



Re: SWAG Community Meeting Incident

1 message

Erica Lynn <erica.lynn@thevillagelansing.org>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 3:36 AM

To: Garrett Amstutz <gwamstutz64@gmail.com>

Cc: Adam Hussain <adam.hussain@lansingmi.gov>, Mike Lynn <mike.lynn@thevillagelansing.org>

Hi Garrett,

I'd like to address the questions that were sent to Mike regarding the formal investigation into what happened at the 1/14/25 SWAG meeting with the CDCA President Jacquese West.

The way these questions are framed is very concerning, they make it seem like this was some kind of back and forth argument or mutual conflict that needs to be mediated. That is not what happened. Mr. West wasn't in a disagreement with Mike- he went on a disrespectful, antagonistic, aggressive, unprovoked, and racially charged rant, filled with racially biased comments and harmful generalizing of Black people. There's no "who instigated" what here. The fact that Mike, as the person who was targeted, is being asked questions that seem to put the responsibility on him is both baffling and unacceptable.

To be clear:

- This wasn't a situation where two people got into it and things escalated.
- Mr. West inserted himself into a group dialogue, took it to a place that was unnecessary, inappropriate, and offensive, escalated it, and directed it all at Mike.
- The focus of this investigation should be on corroboration of facts, and whether or not the CDCA is going to hold him accountable for his actions, not trying to find "context" that doesn't change what happened.

The only reason an investigation would even be necessary is if Mr. West is denying what he said. If that's the case, then the conversation should be about whether witnesses confirm *any* of what happened- not about past interactions, "who started it," or anything else that shifts the focus away from accountability.

Asking Mike for past incidents and how long they've known/worked together suggests that history somehow justifies or explains what happened, as if prior interactions could excuse this. They don't.

Context does not change harm. No amount of background information changes the fact that the President of the CDCA engaged in openly hostile, racially biased, and aggressive behavior toward a community member in a community space. This I witnessed, this I was offended by, this is what my complaint is based on, and you all would have received the same complaint had it been ANYONE on the receiving end of Mr. West's tirade.

This situation shouldn't be complicated, the facts are clear. The only question is whether the CDCA is prepared to address it in a way that aligns with its own stated values and bylaws.

I am hoping that these kinds of questions haven't already been circulated to witnesses. In an attempt to avoid the kind of re-victimization and narrative shifting they could have. To also minimize the space they undoubtedly create for Mr West's harmful behavior to be reframed, minimized, or justified: I am now formally bringing Adam Hussain into this conversation. I am doing so in an official capacity, as our trusted and sworn in 3rd Ward City Council Member, who was present and acknowledged the behavior and commended Mike for his non response to it.

Adam, you witnessed the behavior, and have read my complaint. Without focusing on semantics, adding personal perception, opinion, or unnecessary context; is anything I said factually untrue?

Erica Lynn

| On Jan 28, 2025 at 5:56 PM, <Mike Lynn> wrote: