

OCTOBER 17, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SPEAKER SIGN-UP, POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

SPEAKERS

1. Mary Lou Wehrli – Immigrants Day Proclamation
2. Nag Jaiswal (Naperville) – Constructive dialogue during Hindu Heritage Month
3. Pamela Biederman (Naperville) (Greensboro Court residents of Fontenaix subdivision) – Coyote population in Country Commons park
4. Sudheer Holenarasipura (Naperville) Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS)

L1. Repeal or Amend Section 1-13-1:1 of Naperville Municipal Code

SPEAKERS

1. Susan Glover Craighead (Naperville) The League of Women Voters of Naperville
2. Steven Shamrock (Naperville)
3. Michael Costello (Naperville) – option 1
4. Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville) - Disclosure of campaign contributions

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. Derek Miller (Naperville) – I am writing in support of Option 2 to amend Section 1-13-1:1 regarding campaign contributions. I think the modification is a change in the right direction to keep pushing for better transparency in our local government. Thank you for taking the time to take a look at the ordinance and I hope all members of the council see the value in keeping and modifying the ordinance.
2. Diane Pedersen (IL) – Striking disclosures of \$\$750+ campaign donations - I OPPOSE striking the disclosures of donations more than \$\$750 & actually think ALL donations should be disclosed. I will not re-elect any Council Member or Mayor who refuses to disclose, as that smacks of back-parlor trading of favor
3. Dianne McGuire (Naperville) – To the Members of the Naperville City Council I would like to comment regarding the agenda item relating to the modifications, if any, to the city's ethics ordinance as it relates to acknowledging campaign donations in excess of \$\$750 received by City Council members as it relates to that entity's appeal to the Council on a given matter. At a time when way too many citizens question the very veracity of the news we receive through the media and are critical of so many public institutions, why would we ever weaken our ethics ordinance? If anything, we should strengthen it further. When I was on the Board of Trustees for the College of DuPage, we further examined the college's ethics policy, which was modeled on the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act passed by the General Assembly in 2003 for all units of local government and school districts. These units of local government are required to adopt regulations governing political activities and the solicitation and acceptance of gifts of public officers and employees that are no less restrictive than those contained in the Act. In the examination of the policy at the college, I reached out to DuPage County

where they have a 26- page Ethics Ordinance adopted in 2012. This is definitely a robust ethics policy. And, when I think of the budgets of both governmental entities, I see that the City's 2023 budget of \$603 million is significantly above the \$548 million budget of DuPage County in 2023! The City Council, if anything, should be even more transparent, not less! Do I think we should weaken our current ethics ordinance regarding transparency of campaign donations? Absolutely not! It is certainly not a "good look" for the City nor is it wise to do so!

4. Ellen Lanser May (Naperville) - I am writing to support Naperville's ethics ordinance. At every level, politics and politicians have entered a new age of divisive, narcissistic, and underhanded behavior. As a result, the public's trust in politicians and their motives is withering away. Until the last local election cycle, Naperville's candidates and politicians have mostly stayed above the fray. But if Naperville's City Council eliminates the ethics ordinance, they are telling residents that transparency doesn't matter—and that will certainly raise red flags among our community moving forward. Given today's political milieu, I find it shameful that our wonderful city would even consider minimizing the importance of governmental transparency by repealing the ethics ordinance.
5. Karen V Peck (Naperville) - Dear Mayor Wehrli and Councilpersons, Retain the Ethics Ordinance and amend it to make ethics achievable on City Council. I am in full support of retaining the Naperville Ethics Ordinance requiring public disclosure by City Council members of campaign contributions of \$750.00 or greater, when relevant agenda items are brought before Council. This Ethics Ordinance should be amended to make it work in practice, to clarify guidelines, and to close loopholes. An amendment that makes ethical behavior achievable is a service your constituents want. Ethical behavior, honesty, and transparency matter to Naperville constituents. An opportunity to make the Ethics Ordinance work in practice. City lawyer Mr. DiSanto outlined multiple hypotheticals. These examples are all opportunities for further discussion as to how to handle individuals vs. PACs, whether or not someone is participating publicly, commenting through email, via a PAC proxy, and so forth. Talking through hypotheticals will help craft an actionable amendment and maintain the Ethics Ordinance. The Ethics Ordinance should not be repealed because in its current form there are gray areas in the guidelines. Retaining the Ethics Ordinance with an amendment is an opportunity to clarify parameters and for honest and transparent communication with constituents. If conflicts of interest exist and no speaker or writer has disclosed a campaign contribution, the Councilperson should say so on the record and recuse themselves from a vote. The onus should not be on constituents to research relationships between resolutions, ordinances, and campaign donors to particular Councilpersons. What proof is there that ethics ordinances have a negative effect on donations? One argument for repealing the Ethics ordinance is that such an ordinance inhibits donations. What is the proof that an ethics ordinance inhibits donations? Why would a donor not want to be associated with the person they supported financially? Without facts, this is a poor excuse to repeal a guideline for ethical behavior. Constituents want transparency, honesty, and information. Conflicts of interest will be impossible to discern without transparency. The Council owes it to constituents to be honest and free from conflicts of interest. I would hope all Councilpersons care about being intentionally ethical. Transparency and honesty are needed for trust. How can we trust that the Council is working in good faith for us if they repeal an ordinance that calls for ethics? Continue to do the work. Amend the Ethics Ordinance so that it is actionable and "works" to serves the purpose of honesty, transparency, and ethical governance. Sincerely, Karen V. Peck Naperville

POSITION STATEMENTS

SUPPORT

1. Rebecca Rudolph (Naperville) Support Option 1

OPPOSE

1. Hillenburg (Naperville)

L2. Century Walk Resolution

SPEAKERS

1. Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville)

M1. 2024 SECA Grant Fund Program City Obligation Allocations

SPEAKERS

1. Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville)