



## **CLARK COUNTY DEMOCRATS**

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### ***Statement on the Events at the protest September 10 in Vancouver, Washington***

#### ***Vancouver (WA) – September 16, 2016***

Last weekend, Vancouver, Washington joined the growing list of U.S. cities experiencing some level of violence or threat of violence when protesters and counter-protesters clashed on issues revolving around race, nationalism and religion.

The Clark County Democrats would like to recognize and thank the Vancouver Police Department, Clark County Sheriff's Department and local officials for their professional, calm and effective handling of what could have become an explosive, perhaps deadly situation.

We also want to state loud and clear that any violence or threat of violence is unacceptable when Americans are exercising their right to peaceably assemble for any reason as protected by the United States Constitution.

Without hesitation, we condemn violence in protests from any group identifying itself as "left" or "right" wing. We want to be clear that groups like "Antifa" have no association with the local democratic party nor do we support or condone their actions. There is never a reason to justify violence against fellow Americans or vandalism to personal property and small businesses.

That, being said, we are alarmed by the continuing rise in white nationalism and racial tensions which is being contributed to by the president. As recent as yesterday, President Trump was defending his remarks equating the peaceful protesters in Charlottesville with violent Nazi sympathizers. The president's attitude and words have a great danger of spurring hate groups into further agitation and potential violence. We would ask the president to recall his own tweet from September 2014 quoting Ronald Reagan that "Peace is not the absence of conflict, it's the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means".

*For more information, please contact CCDCC Chair Rich Rogers at [chair@clarkcountydems.com](mailto:chair@clarkcountydems.com)*