



## Statement from Renton Mayor & City Council President Condemning Hate Speech



RENTON MAYOR ARMONDO PAVONE AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT RANDY CORMAN issued the following statement against hate speech during their regular Council meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021. The statement followed a recent incident in downtown Renton.

"We in Renton stand for a community that celebrates diversity and understands that we are better when we stand together, build bridges and seek to understand one another. As one of the first cities to incorporate inclusion as part of our vision statement and business plan, we believe that differences enrich us, and hate has no place here. On August 3, 2020, the Mayor and City Council affirmed the City's commitment to opposing discrimination against all groups in Resolution No. 4414.

We condemn hate speech. Hate speech has the effect of dehumanizing people and carries forward harmful stereotypes and propagates false beliefs through the use of statements of inferiority, slurs, expressions of contempt, disgust or dismissal, cursing, and calls for exclusion or segregation. Such behavior should be and is unacceptable in a community such as Renton that maintains diversity as one of its core values.

As community leaders, we pledge to continue to teach, cultivate and model the values of openness, diversity and tolerance. We are committed to a standard that makes all of our residents feel safe and valued. Positive change starts at home, with each one of us. We urge you to move forward with love and compassion and empathy. Stay united and together make our community better and our city exceptional."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Pavone", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*Mayor Armondo Pavone*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Randy Corman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*Council President Randy Corman*