

**From:** Katherine Paquette kpaquette21@gmail.com 

**Subject:** Concerns re: CORE

**Date:** September 17, 2022 at 1:13 PM

**To:** Shawn Pelletier redminuy@icloud.com, Amy Domeika adomeika@comcast.net, Russell.melmed@chathamhealth.org

KP

Hello Chair Pelletier. Please include the following letter in next CORE meeting agenda.  
Thank you

Good evening CORE members,

I'd like to begin by thanking you for your representation of ideas on this very important town commission. Thank you!

To underscore the relevance of this Commission in our community, I did a Google search, and I readily became aware that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are not only important for ethical, medical, but also for financial reasons in a community.

"Studies show DEI has the potential to increase sales revenue, increase customer base and ultimately increase profits. DEI is not only the right thing to do, it also makes good business sense" (Benefits of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, www.dii.mn.gov, retrieved 9/17/2022).

I would like members of this Commission to know that I was terribly dissuaded during the 8/17/2022 CORE meeting.

While, in some ways, I can appreciate this Commission's decision to decline to issue a public statement regarding First Selectman Bisbikos' 6/27/2022 post in the spirit "moving forward," I disagree with this decision for ethical and behavioral reasons. I am also concerned about the precedence this sets for our community.

I did not feel welcomed by your group for the following reasons:

- Community members only have 1 opportunity to speak - prior to agenda items being discussed by commission members. This practice does not align with the Commission's statement that, "Commission members will partner with the community to bridge, support, elevate, and celebrate the diversity of people, perspectives, and culture" (Town of Colchester: CORE Commission, colchesterct.gov/your-government/core-commission, retrieved 9/17/2022). I hope this Commission will consider creating a second opportunity for community members to speak.
- Additionally, several commission members felt the need to preface their observations regarding the Health Equity Report by voicing their criticisms in my observations regarding the lack of information regarding LGBTQIA and non-white Colchester residents. I suggest that Commission members please abstain from this kind of conduct as I was only 1 of 2 community members present for this meeting, and this kind of communication does not foster community participation or partnership.
- The document is titled Health Equity Report and is lacking data that, to my knowledge (according to Russ Melmed), is partially available. This document pertains specifically to equity, so it is especially important that this information be included and explored. I would very much appreciate to hear more about the data that is available but not included in the Health Equity Report and any suggestions that Russ Melmed may have regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- As of today, 9/17/2022, I still cannot access the CORE meeting 8/17/2022 audio files. I think it's important that audio recordings be available to the public.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Katherine Paquette  
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10:43



#### That didn't work

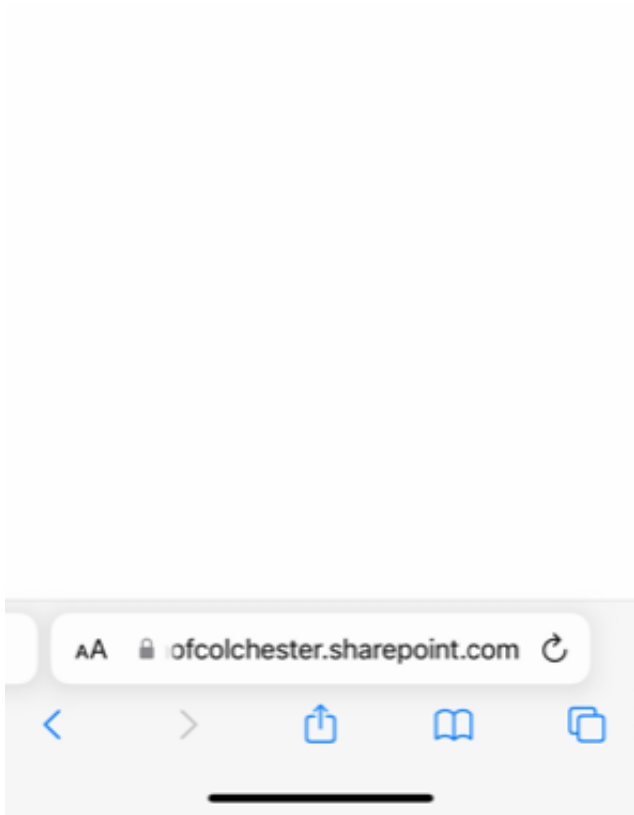
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**Correlation ID:** 48e165a0-c0e0-d000-5e43-e024e4562af  
**Date and Time:** 9/17/2022 7:43:40 AM  
**URL:** https://townofcolchester.sharepoint.com/sites/b-c/Shared Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fb%2Dc%2FShared%20Documents%2FAudio%20Files%2FVideo17Aug22CORE%2F...  
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