

## **Talking points to city and county council regarding resuming in person meetings, and not restricting public attendance or public comments**

### **For emails, phone calls or calling in to the meetings**

Zoom meetings replacing in person meetings violates the first amendment of the U.S. constitution which protects freedom of assembly and freedom of speech.

Your oath is to the constitution. Your duty is to protect the rights of the people. Nowhere in your job description and nowhere is the constitution of Washington or the constitution of the United States does it state that are you obliged to obey the health department, or any other government agencies or non government private companies such as the CDC. So quoting CDC or health department guidelines is not a valid excuse for any policy that you enact.

It is difficult to get on to speak at a zoom meeting. This discourages many people from speaking. You need to be tech savvy, and have a computer or smart phone to call in to speak at the meeting. **This discriminates against poor people, those with less education, the homeless, and the elderly.** Discrimination limiting freedom of speech is not acceptable.

The Bellingham City Council limiting public comments violates freedom of speech, which is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It means that you, the elected representatives are not doing your job of representing your constituents, because you refuse to listen to your constituents by allowing them to speak.

The Bellingham City Council limited the number of the public who could speak at the council meetings to 5 people in early 2021 and as of August 2021, the city council has suspended public comments at biweekly city council meetings. The Bellingham city council's explanation was that youtube censored the recording of the city council meeting due to 'misinformation' ie speaking about prevention and treatment methods for covid other than a vaccine; the City Council decided to follow YouTube's recommendations for censorship rather than following the U.S. Constitution.

“Misinformation”:

- The term “Misinformation” is being used to target, intimidate and scapegoat. (quoting Sayer Ji)
- The term “misinformation” is being used as an excuse to justify censorship.
- The term “misinformation” has nothing to do with the accuracy or validity of the information presented.

Zoom meetings allow council members to turn their cameras off during public comments. So certain council members are avoiding doing their job which includes listening to the citizens who they represent. It is incredibly disrespectful and it limits freedom of speech. If you need to take a coffee break or a bathroom break, pause the meeting for a few minutes and then get back to work.

You have been promoting the experimental covid vaccine which implies that you have received the injection and that you believe it is effective. Therefore you have no reason to believe that your safety would be compromised by meeting in person. Your excuse to do zoom meetings because of a pandemic has expired.

The pandemic is not, has never been and never will be an excuse to avoid holding council meetings in person. The pandemic is not an excuse to avoid listening to the citizens who you represent and serve in your office. We the people demand that you resume in person meetings immediately with no restrictions the people who wish to attend in person meetings and no restrictions on the people who wish to speak at public in person meetings.

Council members who are willing to honor their duties on the county council can hold in person council meetings and listen to Whatcom citizens' comments in person. Council members who are afraid to talk to the public can continue to attend the council meetings remotely.

It has been proposed that in person meetings might resume while excluding people who have declined to participate in the experimental covid vaccination and excluding people who do not wear a mask. This policy would be unlawful for several reasons.

1. This would be unlawful because this policy violates the 1st amendment of the US constitution, which protects freedom of assembly and freedom of speech.
2. It is unlawful to discriminate against people based on religious belief. Discrimination based on religious belief is a violation of
  - 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution,
  - U.S Title 52 Civil Rights Act of 1964,
  - The Washington Constitution Article 1, Section 11, which protects freedom of religion
  - The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18 which protects the fundamental human right of freedom of religion.
3. It is unlawful to discriminate against people who have a disability. Discrimination based on perceived medical condition or disability is a violation of:
  - U.S Title 52 Civil Rights Act of 1964,
  - The U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act Title II, 42 U.S.C 12101. Title II prohibits disability discrimination by all public entities at the local level, e.g., school district, municipal, city, or county, and at state level.
  - The Washington Law against Discrimination
4. Coercing people to participate in a medical experiment, ie the covid vaccination is a violation of the Nuremberg code.
5. Demanding to know a person's vaccination status is a violation of HIPAA and is a violation of the 4th amendment of the U.S. constitution.