

Regarding upcoming deliberations

From: Ann Arline Philips <aphilips@igc.org>

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To: mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovermd.org <mayorandcouncil@washingtongrovermd.org>

Subject: Regarding upcoming deliberations

Dear Mayor Compton and Town Councilors,

I'm sure you are aware of the strong emotions shuddering through the Grove in the aftermath of the controversy over the renaming of our town hall.

Those of us who believe in the democratic right of individuals or groups to raise questions and to examine the past also understand the strong reaction. We empathize with family members and allies who are hurt and resentful over the proposal, who feel attacked and their family reputation maligned.

This is a fraught time for the Grove and unfortunately the question of funding for DEI is engulfed in the emotional distress. There has not been time to heal, and it's hard for many people to see DEI funding as a legitimate initiative. Many long-time residents who I believe would be neutral to or in favor of DEI presentations are currently against spending taxpayer dollars for that purpose. I hope that in their deliberations Council members recognize this upheaval in town and its threat to the larger equity effort.

One idea would be for the council to set the date of the presentations for later in the fiscal year. Again, I feel that the Town needs time to heal.

I look forward to attending DEI presentations, partly due to recent unexpected moments of personal revelation—valuable moments that will stay with me. It would be hard to put a price on those experiences.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ann Philips