AN OPEN LETTER

We are watching even closer now

We find all of this seriously concerning, especially the closing words of a statement read from the dais and described as approved by the city attorney:

> "to the anonymous blogger who thinks Kenyon is some kind of 17th century Salem and is afraid to reveal themselves, please stop causing our community to be in an unnecessary uproar."



Scott Lehner
City Administrator
You signed the notice for this meeting, and you sat at the table.
Did you know that sentence was coming?



Scott Riggs
City Attorney
You sat at the table. Your attorney's oath binds you to both constitutions.
Did you approve that sentence?



Kim Helgeson
Council Member
You read those words, and you swore an oath to support the Constitution.
Did you write that sentence?

Do you all understand it?

Anonymity

"Anonymity is a shield from the tyranny of the majority."
McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission (1995)
An author's decision to remain anonymous "is an aspect of the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment."

Art and expression

"a narrow, succinctly articulable message is not a condition of constitutional protection"
Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston (1995)
The Court named "the unquestionably shielded painting of Jackson Pollock, music of Arnold Schönberg, or Jabberwocky verse of Lewis Carroll." Our work is art and expression, and it stands on the same ground.

Satire

"graphic depictions and satirical cartoons have played a prominent role in public and political debate"
Hustler Magazine v. Falwell (1988)

The uproar you asked us to stop

"may indeed best serve its high purpose when it induces a condition of unrest"
Terminiello v. Chicago (1949)

You

"vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials"
New York Times v. Sullivan (1964)
Debate on public issues should be "uninhibited, robust, and wide-open."

Minnesota

"all persons may freely speak, write and publish their sentiments on all subjects"
Minnesota Constitution, art. I, § 3
Near v. Minnesota (1931) struck down a state law used against "charges against public officers of corruption, malfeasance in office, or serious neglect of duty."

A team that keeps its names private

"privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs"
NAACP v. Alabama (1958)

Are you asking our team to surrender those rights?

The citizens of Kenyon are not dumb or unaware.
This is happening for a reason, and we are watching even closer now.

Sincerely,
Your favorite anonymous bloggers 😘

Photos: Scott Lehner, mnscsc.org; Scott Riggs, Kennedy & Graven.