



STATEMENT REGARDING RACIST INCIDENT DURING MIDTOWN CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

I am deeply disturbed by the appalling incident that transpired during the recent virtual Midtown Citizens Advisory Council meeting. The racist attack directed at Mary Black, the youngest city council member, is not only abhorrent but completely unacceptable in any community, especially here in Raleigh.

No individual should ever be subjected to such hateful language and vitriol. It is reprehensible that Mary, or anyone, would have to endure such bigotry and harassment. The use of derogatory slurs, discriminatory remarks, and dehumanizing behavior has no place in our society.

Mary Black's courage in speaking out against this injustice is commendable. No one should have to face such aggression, particularly in the pursuit of serving their community. The fact that individuals felt emboldened to spew such hatred from behind the veil of anonymity is deeply troubling and underscores the work that remains to be done in combating racism and intolerance.

As a candidate for Raleigh Mayor, I stand in solidarity with Mary Black and reaffirm my commitment to fostering a community where every individual is treated with dignity, respect, and equality. We must collectively reject racism in all its forms and work towards building a more inclusive and equitable city for all residents.

It is my hope that the Council will take swift and decisive action in addressing this incident. and implementing measures to ensure that such acts of hatred are never tolerated within their meetings or any other public forum. We must come together as a community to condemn racism and bigotry unequivocally and strive towards a future where incidents like these are relegated to the past.

In Raleigh, we must continue to stand up against injustice, champion the rights of all individuals, and work towards a more just and equitable society for generations to come.