Public Statement from the Roanoke Rapids City Council

Each member of the Roanoke Rapids City Council is in full agreement with this statement. We stand together, united as a Council, in the belief that every person in our community deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and equality, regardless of race, color, background, or heritage.

Recent comments shared on social media have caused concern and hurt within our community. We want to be clear that the City Council does not condone or agree with words or expressions that are racist, discriminatory, or demeaning toward any individual or group of people.

While individuals speak for themselves, we as members of the City Council have a responsibility to speak for the values we believe should guide our community. **We represent all people—all races, all colors, all backgrounds, and every neighborhood in our city.** No resident should ever feel that they are less valued, less welcome, or less deserving of respect because of who they are or the color of their skin.

Our community is stronger when we choose respect over division and when we are willing to stand together against words and actions that diminish the dignity of others.

We recognize that public trust is built not only through what we say, but through how we lead. The City Council remains committed to serving every resident fairly, listening to every part of our community, and working toward a city where everyone knows they belong.

We encourage our community to move forward together—not by ignoring hurtful words, but by rejecting prejudice, treating one another with respect, and demonstrating through our actions the kind of community we want to be.

Hate and racism do not represent the values of the Roanoke Rapids City Council. We stand for dignity. We stand for respect. And above all, we stand with and represent all of our people.

Rex Stainback (District 1)

Curt Strickland (District 1)

Sandra Bryant, Mayor Pro Tem (District 2)

Andy Jackson (District 2)

W. Keith Bell (District 3)