frequent forays into Wednesday morning.

I will take exception to one more thing in the letter, which is that I've "been given enough time to be productive". This seems to not reflect on the multiple supported motions I've made, many of them with eventual unanimous support in vote, to e.g. ask Council to help create a more age-inclusive bike share system, and to make the yard waste program safer for cycling (and with other benefits), to include a priority route for cycling in the new Downtown and ensure separated cycling infrastructure in re-doing of the Mace Blvd. project. I initiated two sub-committees, one of which was ended because someone left the Commission and another that the current Chair apologized for not prioritizing. I've been very active in local social media when expressing personal opinions, though certainly often identifying myself as a BTSSC member, with the hope that it would help people engage with our Commission. In the "productive" theme, I do not deny that I've been frustrated that no one joined the first mentioned Commission when the other member left, when only one or two recommendations in my 15 page bike share report went forward, or when suggestions for e.g. bus-related services for Mace were not supported. There are perhaps some other examples, as well as other non-productive actions done with the best intentions.

Could I have been more productive? I can't answer that. I acknowledge that my view of productivity is not the same as everyone's.

In any case, from this point forward I promise to do my best to follow the Chair's instructions and not disrespect other Commissioners, or Council and Staff members present. However, It would be dishonest to myself, i.e. I 'd be selling myself out, to commit to not getting angry sometimes either because I disagree with what's trending in a discussion, or with a final vote itself. This is not a demand that people have to take my good with my bad; rather, I'm only making it clear that I'm trying to get my fellow Commissioners to fight as strongly as I aspire to."

- Todd Edelman