From:	Nan Dunne Byington
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc:	bcc@missoulacounty.us
Subject:	JEDI Program
Date:	Thursday, July 29, 2021 8:06:39 AM

Warm greetings to our city council members, and our county commissioners.

Thank you for stepping into public leadership, difficult work that is essential to the quality of life in our town. I have been resident in Missoula since 1976. The character and values of the Missoula community were well established then, and have remained consistent throughout the decades since. Missoula has always been a progressive cultural center and our population has collectively chosen to foster a public domain devoted to the values of justice, equality, diversity and inclusivity. We have demonstrated our lived values by who we elect, specifically maintaining a majority in leadership willing to shape decisions and commitments of the sort that have built the community we know and love.

There have always tensions between the priorities of progressive and conservative leadership. We can point to plenty of examples where the top-down values of consumption have altered our environment- agricultural lands digested into profitable-for-a-few developments, for instance or the destruction of venerable buildings in favor of replacement versions, again typically for the benefit of a few. The mass of Missoulians do our best to maintain balance, to protect what is irreplaceable, and to accommodate sensible and necessary development, such that we have created a highly desirable home. It is laughable- as well as threatening and infuriating- that the certain elements want to 'take over' our community, now that our original values have created the beauty, generosity and succor that reflect who we collectively are, and turn us into another version of playground for the rich.

I am offended by the presumptive arrogance of Jesse Ramos and the noisy, monied minority he represents, entering in with demands that we abandon our long established community standards and principles to adopt essentially the opposite. Speaking publicly in terms of the JEDI program being "money-grab" recently is another of many examples of Jesse Ramos representing the bizarre minority in the USA that have adopted blatant prevarication and deliberate manipulation of the not-thinking citizen, aiming for emotional reactions like fear, resentment and competition, to keep them in positions to further the agenda of more for the few to the detriment of the majority, to the detriment of our living environment.

We need unity; we need clear thinking and a willingness to problem-solve from the bottom up. Maintaining the integrity of our long-defined community character and values means demanding that those who think they have a better idea justify their proposals as enhancing, not destroying, the principled community that Missoula has always been.

Again, my gratitude and respect for your public service, sincerely,
Nan Dunne Byington
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Missoula