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Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:44 PM

To: Tony Viramontes <Tony.Viramontes@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public comment on item 3. 22-042HR Conduct of Commissioner Keyona Montgomery

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Equity and Human Relations Commission,

By now you've undoubtedly seen the [Facebook thread](#) that prompted my complaint against Commissioner Montgomery. My complaint was about the threat of getting put on the list, but hopefully you'll see that the issue is deeper than that.

Commissioner Montgomery begins her post by suggesting that the opinions of the grassroots candidates for city council who lost their respective primaries aren't relevant.

Then Commissioner Montgomery suggests the futility of voting for the opposition since people will vote "like they did in the primary. Face the facts."; "you're on the losing side." and others.

The "list" is bad enough, but it goes beyond that, including accusations of MAGA, and calling people who exercise the right to discuss politics that she disagrees with, a "circle jerk."

Commissioner Montgomery then launches into ageism as a way to insult another commenter, "you're too old to be acting like this"; "When I'm in my late 70s (the age you look, sorry, probably off on that number) ..."; "That's the age she looks."

Commissioner Gutierrez chimes in by accusing a member of the public who supports another candidate "likely anti-worker and likely racist and/or classist." I know that person and from my experience as a person of color and socialist I can attest that Commissioner Gutierrez is wrong and out of line in her accusation.

Commissioner Gutierrez, in another thread, attempted to rationalize her accusation of racism by referring to that person as "likely elitist, racist, and classist" in one or more comments she has since deleted.

When I asked Commissioner Gutierrez, in reference to her deleted comments "what are you hiding?" She accused me of harassment, "please stop harassing me. I don't have anything to hide. I have said it and I will say it again, I shared my opinion based on my education and expertise. I drew a conclusion based on comments that were shared that contained anti-black and anti-worker undertones. I take my role as Chair of the EHRC very seriously and take great pride in the work I am leading on the commission to create a more equitable city. To me that includes calling out racism and any other isms when I see or hear them."

This isn't the first time these two commissioners have acted in similar manner. Neither of them should be on any city commission. Please recommend to City Council to relieve them of their responsibility as commissioners.

Best regards,

Carlos Ovalle