

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nathalie Christian** <nathalie@mngl.ca>

Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 9:47 AM

Subject: Comment on employee Janet Roberson // Fwd: Billy Innes: Tomorrow belongs to ...?

To: <benicia@compass.com>

My name is Nathalie Christian and I'm a story development coordinator for *The Benicia Independent*, a digital news publication/blog.

I'm writing to seek official comment from Compass Real Estate's Benicia branch regarding the conduct of Janet Roberson, who I understand is a Compass employee. (If I am mistaken, kindly inform me.)

Recently, a Benicia resident named Billy Innes posted an [op-ed to the Vallejo Times-Herald](#) regarding Ms. Roberson's public behavior. Her comments at a recent school board are now a matter of public record. The text of Mr. Innes's op-ed are available below my questions and include examples of the incendiary language Ms. Roberson has used to further her agenda, which I describe as anti-equity, anti-trans, anti-Black, and anti-choice.

I plan to post Mr. Innes's op-ed to the *Independent* site and email it to our subscribers and supporters. Our post will reach between 1,300 and 1,500 people. It will reference that Ms. Roberson is currently employed by Compass.

I would be pleased to share a comment from Compass and I invite you to consider the questions I pose below as well as review Ms. Roberson's site.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope to post on this matter by the middle of next week, May 3. I will wait until May 2 to receive comment from this email address. If I do not hear back from this email by 9 am on May 1, I will be in touch with your corporate offices to ask if they would like to provide comment. Then I will post.

My two cents? It seems unfair to me that Compass, whose DEI policies I have reviewed at length, would be associated with such a hateful person. As a former client of a Compass agent, I had a great experience working with the company. Because I had that personal experience and because I went through your corporate communications regarding equity and so on, I personally know Ms. Roberson's values do not reflect the company's values.

But the questions I have about how Compass enforces DEI policies when someone is openly hateful like this remain. The public deserves to know how Compass can reign in someone's internalized hate for transgender kids and equity-seeking Black Americans (and especially Black children) so Compass clients can have a fair and decent experience when buying and selling property. I shudder.

I look forward to your reply.

Nathalie Christian

nathalie@mngl.ca

Please provide answers to the the following:

1) Please review this page that Ms. Roberson has dedicated to

Equity: <https://www.beniciafreedom.org/equity>

- Does this page and its imagery align with Compass's DEI values, goals, and training? How do they differ?
- Ms. Roberson includes Twitter commentary on this same page to dispute the value of "equity" training and pursuit of equity in general, including:

- *Equity is a stupid idea. It implies that dwarves ought to be NBA players and that idiots should be PhDs and If everyone ends up in the same place than [sic] we can only go as far as the laziest, most selfish, and egocentric person is willing to go.*

Does the above definition of equity align with Compass's definition of equity?

3) How does Compass ensure its realtors and sales associates who openly display bigotry, racism, homophobia, and sexism do not reflect that behavior in professional circumstances, e.g., selling and buying homes for clients who may be Black or transgender?

2) Please review the cartoon Ms. Roberson has posted. This page features a Photoshopped bastardization of a popular cartoon that typically explains the difference between "equality" and "equity." Ms. Roberson's version utilizes explicit imagery, including decapitated children. This image is below. Please be warned the image shows mutilated children. (Keep scrolling down; my questions continue below the image.)

Does this portrayal of violence and the mutilation of a Black family, especially Black children, indicate that Ms. Roberson is capable of serving Black clients with fairness and empathy?

And more generally:

- 1) What DEI training does Compass offer its agents, and how frequently?
- 2) Are managers and other leadership positions offered leadership-specific DEI training?
- 3) Is DEI training mandated or optional?
- 4) What professional discipline do Compass agents receive when they are found to be openly engaging in divisive, hateful, harassing, or abusive rhetoric in their personal lives, if any?
- 5) How does Compass engage in fair hiring practices for it's associated realtors?
- 6) How does Compass follow fair housing practices to ensure personal bias does not affect buyers or sellers of a real estate transaction?

Billy Innes's op-ed is below.

----- Original message -----

Subject: [Benicia Resist!] Billy Innes: Tomorrow belongs to ...?

Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 9:15 AM

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2023/04/27/billy-innes-tomorrow-belongs-to/>

Benicia School Board meetings epitomize the civil war battlefields in the volatile political/cultural war that cripples our nation.

I'd encourage readers to find the April 20 Benicia School Board meeting on YouTube.

At the 44:20 mark, readers will witness Compass Real Estate's Agent Janet Roberson deliver a lengthy, bigoted diatribe denouncing the gender-inclusionary language utilized by Benicia Unified School District.

The language Roberson quotes exists for the sake of creating a safe, inclusive and accepting environment for all students attending Benicia Schools, regardless of gender identification or sexual preference.

To hear Janet Roberson tell it, however, she'd have you believing that Benicia's schools spend the entire school day engaged in sexualizing and "grooming" Benicia's children for an alternative sexual lifestyle.

As a retired public schoolteacher, I can say with certainty that "grooming," along with gender identification/inclusivity, is hardly at the forefront of 21st-century public school curriculum. Instead, such gender-inclusive language (the very language that enrages Roberson) exists as a way to protect and safeguard marginalized students from self-loathing bigots such as realtor Janet Roberson.

