

March 2, 2022

Dear Residents:

At the Council Meeting held on Monday, February, 28, 2022, over 100 residents and interested persons, both in person and via Zoom online meeting format, attended to hear and speak on issues related to the Madeira Inclusion Committee (MIC). Residents spoke both for and against the activities and mission of the MIC during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. ***As this matter was not on the City Council Agenda for formal discussion, Council is taking all of the comments into consideration and will discuss the MIC at an upcoming meeting. This meeting, as with all public meetings, will be announced on the City's website when the agenda is posted.***

During a presentation by a resident who was speaking in favor of the MIC, an unknown person using the pseudonym "Hannibal Lector" as their screen name, began interrupting the presentation with vulgar and insulting language that could be heard by persons both in the Council Chamber and online. Because there were over 50 people participating in the meeting via Zoom, staff was unable to identify and mute the individual as quickly as we would have liked. When the individual was located, they were immediately removed from the Zoom meeting.

The offending individual was immediately reported to Zoom. Additionally, the Madeira Police Department is making a formal request to Zoom for identification of the individual/account that interrupted the meeting. City Council and staff are committed to taking all measures necessary to locate the individual as their actions may constitute a crime in the form of disrupting a public meeting. The City's Law Director will be assisting with the investigation and determine whether we can pursue criminal charges. If you have information which you believe may be helpful in identifying this person, please contact the Madeira Police Dept at 513-272-4214.

City Council and the City Administration condemn actions like this and will not tolerate them now or in the future. The use of Zoom to allow people to participate remotely in city meetings has provided our community with greater accessibility for all public meetings. This is, certainly, very beneficial to our community. But with the use of this technology, we have now experienced an incredibly ugly side of its use. The City Administration will work with Zoom to improve the security of the meetings to prevent this from happening in the future, while preserving the ability of the public to attend meeting remotely.

The video of the meeting will be posted in its entirety on the Madeira website. Please be aware that the language and comments used by this individual are graphic.

Chris Hilberg

Mayor