

City needs to restore public trust**Acts of hate are not who we are****LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****City needs to restore public trust****Acts of hate are not who we are**

Editor, the Transcript: On Tuesday, Norman voters rejected a \$60 million dollar stormwater bond (60.33% voted no) and also rejected a stormwater utility fee (57.39% voted no). This was the 2nd rejection of the stormwater utility fee in 2 years. There are many reasons voters rejected these two proposals and those are being shared and debated on social media.

I believe the next step for City Hall should be a restoration project: of public trust. There are many ways to begin this project, and I will propose two.

First, make the Senior Center a transparent priority. No more

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pushing it aside for any reason.

Quit stalling and identify a funding source and a location without interference from anyone.

Next, quit allowing special interests and community partners to influence City policies and what goes on the City Council agendas. The lack of trust in Norman's City government is not caused by international mistrust (Mayor Miller's words).

It is caused by many actions that have occurred recently and in the past. Anyone remember "The Grand Bargain"? The voters deserve leaders that can be trusted and who will listen to us. If they are unwilling to do that, then our alternative is that we speak loud and clear at the voting booth. It's that simple.

Jim Jenkins Norman

Like many, I am saddened and appalled by recent racist and antisemitic acts of vandalism and defacement of buildings and artifacts throughout our city. I strongly condemn these actions and am determined to help keep this show of abject hatred and disrespect from lingering in our community. These acts of hate are not who Normanites are, as shown by the strong turnout of citizens who have showed up, cleaned up, spoken up, and lifted up love and pride in our community.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve on the Norman Human Rights Commission for many years, working with other volunteer citizens dedicated to building a more inclusive community where all are welcome without regard to our differences. I look forward to continuing the work of protecting the rights of all our citizens; to push back against all forms of hate, bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination; and to help our community find peaceful, respectful ways to heal, and continue to appreciate the vibrant community that is Norman.

Kay Ham, Chair City of Norman Human Rights Commission