

My name is Sean Salazar of 59 Bainbridge Street and I am a Ward 5 resident. I'd like to address agenda items 306-25, 309-25 and 313-25.

I have seen tremendous progress for our vibrant, resilient and diverse community but also a consistent polarization and increasing animosity amongst the members of this Council.

Though I agree in principle that any legal proceeding brought on behalf of the City Council should be approved by the City Council, with all of the facts in front of us there is no justification for the removal of the City Council President.

Many have witnessed mean-spiritedness and unprofessional outbursts unbecoming of any public servant often directed at Councilor O'Malley and Councilor Colon-Hayes. At the most recent Joint CEIC/Malden Youth Council meeting, the conversation devolved into a display of yelling and insults with our high schoolers showing more leadership and maturity.

I haven't seen calls for resignation of any Council members for displays of insensitive, offensive and unprofessional behavior though these displays have occurred or a call for the resignation of any member of Malden city government over lawsuits brought by and defended by the City.

Staying silent in the face of unprofessional conduct towards colleagues, the internal animosity within caucuses, refusing to work with one another, supporting open meeting law complaints against a youth body and displaying conduct below the offices you hold are all shameful.

You should be focused on issues such as working with the Library on funding, speed and traffic mitigation, making our community inclusive instead of exclusive and attracting commercial business to take the tax burden off of residents.

We are in dangerous times as a country and we look to our local elected leaders to be compassionate, inclusive, kind and not fighting amongst each other but fighting for the community.