**From:** Brian Upton
**To:** Grp. City Council and City Web Site
**Subject:** JEDI resolution
**Date:** Friday, August 13, 2021 7:56:39 PM

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To the Missoula City Council:

I want to thank the Council for your work with Missoula County on addressing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI). It is important to me for the City of Missoula to be forward-thinking and proactive on this issue. As most of you recognize, Missoula is not exempt from the national recognition that there is much work needing to be done to ensure that our local, state and federal governments are working equally well for all of us - regardless of race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexuality.

I have read over, and listened to, the public comments that Missoula County has received thus far regarding the County Commission's proposed JEDI resolution. It is odd (and would be humorous were it not such a serious matter) that a small vocal segment of white Christian people find themselves to be sudden victims whenever there is talk of addressing issues of equality and inclusion for classes of people that have historically been institutionally marginalized. Amidst the manufactured outrage of these opponents of JEDI efforts, I rarely hear them address the documented realities of voter suppression, implicit bias, white privilege, law enforcement discrimination, housing/employment discrimination, continuing impacts of redlining, or other related problems within our country - where everyone is supposed to be equal under the law.

Amidst the sky-is-falling hysteria of JEDI opponents, I expect you know that most Missoula citizens support your efforts with respect to JEDI. I want to add my support for the record. Thank you again for taking on this work, and for communicating the need behind it. It will make us a better and stronger community.

Brian Upton
514 Cleveland