STATEMENT ON RACISM
AND WHITE SUPREMACY

In recent weeks, I’ve received 500+ messages on
the death of George Floyd, policing and police budgets in
Bloomington, and the racially charged incidents at Lake Monroe
and elsewhere. I’ve responded to every single message to date
and want to share my thoughts here as well:

Like every other thinking person, I am outraged by the incidents
at Lake Monroe in recent days, not to mention De Davis’
experience in his own southside neighborhood. I was living in
Bloomington in 1999, and I vividly remember the day of Won
Joon Yoon’s murder by a white supremacist. Along with the
anger I feel, I grieve for a community – and a nation – where
such events can occur.

So first things first:
I wholly and unequivocally
condemn white supremacy,
including the violence it begets and
the racist ignorance on which it is based.
Period. Full Stop.

To clarify a misconception from some of the press coverage …
Neither the Bloomington Police nor the Bloomington City Council
have jurisdiction over the events at Lake Monroe. [That authority
falls to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)].
That said, I join so many others in calling on the Monroe County
Prosecutor’s office to conduct an immediate and exhaustive
investigation, not just of the incident itself, but of how it was
handled by DNR officers. There is no place in our society for law
enforcement officers who do not uphold the most basic core
values of equality, diversity, and justice. Further, we must put
into place and enforce substantive hate crime legislation in the
State of Indiana.

The powerful words and images from this summer’s protests
have been too many to count, but one of the most poignant for
me was a young woman, standing alone outside the Monroe
County Courthouse and holding a sign that said,

“I am not Black,
but I see you.
I hear you.
I mourn with you.
I will fight for you.”

Literally every day, I pray that I can live up to that standard
myself.

I promise that I will continue working to further educate myself
on these critical issues. As a member of the legislative body with
fiscal authority for the City of Bloomington, I will ask tough
questions and I will challenge assumptions about resources
needed for every department, including law enforcement and
Community & Family Resources. And for those resources that
we do devote to law enforcement, I will push for “more-than-
just-what’s-required” training in ethics, use of force policy,
implicit bias, de-escalation, and other elements of
#8CANTWAIT’s core principles.

I’ve said it in so many settings ... I am grateful every single day
that I get to live in Bloomington, and even more grateful (and
humbled) that I have this opportunity to serve our residents. I
hope you will all play your part too.

Sue