



MEDIA RELEASE

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Statement from Sonoma County Mayors

Sonoma County Mayors Condemn Violent Act Committed at Home of Rohnert Park Council Member

Sonoma County – On Sunday night July 4th, the home of a Rohnert Park Councilmember Willy Linares was attacked when an unknown person set fire to a trash can using fireworks. This attack comes after multiple threats and attempts at intimidation following the Rohnert Park City Council’s vote to ban fireworks on March 23rd of this year.

Sonoma County Mayors believe that this kind of violence and intimidation has no place in Sonoma County—especially on the Fourth of July, our Independence Day when Americans celebrate the birth of our democracy and the great American experiment of government “of, by, and for the people.”

“In a society where our vote is the highest expression of our democratic freedoms, an attack on an elected official is an attack on democracy itself,” said Cloverdale Mayor Marta Cruz. “I stand with Councilmember Linares and his family and the Rohnert Park City Council and condemn this cowardly act.”

“Let’s put this into perspective: someone almost burned down a Councilmember’s home with his family inside, presumably because they disagreed with his vote. Not only have they failed to persuade anyone to change their opinion, but they’ve also proven themselves to be a coward for not coming forward immediately,” said Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers.

“These sorts of actions should not be tolerated against individuals who are executing their responsibilities as elected officials,” said Sebastopol Mayor Una Glass.

“If this act is truly an attempt to intimidate a City Councilmember for their vote to represent the whole of their citizenry, it is reprehensible and cowardly. Councilmember Linares deserves the utmost respect while serving his community with dignity and courage,” said Cotati Mayor John C. Moore.

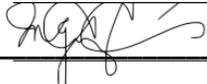
“I want to thank the community, Rohnert Park Public Safety, and our fellow elected officials throughout the County for their heartfelt support of Councilmember Linares and his family. This was the act of a misguided individual and does not reflect the Rohnert Park that I know,” said Rohnert Park Mayor Gerard Giudice.

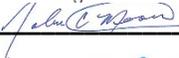
Sonoma County Mayors strongly support the efforts of organizations like the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization committed to promoting civic engagement and voter education, their vast resources are a tool of education for voters.

Sonoma County Mayors ask all County residents to renew their commitment to constructive political engagement, dignity and equality for all.

Sonoma County Mayors call on our fellow elected officials, community leaders, the business community, service organizations, non-profits, and community activists to condemn all acts of political violence and return to civil discourse and respect for the rule of law.

This statement has been signed by the Mayors of the following nine cities in Sonoma County:

Cloverdale Mayor Marta Cruz 

Cotati Mayor John C. Moore 

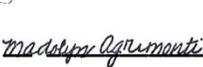
Healdsburg Mayor Evelyn Mitchell 

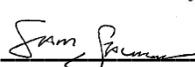
Petaluma Mayor Teresa Barrett 

Rohnert Park Mayor Gerard Giudice 

Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Rogers 

Sebastopol Mayor Una Glass 

Sonoma Mayor Madolyn Agrimonti 

Windsor Mayor Sam Salmon 

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