

Reflects On Events Of Sept. 9

To the Editor:

I have spent some time thinking on the events of September 9th in the Quincy City Hall council chambers. The event prior to the council meeting was great. People were allowed to express themselves. We made signs, we gave speeches, and we gave interviews.

Why was it great? It was great, because it provided a relief valve. We do not like the outrageous salary raises that the councilors and the mayor gave themselves. We have made many requests that they meet with the public to discuss these raises and an appropriate way forward. It is frustrating that the city councilors will not have community meetings.

During the 9/9 meeting, we were unable to bring signs into the Quincy City Hall council chambers. This was said to have been done because there was the possibility of an uproar coming from proponents of Israel and Palestine. There was a resolution in front of the City Council supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. That resolution was voted down, but the resolution excluding migrants and asylum seekers from the state's "right to shelter law" was approved. The Quincy City Council is consistent in its lack of compassion.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mimi Balsamo bravely stood in front of the city council and said "I think we should review repealing the raises." It was not planned --- it was spontaneous. And the standing ovation and cries for free speech and public discourse were all unplanned and spontaneous. With no signs and no public meetings, voices were raised.

None of our city councilors have held a ward or city-wide meeting to discuss the raises. Instead, the councilors have allowed this to fester. Despite a petition, emails, letters and phone calls (whether they came from a single individual, 100's of individuals, or even 1,000s of individuals) city councilors have not conducted a public meeting.

The Quincy City Council President struggled to regain control of the September 9th meeting. How much better would it have been for him and the others had they made the time to face the public---the very people who are paying their salaries? They have talked with individuals, including me, but appear unable to face the public in a community meeting.

And yes---for those of you who watched the 9/9 city council meeting, I am the Kathy who was singled out and scolded during the City Council meeting.

Kathy Thrun

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