But unfortunately, it gets worse.

Much worse.

Compass Real Estate's Janet Roberson also hosts a website and Facebook page called "Benicia Freedom." Explore these web pages and you will find a plethora of racist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-COVID safety, and anti-COVID vaccine writings, along with content that favors Eugenics.

For those blessedly unfamiliar with the concept, eugenics is the forced sterilization/execution of those who are genetically "undesirable" in order to obtain an ideal population. Eugenics was practiced by the M.D.s who worked at concentration camps such as Auschwitz and Dachau. Yes, proponents of eugenics have their voices heard on "Benicia Freedom."

This in itself would be bad enough if Janet Roberson was one lone bigoted parent with web design abilities who's allowed to rant like a lunatic at school board meetings. However, Jan Roberson is also a local realtor whose unapologetic bigotry might well affect a marginalized person's ability to purchase a home, contingent upon whether or not that buyer passes Janet Roberson's racial/sexual purity test.

And if this were not bad enough, it gets still even worse. The Benicia Police Officers Association (BPD's union) identifies itself as an entity that is "friends" with and is supportive of Benicia Freedom's Facebook page.

Since Benicia no longer has its former police chief as its City Manager, I hope Benicia's elected leaders will feel at liberty to investigate this disturbing alliance between Benicia's law enforcement officers and this denigrating page.

And most worst of all, up until mid-March Amy Hirsh (who recently found a legal way to steal a school board seat from rightfully chosen Trustee Ariana Martinez) was a public friend/follower of "Benicia Freedom"). Hirsh distanced herself from "Benicia Freedom" as its pages gained increased notoriety/negative attention and Hirsh's student-funded \$60,000 April 11 "special election" drew near.

Still, many of those who publicly endorsed/supported Amy Hirsh's stolen school board seat continue to be unapologetic followers and supporters of the vile content found on "Benicia Freedom." Along with friends of "Benicia Freedom," Amy Hirsh was also endorsed by current and former elected leaders such as CeCe Grubbs, Lionel Largaespada and Diane Ferrucci.

If Vallejo is California's most diverse city, Benicia often shows itself to be its evil twin antithesis.

I am grateful that Benicia's school board still maintains an intelligent and compassionate 3-2 majority (I place Trustee Grubbs in the same company as the very bigot she endorses).

One prays that the hateful, scapegoating, and fear-mongering voices and politics of Janet Roberson, CeCe Grubbs, Amy Hirsh — as well as members of Benicia's police force — are the anomaly in Benicia. One hopes that these spiritual sons and daughters of Hitler are but a small-minded and small-numbered minority within the city of Benicia. We'll see ...

Welcome to the new civil war.

— William "Billy" Innes/Benicia--

RECENT POSTS

- Our Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 13
June 11, 2023
- Meeting Reflections - May 9, 2023
May 13, 2023
- Our Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 9
May 3, 2023
- Meeting Reflections - April 11, 2023
April 16, 2023
- Our Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 11
April 2, 2023
- Meeting Reflections - March 14, 2023
March 4, 2023
- Meeting Reflections - February 22, 2023
February 19, 2023
- MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
February 11, 2023
- Our Next Meeting - February, 2023
January 13, 2023
- Meeting Reflections - January 10, 2023, Birdseye, Scott, and ADEM election
January 12, 2023
- Your 2023 ADEM Election - Everything you need to know
January 12, 2023
- Choosing our Assembly District 11 Democratic Party delegates
December 29, 2022
- Meeting Reflections - November 15, 2022 - Election results and where from here
November 30, 2022
- Meeting Reflections - October 11, Lori Wilson & State Ballot Props
October 12, 2022
- Benicia Artist Yard Sign Auction is LIVE!
September 15, 2022

Archives
Select Month ▾



OUR OFFICERS & STEERING COMMITTEE - PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF BENICIA

Meet the Team

That's YOU!
TOGETHER we are the Progressive Dems of Benicia!

But meanwhile, here are the volunteers who keep PDB on its toes - Our Officers (Executive Board)...



Kathy Kerridge

Chair



Maggie Kolk

Secretary



Nathalie Christian

Treasurer



Lisa Reinertson

Vice Chair

Search... 🔍

PDB CALENDAR

< 2023 >
July
List ▾
No Events

JOIN US

Our meetings are listed in the calendar above.
And for an easy online way to show your support, check out our BECOME A MEMBER page.
Already a member? PAY DUES / DONATE here.

SUBSCRIBE - RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF NEW POSTS.

Type your email.. SUBSCRIBE

BENICIA AIR QUALITY

- Purple Air: Real-time Air Quality
- Benicia Community Air Monitoring Program (BCAMP): Today's Status
- Valero Benicia Refinery Monitors
- WindFinder: Current Winds
- AirWatchBayArea: Air Quality in Benicia
- Bay Area Air District (BAAQMD)
- AirNow (U.S. EPA)
- MORE DETAILED INFORMATION & LINKS

Nathalie Christian is the treasurer for the Progressive Democrats of Benicia

www.progressivedemocratsofbenicia.org