



CITY OF WASHINGTON

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PRESS RELEASE: Statement for Charleroi

In recent days the lies and rhetoric of the Trump campaign have threatened the Haitian residents of the town of Charleroi. The Washington County Republican Party has further continued to support this lie and actually attack me, the Mayor of the City of Washington, and also continue to stroke the flames of division and hatred.

I've sat back and ignored the political banter of these individuals- until now, when lives and incidents have been threatened.

Now, because of the lies of Trump and the Washington County Republican Party, the KKK is rearing its ugly head, asking white residents to arm themselves against the Haitian residents of Charleroi, who are here legally. This is not only dangerous but is reckless and risks violence. Our brothers and sisters of Charleroi should not have to live with the threat of violence hanging over their heads at night.

I am here today to stand with all of the residents of Washington County as the Democratic Mayor of the City of Washington, the county seat, to say there is no room for hate in this country or in this election. It is truly time for people to come together and protect all of our residents, and not allow Washington County or any of our small towns in southwestern Pennsylvania to be dragged into the negativity of National politics at this time.

These types of activities with hate groups puts us back in the 50's and 60's when people of color were threatened and intimidated because of their fight for equal rights.

Let me make this clear "We will not go back."

I believe in the American dream of a united country and not a country of being exclusive and promoting hate.

Hate groups like the KKK must never be able to threaten the lives of any individuals in this Country and we must distance ourselves from this hate and division.

Please stand with me and denounce these heinous tactics and do not allow hate and lies to win in Washington County.

Thank you,

Mayor JoJo Burgess