

Lisa Vierling

From: Glenn Chavis <grchavis40@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: My comment regarding the budget meetings

Mr. Mayor and members of Council,

I was pleased to read in the newspaper that the dreaded word “Diversity” was brought up in one of your recent meetings. Since I am not allowed to call out a councilperson by name, I will just say I am not surprised at the response and excuses that are starting to come forth.

Since 1859, our local government has catered to those that chose to keep black people disenfranchised using laws, ordinances, and excuses.

In 1915, City Council officially segregated the City by passing an ordinance that prohibited colored people from certain sections of the City. This created three distinct black communities - Eastside, Southside, and Macedonia, which have always been denied equality.

In 1925, at the request of a racist health inspector and the Health Dept., City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting any café in the city from serving white and black customers in the same building unless it is divided by partitions, and separate dining tables, counters, dishes, and cooking utensils.

Segregation and separate but unequal are costly proposition that have and will continue to put a drag on our bottom line. In case you have blinders on, the cost in the pass of operating separate schools, libraries, and parks, just to name a few, should indicate to anyone that our local government dug a financial hole for itself all because of racism.

Attempts at keeping one race superior over another are costly and will continue to erode our bottom line unless we learn from our past mistakes, own up to those mistakes, and make changes that will benefit all High Point citizens equally.

Council seems to be very quick at finding monies for projects and shortcomings regarding Downtown/Uptown, but when it comes to fairness and doing what it takes to make High Point great, some of you want to keep finding excuses for not looking at your moral responsibility. This time it's COVID-19.

You can get the money to finance one or two diversity positions by simply enforcing some of the many ordinances you have passed, but aren't enforcing.

(343 words)

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