From:	Carrie Richer
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Missoula Council - we need action for BIPOC: from C Richer, Ward 3
Date:	Monday, July 6, 2020 10:06:44 AM

Hello,
I am relatively new to Missoula - I have lived here about 2 years. All in all - I love this community and am happy to be a part of it.
This is absolutely the first time I have written this council and it will not be last. I believe in positive reinforcement for council's that exemplify my values and I believe in raising your voice and being involved when things are not going as I would like to be represented.

In regards to recent events around community demonstrations here in Missoula. I cannot underscore the importance of these requests.
Missoula can and should be a beacon of leadership and should set an example for the rest of the state of Montana. It is embedded in Missoula's history to hold be an agent for change and it is our duty to adapt, change for the better and learn from our past. It is in Missoula's history to be bold about this and that is my expectation of our council's current iteration.
Missoula has every potential to accomplish this. Please ACT and LEAD like the council that I know you can be and the community that I want be a part of.

We need our local government to take accountability for the attack at the courthouse and acknowledge that BIPOC are still not safe in Missoula. I was there for days before with my 5-year-old daughter. I was there to make sure she could be a part of making change. I did not come to the courthouse that Friday of the attack because I did not feel safe. This environment kept me from acting and teaching my child how to express the need for change peacefully.
Your committee and other local leaders had the ability to take a stance and declare that guns were not allowed, why didn't that happen? It was absolutely needed.
Since the incident at the courthouse, BIPOC have been assaulted multiple times around Missoula.
How can we change this pattern?!

Second, antiracism is a lived value, and we are looking for better answers from our city government about how they are participating in antiracism daily. This comes with the responsibility to actively search for how white supremacy shows up in our government. It does. That is a fact and it is our duty to re-examine and grow and make changes to DO BETTER. We already know systemic racism is present in Missoula, and we don’t need more BIPOC people to yet again tell their stories, to be retraumatized in that process, in order to say it yet again for the white people in local government. We need REAL responses.

Third, we need ACTION. We need them to focus on changes to the systems of oppression in our own community. We don’t need listening committees just as we do not need more police trainings. **We need better social services, affordable housing, and programs to help those who are struggling.**

Please choose to be a leader and make Missoula all that it can be as a leader of this state and nation.
Thank you for your careful consideration, your humility, your openness to change, and for action on this front.
sincerely,

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