

**Subject:** Re: Dear Jake,  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 2:23:51 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Jake Spano  
**To:** Fabian Hoffner  
**CC:** anne@[REDACTED]

Fabian-

Thanks for the email. Since the story hit this afternoon I've received probably 10 calls/texts/emails so it definitely got some attention. FWIW, so far all but one person is opposed to the action the council took.

On this, I was out of town when this came up for a vote but when Council Member Anne Mavity (cc'd) suggested it in one of our council sessions, I expressed that getting rid of the pledge was just not a high priority for me for a couple of key reasons: First, I think there are more substantive things we should be working on to make our city more open and welcoming and secondly, while I've never been a fan of doing things just because that's the way things have always been done, I've always used the last six words, "with liberty and justice for all", as a reminder to me that not everyone in our community enjoys the benefits of those words and it's my job to everything I can to fix that. That won't change, I'll just have to whisper those words to myself under my breath. ;)

In the end, there are plenty of cities in Minnesota who don't recite the pledge so we aren't alone in this way.

Jake Spano  
Mayor  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

On Jun 26, 2019, at 2:59 PM, Fabian Hoffner <[fabian@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:fabian@[REDACTED])> wrote:

You are doing a great job as mayor and I'm a big fan. I'm concerned about this Pledge of Allegiance thing. Why is it that we DFler's have to go around and apologize for our patriotism? Can you do anything about this?

Thanks for your consideration,

Your supporter,

Fabian Hoffner

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