
Jackson's MPT Statement for the Record

From Councilmember Ray Jackson <rjackson@hermosabeach.gov>

Date Tue 2/24/2026 6:39 PM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov>

Cc Michael Hixon <mhixon@scng.com>; Jason Baltimore <jason.baltimore@bbklaw.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Statement for the Record | Hermosa Beach City Council Councilmember Raymond Jackson | February 24, 2026

Out of respect for our community and this Council, I will not engage in public theatrics or a personal back and forth. The dais is a place to do the people's work, not to score political points or settle personal grievances.

However, when a colleague publicly and repeatedly accuses me of bullying, casts himself as a victim, and suggests that I casually or unfairly label others as racist, that narrative is not accurate. It distorts the facts and demands a response. I owe this community honesty and clarity.

Accordingly, I submit the following statement for the record and will not support Michael Keegan's nomination to serve as Hermosa Beach's next Mayor Pro Tem. This is not about personalities. It is about conduct, credibility, and the standards we set as a Council. These are standards our community rightfully expects from those entrusted to lead.

A month ago, Councilmember Keegan launched a personal attack against me during a City Council meeting regarding an internal Human Resources matter between me and City Manager Steve Napolitano that was brought into the public arena. The Mayor Pro Tem accurately described it for what it was: a personal political attack. I addressed both City Manager Napolitano and Councilmember Keegan directly and privately after the meeting in an effort to move forward, but that good faith effort was not reciprocated.

Instead, Councilmember Keegan escalated the situation. Two weeks later, he repeated his claims during a council meeting and on social media, portraying himself as a bullied victim and declaring, "I am not a racist," after asserting that I had called him one.

I chose not to engage and attempted to move past the continued public attacks. A week later, a close ally of Councilmember Keegan, known for hateful, bigoted, misogynistic, and racist rhetoric, called into a California Coastal Commission meeting and repeated Councilmember Keegan's personal attacks.

Later, reflecting on Councilmember Keegan's ongoing attacks, the White House video, and the conduct I had personally experienced, I was, quite frankly, pissed. At that moment, I knew silence was no longer the right choice. It was time to address his false narrative.

I did call Councilmember Keegan a racist because of statements he made directly to me while our sons were both present. He referred to my son as a "little monkey," then attempted to laugh it off as a joke. During that same discussion, he described a white teenage community member and "his four dumb Black friends," before quickly adding, "Oops, I probably shouldn't have said that." In that moment, everything I had witnessed over the years, combined with what I had heard, came into focus. These were not slips of the tongue. They were casual, instinctive comments that revealed exactly who Councilmember Keegan is.

We all saw similar casual and instinctive racism a few years ago with the release of the Los Angeles City Hall tapes. These were comments made casually and without hesitation in an unguarded conversation. Character does not change. It just gets caught.

I did not raise this publicly when it happened. In hindsight, I should have, especially once Councilmember Keegan launched a City Council campaign built on disinformation.

As John Lewis reminded us, “We may not have chosen the time, but the time has chosen us.”

So I am speaking now. Councilmember Keegan’s repeated public attacks demand clarity and honesty. Hermosa Beach deserves better than division, misinformation, and racism disguised as politics.

I have always put Hermosa Beach first and will work with anyone to move our city forward. But I will not fake friendship, perform civility for appearances, or extend respect to racism or racists.

For these reasons, I will not support Michael Keegan’s nomination to serve as Hermosa Beach’s next Mayor Pro Tem. Leadership is earned through integrity, accountability, and respect for others. His conduct has demonstrated a failure of all three, and Councilmember Keegan should never be the face of our city. Hermosa Beach deserves better.

Best regards,
Councilmember Raymond Jackson

Raymond A. Jackson
City Councilmember
City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
City Phone: 310-318-0239
Mobile Phone: 813-362-8056
rjackson@hermosabeach.gov