

Aurora's Mayor Coffman is the adult in the room

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City Council meetings in Aurora are theater. Farleft activists toss f-bombs at councilmen and bang pieces of wood on the podium — spectacles of grievance, shaming and childishness. Even the progressive Aurora Sentinel calls it the “Aurora City Council Sitcom for the Sad,” noting ex-Denver school board member Auon'tai Anderson “regularly delights in berating, shaming, annoying, enraging and everything but engaging (council) Republicans.”



The council's left-wing majority expanded public comment this year, letting individuals speak once at the start, again at the end and once on every agenda item.

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With Anderson, it's always about

“The Tay Show.” Six turns at the podium on Aug. 10, four on Aug. 24 — the latest episodes in his years-long saga.

On Aug. 24, council took up a union-negotiated police and fire pay raise that coincided with the seven-year anniversary of the encounter that led to Elijah McClain's death. Anderson told council McClain was “murdered by the Aurora Fire Department and the Aurora Police Department.”

No defendant was convicted of murder.

Anderson used his first turn to lecture Coffman for glancing at his phone while a grieving family waited to speak. “The mayor cannot pull away from his cellphone,” he said. “Let that sink in.”

He spent another four-minute slot mostly in silence, declaring: “I can utilize my time to be silent, because I've done it before. Watch me.”

Au contraire, Auon'tai: Nothing says solemn reflection like announcing the rerun beforehand. He ended with a promise: "I will stop the functions of this city government if that's what it requires me to do... And today you all f—ed up severely."

Coffman took 30 seconds at the end to address decorum. He said he'd intentionally ignored Anderson — or, as Coffman called him, "former Denver school board member Tay Anderson" — during his first turn because he "wanted him to feel what it was like when he doesn't listen to us (and) disrupts from the audience."

Coffman recalled Aug. 10, when Anderson's sixth soliloquy ended with three minutes of gleeful banging his mini-gavel. It was "something that only a four-year-old would do."

He's not wrong. What mother would tolerate three minutes of that from a child demanding attention? A taste of Anderson's own medicine worked. He rose a fourth time in response — and proved the mayor's point.

He opened by correcting his name and the title he no longer holds. It's former DPS vice president, you see! Four minutes later, he closed by calling the mayor "Mike."

Anderson claimed Coffman is "very triggered by a piece of wood hitting this podium." He said he lives "rentfree" in Coffman's head, intends to "kick my feet up in my new apartment" and will "make it my mission to make every remaining day" of the mayor's term "absolute hell."

Ninety seconds later, he demanded Coffman "stop allowing me to live rent-free in your head." Thirty seconds about childish behavior became four minutes of proof that "this Black face can trigger the mayor of Aurora."

"Allow those families to take the space that I currently occupy," Anderson said, four minutes into his fourth monologue about his name, title and gavel.

Nobody in that chamber was occupying more space than Tay Anderson. Nobody ever does. It wasn't Coffman's first run-in. After activists disrupted a January 2025 meeting, the even-keeled former congressman confronted Anderson.

Anderson framed it as mortal peril: "I knew my life hung in the balance."

Aurora's then-69-year-old mayor was one wrong move from going Mortal Kombat.

Decorum is Coffman's responsibility as mayor. He said nothing about race — only Anderson's antics and what would earn his attention. Yet Anderson made it about race.

We've seen this movie before. During his Denver school board years, Anderson reached for racism, white supremacy and anti-Blackness whenever controversy found him. He invoked race during a 2022 stop for speeding in a school zone: "I just don't want to get shot by you."

Then he called the police chief to complain.

Anderson's greatest hits include "Slavin' Up in DPS," a cringeworthy rap posted after his colleagues censured him — a censure he called racist. It followed a monthslong DPS investigation that found he'd pursued illicit relationships with multiple underage high school girls.

Nowadays, Anderson constantly calls out Coffman, who gave him 30 seconds last week. It's pretty clear who's "living rent-free" in whose head.

I say this from experience. I once kicked my feet up there myself.

In 2023, I reported Anderson spent \$18,382 in taxpayer money — \$13,000 over his share of the DPS board's budget on hotels, airfare and private movie screenings.

For his final board member speech, he chose the public's podium instead of the dais. Celebrating his travels, he turned to me, observing in the back.

"Yes, Jimmy," Anderson proclaimed. "Across America."

Even then, accountability lived rentfree in Anderson's head.

"When he exercises more maturity," Coffman closed, "I will certainly pay attention to him because he'll have earned it."

Alas, the mayor may want to settle in. As I wrote in 2023, "It's clear (Anderson) has no shame — nor a desire to accept accountability for his actions."

Three years later, the venue's changed. The Tay Show hasn't.

