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Subject: 9/6 Town Council Meeting--Keep for records

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To: Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>, shellman@townoffairfax.org, ccutrano@townoffairfax.org, backerman@townoffairfax.org, Lisel Blash <LBlash@townoffairfax.org>, lneal@townoffairfax.org, mgardner@townoffairfax.org

To Mayor Cutrano and Council Members Coler, Hellman, Ackerman and Blash:

The extreme left is not committed to truth, they are committed to ideology. A new leader doesn't start out saying they are going to be an authoritarian dictator. They start out by saying, *"Things are going to be better and you want that to happen because you're a good person, aren't you?"*

Harmful ideologies are dictating costly actions in Fairfax. There is a growing awareness that the Mayor and existing Fairfax Town Council are a group of what Communist leader, Vladimir Lenin would have called, *"useful idiots"**, referring to those who may be genuinely compassionate, but who are being used, whether they realize it or not, to further a very destructive agenda.

The destructive agenda being advanced seeks the easiest moral advantage: *Save the Planet*. This agenda leverages Social Justice issues and hot button topics in order to get useful idiots to comply with more centralized authority and enable huge corporations to profit. By promoting this agenda, cultural causes are used for personal and corporate gain.

Pandemic era arguments leveraged that decisions were made for our health, our benefit and for the sanctity of human life. During this period, \$5 trillion dollars of wealth was transferred. Who really benefitted while we were tricked into giving up our civil liberties, having our children's education compromised, our mobility reduced and more taxes assessed?

Climate change perpetually. Do you think the government can truly do anything about it? If so, why hasn't it worked so far? Climate *"change"* has become climate *"crisis"*, as we are directed to confront another invisible enemy against which we can never win.

Climate Science has become the new external authority. Yes, we can do better, but who benefits most from fear created around a *"crisis"*? Those who challenge the narrative and external authority are now being dehumanized by public shaming (resulting in lost property, jobs and reputation) in order to justify the destructive agenda.

"Don't believe your own eyes, trust the experts. We will change the world for you, but you need to know my pronouns and give me more airtime," say the useful idiots.

The radical egalitarianism being promoted by authoritarian agendas requires a kind of coercion that is offensive to a democratic society. There is an attempt, within the powerful, to return humanity to a state of fear. Existing in fear is demoralizing. This is the trick, the smoke and mirrors, the slight-of-hand to control the narrative and government institutions because it is more difficult to move to a higher state of understanding or action when you are in a constant state of fear.

The housing *"crisis"* now has produced fear in many Californians as homeless encampments encroach upon our public parks and neighborhoods. Is this new justification for the authoritarian housing legislation being forced upon us? Why is it that squatters now have more rights than town authorities?

It is disheartening to see the Fairfax Town Council echoing the talking points which have been spoon-fed to them through the media. It is disheartening when the reaction of the Town Council is to impose more Social Justice ideology and more government control upon the people of Fairfax. By adopting and implementing *"extra rent control"* and *"just*

cause eviction” ordinances, you are piling an excessive amount of cost, administrative duty and government control upon a town “*with a village like aesthetic*”, that fiercely doesn’t need or want this kind of government control.

Developing these ordinances has already cost Fairfax taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, diverting community resources away from basic municipal services and existing social benefits. The Fairfax Town Council is planning to spend hundreds of thousands more on implementation before the rent ordinances are put to a vote of the people in 2024. The burden of cost for this Town Council’s many misguided decisions is being born by the long-term residents and taxpayers of this community.

Have you studied and do you understand how the so-called “*affordable housing*” builders and JPAs (EAH Housing, Waterford Property Co.) and the advocacy group (MEHC) are making money? Why hasn’t this been fully explained to the people of Fairfax by Councilmember Blash, a former employee of MEHC? Why have you not been forthright with your constituents about the negative consequences of “*affordable housing*” on town infrastructure, finances, tax revenues and traffic congestion?

For example, if tenants in heavily subsidized “*affordable housing*” are required to pay the deferred tax bill owed on properties purchased by the government through JPA’s, how is this “*affordable*” to tenants? I guess this is one way to balance the budget and one more way to demonstrate whose best interests are at heart.

"The fact tenants may need to pay extra for living in subsidized housing centers on an arcane concept in tax law known as possessory interest. Though government owned property usually is exempt from property taxes, if the government leases part of its property to a private entity, then that entity can have a “possessory” interest that must be taxed."

<https://www.marinij.com/2023/09/01/california-tax-rule-could-saddle-renters-with-extra-bill/>

The costs to Fairfax are not only financial, they are emotional. You are trampling on the rights of those whose shoulders you stand upon. You are trampling on the rights of a middle-class community that has worked very hard for what they’ve built and their right to live here.

The proposed changes destroy the community vision bought into existence over years of planning. We don’t want our decisions outsourced. In order for a community or a nation to hold together there has to be a “*story*” that most people agree on. When the story falls apart and isn’t replaced by a better one, fragmentation occurs.

The Fairfax Town Council agrees that our town has never been more divided. **Do you also realize that it is *your* decisions which have caused this?** We are tired of being cast as opposing villains in a debate you can’t win.

History has shown the story you are writing does not have a happy ending. We are tired of your leftist policies. You have created a pathocracy, or “*sick government*” taken over by people indoctrinated with bad ideas.

True community leadership relies on owning your mistakes and taking responsibility for more than your own beliefs and ideologies. True community leadership means caring for the whole community and representing their views fairly. In such a divisive moment, it takes courage and strength to honor democratic values, and fierce independence to defend them.

“The shape of the world today just doesn’t permit our nation the luxury of an anemic democracy.” Martin Luther King Jr., 9/29/1963

Now is your opportunity, as individuals, to break through the false narrative that has been forced upon us and stand united in truth with the majority of Fairfax voters who elected you to serve their interests.

I urge you to put a stop to fiscally irresponsible expenditures, beginning with rescinding the Fairfax rent control ordinances #870 and #871 at the September 6, 2023 meeting.

Please do not sacrifice Fairfax to damaging, self-serving ideologies.

With hope,

Teliha Draheim, Fairfax resident 28 years

*The term *Useful Idiot* was first used by Vladimir Lenin to describe a person who is easily manipulated and, for the Communist party (and others), a person who can be used to support policies that are actually harmful to "the people."