



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL · CITY OF SEATTLE

Mayor Joseph P. Riley  
P.O. Box 652  
Charleston, SC 29402

June 22, 2015

Dear Mayor Riley, Councilmembers and Pastor Goff,

We could hardly be farther from you geographically, yet we share your grief.

Our hearts were broken by the shooting deaths in your beautiful city last week. Like you, we have witnessed hate-fueled shootings in our own city and have struggled to deal with the aftermath.

We wanted to reach out to you and the families within your community who are dealing now with this grievous loss and let you know we are thinking of you. We have been moved by the dignity, compassion and forgiveness expressed by the AME congregation and the response from so many in your city.

The courage of the surviving families and friends is an inspiration. The loss of Rev. Daniel Simmons, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Rev. DePayne Middleton, Myra Thompson, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Cynthia Hurd and Tywanza Sanders shot by one gunman is deeply felt in Seattle, too.

We are reminded of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s statement: "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." We hope that love may shine through in many ways in the days and months ahead, and that healing can happen in your city as well as in others across our land.

We hold you and the people of Charleston in our thoughts and extend our hearts to you.

Respectfully,

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Council President Tim Burgess

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

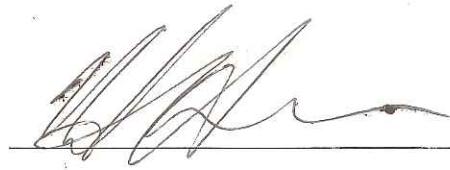
Councilmember Jean Godden

Councilmember John Okamoto

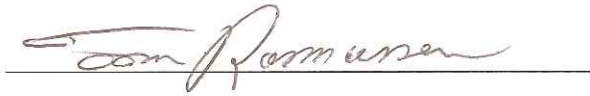
Councilmember Bruce Harrell



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember Tom Rasmussen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Cc:

District One Councilmember F. Gary White Jr.  
District Two Councilmember Rodney Williams  
District Three Councilmember James Lewis Jr.  
District Four Councilmember Robert M. Mitchell  
District Five Councilmember Marvin D. Wagner  
District Six Councilmember William Dudley Gregorie  
District Seven Councilmember Perry K. Waring  
District Eight Councilmember Michael S. Seekings  
District Nine Councilmember Aubry Alexander  
District Ten Councilmember Dean C. Riegel  
District Eleven Councilmember William A. Moody, Jr.  
District Twelve Councilmember Kathleen G. Wilson  
Pastor Norvel Goff