

**Subject:** Re: crisis management

**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 12:38:44 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Margaret Rog

**To:** Jake Spano

This is further harming Ilhan Omar as well. This is one of the stupidest things I've done in a long time. Not taking time to think through unintended consequences. I'm ashamed, not for the reasons people are saying we should be ashamed, but for being reckless with my power as an elected official. Worst day ever. We absolutely need to rescind this. Let me know how I can support you in that effort.

On Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 12:21 PM Jake Spano <[mayorjakespano@](mailto:mayorjakespano@)> wrote:

CBS National has tweeted about it. I'm not exaggerating when I say i have 50 emails about this since yesterday afternoon, 20+ calls, 25 text messages, and at least a handful of DM on social media. I realize that a great many of them are not from SLP or even the region but good god... and for the record, out of that group i have one person who has said they support the vote. Maybe more supportive folks will come out of the woodwork...

Tim's saying we should hold a pledge of allegiance event at the ROC on the 4th of July which is not wise. I think we should call a special council session for Monday and reconsider this issue and be prepared for all the TV cameras and the national coverage.

Gotta go, my phones ringing.

Jake Spano  
Mayor  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

On Jun 27, 2019, at 12:29 PM, Margaret Rog <[rogforslp@](mailto:rogforslp@)> wrote:

Understood. Has anyone reached out to the Legion?

On Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 11:23 AM Tom Harmening <[THARMENING@](mailto:THARMENING@)> wrote:

I hear you Margaret – my concern is that if we put out an official statement it will spin another news cycle and provide another platform for people to engage again.

Let's hold tight for now.

Note I've received dozens (and I'm not exaggerating) of phone calls and emails on this. I'm having my staff go thru them to determine the proper follow-up. I'm only responding to residents who have asked for a call back

Tom

**From:** Margaret Rog [mailto:[rogforslp@](mailto:rogforslp@)]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 11:05 AM  
**To:** Tom Harmening  
**Cc:** Jake Spano; Jacque Smith  
**Subject:** Re: crisis management

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Yes, I was just contacted by FOX. Not planning to respond!!

My take is, inclusivity has nothing to do with it. I didn't get that at the time, but didn't have any reason to defend the pledge of allegiance (one way or another), so figured I just didn't get it, turned my attention to other things. I won't do that again.

You ask how the messaging would be different. It may be too late for this, but in my view this was mostly a procedural move, at least for some of us. We were not aware (but should have been!) how this would be perceived by the community as anti-American. We display a large flag at every meeting and we show our commitment to the values and concerns of our community through our policy decisions, responsiveness as a council and staff, respect for all views, etc. It just didn't occur to us (but again, should have!) that this thing we do when there's usually almost no one in the room would matter if we kept it or not. It was just a streamlining of our processes and procedures.

Of course we can blame the media for blowing it up 10 days after the vote was actually taken, and we can admonish Tim for taking it off consent when it may have otherwise flown under the radar, but in the end, I think what we should do is reinstate it, with the acknowledgement that we didn't realize how important this was to a certain valued segment of our community, and we apologize for that. Saying the pledge wasn't hurting anyone, but not saying it is hurting people. Worst of all it may create backlash against just the people we were trying to "protect" by this move.

That's my take anyway.

Margaret

On Thu, Jun 27, 2019 at 10:48 AM Tom Harmening <[THARMENING@](mailto:THARMENING@)<redacted>> wrote:

| [Already have –](#)

My guess this could go mainstream national – e.g. Fox. They are probably preoccupied by the presidential debates for now. But that will change.

How would our messaging be significantly different than what has been stated in the media already by Tim and Anne??

We're working on it

**From:** Margaret Rog [mailto:[rogforslp@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:rogforslp@[REDACTED])]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 10:45 AM  
**To:** Tom Harmening; Jake Spano  
**Subject:** crisis management

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Tom & Jake, I'd like to suggest that we call in our crisis management expert to help us stop the pledge of allegiance vitriol from doing any more damage. There's so much hate out there, on mainstream threads as well as the crazies who are phoning and emailing us. Plus I think we are compromising our future success on the things we really care about by letting this fester. I shared with Jake that the American Legion posted on FB that we should be ashamed...I know they donate \$\$ to the community regularly so this is a business as well as a political problem at this point, IMO.

For myself, I'd like to see a message going out sooner rather than later.

Thoughts?

Margaret

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Margaret Rog

City Council Member

Ward 1, St. Louis Park

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