



City of Edmonds Media Release

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA

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To: Media

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MAYOR OFFERS RESPONSE TO WHITE NATIONALIST FLYERS ***Flyers Distributed in Meadowdale & Seaview Neighborhoods***

(Edmonds, WA) - In response to the distribution of flyers from a white nationalist group known as *Patriot Front* to homes in the Meadowdale and Seaview neighborhoods of Edmonds, as well as in Seattle, Tacoma and Bellevue, Mayor Dave Earling has posted the following response on the City's Facebook page:

"As your Mayor, in response to the distribution of white nationalist flyers to homes in parts of our city this past weekend (as well as elsewhere in the region), I must say that the messaging promoted by those flyers is totally inappropriate in our community. Edmonds is an inclusive and welcoming community, and messages of intolerance, supremacy, and exclusion are not acceptable in our city. We join other nearby communities in their serious concern over this behavior. Please know that the Edmonds Police Department is monitoring the situation for any potential escalation or associated illegal activity. In the meantime, I wish to convey the City's sincerest conviction that Edmonds is a community that embraces inclusion, diversity and equity for all our residents, visitors and businesses."

The Edmonds Diversity Commission issued a statement that joins in the Mayor's concern and encourages the public to attend its upcoming meeting this Wednesday at 6pm at the Edmonds Senior Center if they wish to comment on this incident during the meeting's public comment period.

"Certainly people have a right to espouse and express their opinions, but I find it highly objectionable that this group would distribute its message to unwitting home owners in this way," added Mayor Earling.

Commenting on the incident, Police Chief Al Compaan added: "The Edmonds Police Department is committed to respecting the Constitutional Rights of all people. At the same time, actions motivated by bias or prejudice have no place in our community. Conduct constituting a hate crime will be vigorously pursued to the fullest extent of the law. We encourage our residents to report any activities of this type so that we may initiate a thorough investigation to hold the perpetrator(s) accountable."

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