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Goshen: A Choir of Diverse Voices

"Listen to the diverse voices of the community"

A choir can only work if there are a multitude of voices. One voice is a solo, whereas a mass of voices is a community. A choir *strives* to become "one voice", as should Goshen with all aspects of life, but that only happens in a perfect world. It needs multiple voices to make its sound interesting and full. A choir that has only one voice can become dull and colorless. If all choirs sounded this way, no one would feel the satisfaction when they earn their achievements. Each voice adds its own touch to the choir. This is the same way our city needs many different voices to "sing" their opinion to make every voice heard, to make our city of Goshen a choir of diverse voices.

GCS school board and Goshen City Council meetings always feel like a place where all voices are heard by the people in power *and* the community. Anyone can step up to the mic, whether they are brown or white, right or left, young or old. It is empowering. Opinions typically vary, some being ridiculous to some, some being reasonable to some, but all are heard. These diverse statements from the community affect how the board and council vote. One meeting that was memorable was the GCS school board meeting regarding a youth drag show. Two main groups showed up: Purple for Parents and Red for Ed. Purple for Parents was protesting the agenda. They thought it would influence their children in the wrong ways, such as draw them into the LGBTQIA+ community. Red for Ed was standing for the agenda, so there was a lot of tension in the room. They wanted the children to be able to express themselves fully. Many statements were given. Some standout words were, "Hogwash", "God", "Family", and

"Country". Everyone's opinions were heard. However, with no influence from either side, the youth drag show was not put on.

Similar to the youth drag show, Guys and Dolls, that uses makeup, wigs, and costumes just as much as a youth drag show would,—which may make one question why the high school musicals are not protested—was the high school musical this year. As Goshen is one of the most diverse schools, we had a pretty diverse cast. The two main female leads were half Vietnamese and half Indian. Goshen, as many other towns have, has not always given people of color a chance in the spotlight. To the audience, this showed that Goshen had progressed in providing everyone with a voice.

"Listen to the diverse voices of the community" is a valuable principle of the Community Relations Commission. It describes equality, diversity, and bipartisanship. These qualities are essential for a community to compromise and solve problems. These characteristics are important to me because I want everyone to live as peacefully as possible. I hope to solve and combat climate change so my future children and others' children can live on. I hope to one day be able to agree with someone who is opposite to me politically. Hopefully political parties might be abolished, so the human race will not be as separated as it is today. This would result in more diverse views because one would not have to lean one way or another but be themselves.

Goshen is already a wonderful place to live. When we master the art of bipartisanship, we will be unstoppable. "Listen[ing] to the diverse voices of the community" is only one way to improve our standing. All of the Community Relations Commission principles help to conduct the direction for the city of Goshen, a choir of diverse voices, to obtain perfect harmony.