

## Proclamation in Support of Fir Lawn Lutheran

Whereas, violence in any form is an affront to human dignity and has no place in a civilized society, and;

Whereas, places of worship are sanctuaries for individuals to connect with their faith, reflect, and seek solace, and;

Whereas, the burning of a church is an abhorrent act of violence that undermines the values of respect, tolerance, and mutual understanding that are essential for the peaceful coexistence of all people;

We, Sweet Home's City Council, stand in solidarity with the congregation of Fir Lawn Lutheran Church, which has suffered the tragic loss of their place of worship.

We condemn this act of violence in the strongest possible terms and call on all members of our community to reject such reprehensible behavior and embrace peaceful dialogue and understanding.

We recognize the important role that religious institutions play in fostering community and promoting social cohesion, and we pledge to work together to ensure that all places of worship are safe and secure for all who wish to gather and worship.

We urge law enforcement agencies to investigate and bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. We call on all members of our community to offer any information they believe may assist in the investigation.

Finally, we express our heartfelt sympathy to the members of Fir Lawn Lutheran Church and offer our support as they work to move forward and heal from this traumatic experience.

Let this proclamation serve as a testament to our commitment to the principles of peace, tolerance, and mutual respect, and let us work together to ensure that such acts of violence and hatred never occur in our community again.

Proclaimed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

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Mayor Susan Coleman

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President Pro Tem Mahler

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Councilor Gourley

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Councilor Richards

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Councilor Sanchez

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Councilor Thorstad

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Councilor Trask