



May 4, 2018

On Tuesday May 1, 2018, a group of protestors distributed a flyer in Olympia's South Capitol neighborhood that supported a demonstration at Mayor Cheryl Selby's home. This flyer depicted the Mayor with an arrow through her head and the text *"Eat your pheasant, drink your wine. Your days are numbered bourgeois swine"*. Additional text on the back of the flyer indicated that one reason why this unknown group was demonstrating at her home was because *"Mayor Cheryl Selby pays lip service to the houseless community, yet acted as a decision maker in defunding the InterFaith Works Warming Center in downtown Olympia."*

Interfaith Works unequivocally denounces violence or threats of violence of any kind. We specifically condemn the deeply disturbing flier and Tuesday night's demonstration, and want to be very clear that our organization was not involved with either in any way. Additionally, this group did not consult with guests of the Interfaith Works Overnight Shelter or the Community Care Center before presuming to act on their behalf.

Interfaith Works has worked for peace and justice for 45 years in this community through diverse and intentional bridge-building. Working to heal community pain and bring people together through interfaith understanding and providing emergency shelter to vulnerable people on the streets has always been at the core of our role in Thurston County.

We are deeply saddened at the strong divisions that are present in our community today. We face huge challenges posed by population growth and a changing economy. We have a humanitarian crisis on our streets, business owners are struggling, affordable housing is severely lacking and people with serious challenges related to their mental health and substance use experience long delays when they are seeking help from an overwhelmed health care system. Since December, five people in our community have died from homelessness.

This is a time, more than ever, to draw on our individual and collective strengths to weather these challenges together, without violence and/or threats of violence tearing us apart and weakening our ability to make long-term, sustainable change.

The residents of Olympia and governmental, non-profit and community leaders have a deep well of compassion and strong motivation to make positive, effective changes -- we always have. We have overcome differences many times before in this community to come together for the greater good. We've done this by having open and civil conversations, respecting each

other even if we are not seeing things from the same side, hearing each other out and allowing for the raw emotion that is inevitably part of these complex issues to be valued.

Interfaith Works remains steadfast in our commitment to bridging divides and staying grounded in our core values of peace, justice and partnership among all facets of our diverse community.

Interfaith Works
Board of Directors

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Executive Director

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