



*The Best of Oregon*

# CITY of BEAVERTON

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 16, 2016**

## **MAYOR, CITY COUNCILORS, DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD AFFIRM BEAVERTON AS WELCOMING COMMUNITY**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – The City of Beaverton’s Diversity Advisory Board, mayor, and city council released open letters today reaffirming Beaverton as a welcoming, inclusive community.

Both letters express the city’s continued commitment to welcoming all people and creating a safe environment for all residents.

“Beaverton is proud to be known as one of the safest and most diverse cities in our region,” wrote Mayor Denny Doyle and Beaverton City Councilors Lacey Beaty, Betty Bode, Mark Fagin, and Marc San Soucie in a joint letter. “We recognize and our deeply saddened that many members of our community are currently feeling targeted and fearful, particularly communities of color, immigrants and refugees, Muslims, women, and LGBTQ people.”

In a separate open letter, the city’s Diversity Advisory Board wrote, “There have been many hurtful words and acts across our nation through the latest election and after...We will continue to empower communities to know their rights and engage with those who disagree.”

To read the complete text of both open letters, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/1634/Welcoming-Beaverton](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/1634/Welcoming-Beaverton).

The Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) advises the mayor and city council on equity and inclusion strategies that strengthen connections between diverse communities living in Beaverton and city government. The board is composed of 13 members who are appointed for three year terms.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

**###**

November 14, 2016

An Open Letter to the City of Beaverton residents

As we have shared in the Diversity Advisory Board's plan for the city: diversity, equity, and inclusion matter because we have a shared fate as individuals within the Beaverton community. Regardless of political views, we feel a tremendous responsibility to reaffirm the values of building a place that is welcoming and embracing of *all* people. We commit to making our voices heard in a positive and respectful way, while protecting the wellbeing of our communities and our families.

There have been many hurtful words and acts across our nation through the latest election and after. Most important, harassment and intimidation of community members including: people with disabilities, immigrants, the LGBTQ community and marginalized people of color including our Latino/a and Muslim brothers and sisters. We have seen these things not only occur in our neighborhoods, but with our children - and no community should tolerate that behavior.

We will continue to empower communities to know their rights and engage with those who disagree. We believe in the Constitution and the rule of law. We believe in our city and the ability to come together. Despite disagreements, lifestyles, political views, language, color, nationality or any other differences that make us a wonderfully diverse city, we pledge to create a safe environment for all our residents.

Sincerely Yours,

The Beaverton Diversity Advisory Board



November 16, 2016

### An Open Letter to the Beaverton Community:

In this time of uncertainty and great polarization in our country, the City of Beaverton strongly reaffirms our commitment to being a safe and welcoming community for all. We vigorously reject hateful rhetoric and acts of violence and intimidation based on identity, and declare that they have no place in our city.

Beaverton is proud to be known as one of the safest and most diverse cities in our region. With strong neighborhoods, schools, and civic participation, we have become a vibrant and growing community that is home to families of all backgrounds.

We recognize and are deeply saddened that many members of our community are currently feeling targeted and fearful, particularly communities of color, immigrants and refugees, Muslims, women, and LGBTQ people. It pains us to hear that children are expressing confusion and fear that their loved ones and friends may be separated and adults, that their children are no longer safe in our community.

Now more than ever, we must come together as a community to build unity and respect across differences. We need to reach out to those most vulnerable among us to show love and support. We must stand up to messages of hate and acts of hostility so that everyone can feel a sense of safety and belonging.

As your city government, we have worked hard to foster inclusivity and build a shared identity that emphasizes the strengths of all who call Beaverton home. City leadership remains dedicated to these goals and values and to working tirelessly to make them a reality. We commit to continuing to lead on a local level to ensure that Beaverton remains an actively welcoming community, and we ask everyone to join us in this effort.

Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle and Beaverton City Councilors Lacey Beaty, Betty Bode, Mark Fagin, and Marc San Soucie