

COMMUNITY STATEMENT

Friday, March 17, 2017

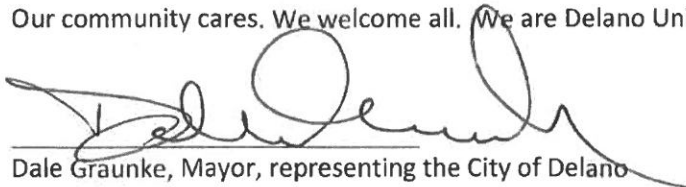
This past week a despicable and traumatic crime was committed against members of our community. This racist crime of hate against one of our families will not be tolerated. Our hearts are broken as we witness the damage upon this family and our community. This does not represent the values we hold dear or the community we aspire to be.

We stand together, as Delano United, to take action as a community to address this act of racism and ensure that all our community members know they are welcome. The outpouring of support from the community has been what we'd expect – supportive, caring, and wanting to take action. This past week the community has coordinated acts of kindness with regards to this incident, and we are not done.

Short-term acts express how much we care, and our long-term commitment to root out any sentiments of hate from our community will enforce what we believe. As leaders of our community, we will be coordinating our actions together in the days, weeks, and months ahead to show support for all our residents. Additionally, we are embarking on a sustained effort to reinforce education and awareness of issues of inclusivity within our community.

We know the broader issue of racial justice expands beyond our community borders. We want the victims of this week's crime to know they are welcome in our community. We want others who have felt unwelcome in the past to know we stand with them too.

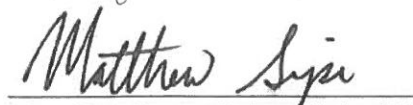
Our community cares. We welcome all. We are Delano United.



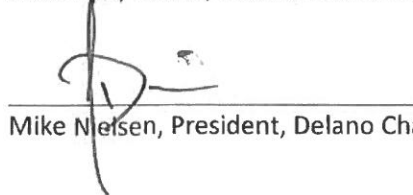
Dale Graunke, Mayor, representing the City of Delano



Amy Johnson, Chair, Delano School Board, representing Delano Public Schools



Matt Sipe, Pastor, Delano United Methodist Church, representing the Delano faith communities



Mike Nielsen, President, Delano Chamber of Commerce, representing the Delano business community