

Midway City Council  
20 February 2024  
Regular Meeting

Statement /  
Public Comment

## Midway City Statement

On Tuesday February 6, 2024 during public comment period in our City Council meeting we had our first instance of what we later learned was called "Zoom Bombing". This is a practice wherein individuals use the Zoom link to log into public meetings during the public comment period and use their time to express bigoted and hateful arguments against races and religions they disagree with. In our instance the people claimed to be citizens of Midway which we later found to be untrue. This is apparently a common tactic used throughout the nation, wherein individuals give false names and false addresses and hide behind the anonymity of the internet to say things they are too cowardly to say in the light of day where everyone can see who they are.

Midway City unanimously condemns the opinions expressed by these individuals and their use of technology to hide from consequences well deserved. Midway City has made changes to its policies regarding public comment to assure this type of abuse will never occur again. We give notice to other municipalities in the area to be prepared for similar types of abuse. A copy of our new policy is available to any municipality that would like to review and update their own.

It was with great relief that we realized the opinions expressed were not from actual citizens of Midway City, and were likely not even from the State of Utah. We reiterate our commitment to fairness and to welcoming all races and religions in our community. We have used this unpleasant event as a reminder that evil still exists in this world, and that we can never take for granted the freedoms we enjoy nor stand idly by as opinions and philosophies are expressed that seek to strip some in our society of the human dignity we fight daily to insure to all. While you claim the right to say it, we claim the equal right to condemn it, and do so with fervor and solemnity.