

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-0081

A Resolution formally denouncing Mayor Nadine Woodward's actions that affiliated the City of Spokane and its residents with former Washington State Representative and identified domestic terrorist, Matt Shea, and known anti-LGBTQ extremist Sean Feucht.

**WHEREAS**, Matt Shea represented the 4th legislative district in the Washington House of Representatives from 2009 to 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, an independent investigation commissioned by the Washington State House of Representatives found that "Representative Shea, as a leader in the Patriot Movement, planned, engaged in and promoted a total of three armed conflicts of political violence against the United States Government in three states outside the state of Washington over a three-year period;" and

**WHEREAS**, this independent investigation found that Shea "has also used fear to intimidate those who directly oppose him politically..." and Shea and the Patriot Movement "... rely on radicalization of individuals to the point they are willing to take up arms against the United States to carry out their objectives;" and

**WHEREAS**, Matt Shea has distributed a manifesto titled "Biblical Basis for War" which in part states, "If they do not yield – kill all males;" and

**WHEREAS**, on August 20, 2023, Mayor Nadine Woodward was at a public event accepting the support of Matt Shea; and

**WHEREAS**, video images of the public event show that minutes before calling Mayor Nadine Woodward on stage, Matt Shea listed the problems he believes the country is facing, specifically naming homosexual marriage and transgender issues; and

**WHEREAS**, while thousands of people had to evacuate their homes over the same weekend due to the numerous wildfires in our region, and while our brave first responders worked tirelessly to fight the wildfires, video images of the public event also show Mr. Feucht called for a "fire that would consume Spokane;" and

**WHEREAS**, video images of the public event show that, following her appearance on stage with Shea and Feucht, Mayor Woodward embraced Shea; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of the Spokane community have raised concerns about this public appearance and the implications of Mayor Woodward accepting support from Matt Shea; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Spokane community have called on elected officials to take responsibility and lead by example and to uphold the values of respect, inclusivity, and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Spokane deserve leadership that upholds the highest standards of integrity, empathy, and respect for all, regardless of their background or beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 24, 2023, the Spokane City Council received a letter from a collective of Spokane faith leaders in which they called on the Spokane City Council to hold fast to the separation of church and state, reject attempts to cloak bigotry in religious language, and make clear that civic leaders give no support to the ideology of Christian Nationalism or white supremacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Spokane City Council does not condone the hateful and dangerous behavior and beliefs espoused by Matt Shea and Sean Feucht, nor does it condone Mayor Woodward's public appearance with him; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 8, 2016, the Spokane City Council passed resolution 2016-0014, which expressed the Council's desire to sign the International Charter for Compassionate Communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor David Condon signed this charter on February 22, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, choosing to uphold the principles of compassion is central to a community's ability to create a caring and inclusive culture and climate; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 10, 2023, the Spokane City Council passed ordinance C36403, which adopted as the motto of the City the phrase "In Spokane We All Belong," which Mayor Woodward returned without her signature; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Woodward's public appearance at the event has received negative, national attention in *Rolling Stone* and *The Washington Post*; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Spokane City Council formally denounces Mayor Nadine Woodward's actions that affiliated the City of Spokane and its residents with former Washington State Representative and identified domestic terrorist, Matt Shea, and known anti-LGBTQ extremist Sean Feucht; and


**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, the Spokane City Council believes in separation of church and state and an individual's right to practice religion freely; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that the Spokane City Council maintains its collective pledge to accept and serve all citizens of our community, regardless of race, religion, color, and sexual identity; and will never accept ideologies that promote fear, hatred, violence, and bigotry; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, consistent with its official motto, it is the aspiration of the City of Spokane to enhance the quality of life and to promote sense of belonging for

every single citizen, and that City of Spokane will continue to help make Spokane a better place – where people feel safe, seen, and heard.

Passed by the City Council this 25 day of September, 2023.

  
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City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
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Assistant City Attorney

