

Dear Board of County Commissioners and Clackamas County Employees:

We, the members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (EDIC), condemn the Islamophobic and transphobic social media posts attributed to Commissioner Mark Shull. Additionally, Commissioner Shull has made disparaging comments about immigrants, refugees, women, and other oppressed groups. Clackamas County employees are a diverse and non-homogenous group that includes the very people that Commissioner Shull referenced. When you insult or harm our co-workers, you are harming us all. We are employees of the County who are proud to work side-by-side with our Muslim colleagues, with our transgender colleagues, and with everyone who lives, works or plays in Clackamas County.

We are angry, and deeply disturbed by Commissioner Shull's comments. We stand against hate and intolerance.

To our co-workers, we stand with you, support you and will work to fight hate and intolerance.

The EDIC is concerned that our colleagues and community members will feel unwelcome and unsafe in their jobs and in our offices and in our community centers; or worse, that the attitudes expressed by Commissioner Shull will stoke ugly reactions from County residents and employees. As we've seen at our nation's capitol earlier this month, when public leaders use their voice and power to promote hate by othering, it can lead to violence.

To the Board of County Commissioners, we want you to know that we will not stand by quietly and witness hate and intolerance. Building public trust is eroded from destructive words and actions. We expect more from our elected officials and want to feel proud of our workplace, not fear and sadness. We commend the Resolution of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners in the Matter of Censure of Mark Shull passed on 1/14/2021. We will see your commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, not just through your written statements, but in your budgets, programs and policies that you establish. We are here to help, to collaborate, and to see this work succeed.

To Commissioner Shull, we are hurt and disgusted. We ask that you resign immediately. Your continued membership on the Commission is an affront to what we are working so hard for in Clackamas County, to make an inclusive and fulfilling workplace.

Sincerely,

The members of the EDIC
Approved on 1/14/2021.