Gentlemen,

Thank-you for paying attention to this issue.

The current Administration in Bellevue came into office and immediately shut down the voice of the citizens of Bellevue by removing the Public Right to be Heard, an open mic session at the end of Council meetings where citizens could come address their elected leaders on any topic on their minds. See Ordinance 3928 debated on February 11, 2019 and passed the next Council meeting.

Having successfully taken away the people's voice, this administration now seeks to take away their votes as well.

To understand this issue, a basic refresher in Civics is in order. The City Administration is the Executive branch of City Government, with the Mayor & City Administrator at the top. The City Council is the legislative branch of City Government. The City Council members are elected by the citizens to be their representatives and voice. Our mission is the oversight of the Executive branch of City Government.

This ordinance seeks to completely undue this process. First it defines City Council members as City Officials and places them under the City Administrator who would have disciplinary powers over any Council member accused of misconduct. Understand that misconduct is a vague term that means whatever the City Administrator decides it means. This would have a chilling and permanently detrimental effect on Council members being able to function independent from the City Administration and to oppose or criticize any proposal or actions of the administration, for the citizens, for fear of removal from office by the City.

The Constitution defines separate branches of government and is the way our democracy operates. This ordinance seeks to override the Constitution and to form a Dictatorship in Bellevue, where the Mayor & City Administrator have ultimate power and the City Council would become their puppets. Remember that absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Citizens of Bellevue must be told about this unabashed power grab and they must come to the public hearing on November 5, 2019 to oppose this ordinance. There are enough rubber stampers on the Council that they will give the Mayor & City Administrator the power they seek unless there is a strong stand made by the public against this Ordinance.

Citizens must be made to understand that there is no going back, if they grab the power to override elections and remove duly elected City Council members, they will never give up that power. You might as well line up 6 bobbleheads in front of the Mayor to flick anytime a vote is required. Because any Council member that opposes the Administration will be removed and the Mayor then gets to appoint one of his buddies to fill the seat. The citizens lose their representation, their vote and any pretense of oversight of the City. This is not the American way of governance.