

Hello, my name is Jimmy Matta, today I would like to have my statement read to the courts, not only as Mayor of the City of Burien but as a USA Citizen and a resident of Washington State. Growing up in Eastern Washington, I quickly at a young age realized hurtful actions and words against my family were racially-rooted, it upset me as we could not choose the bodies or financial states we were in. As I grew up and eventually moved away from my hometown, my family and I found Burien, a small city in the greater area of Seattle. I had my children, in hopes that they would never need to suffer through the harsh social circumstances I had experienced as a young child, merely because of the color of their skin. One experiences I had in Burien was at a grocery store I had always gone to, this day different, as Donald Trump had just been elected to office, instead of the warm smiles from the cashiers, this day I was greeted by a fellow customer who said, "That's right, your presidents gone, you're going back home," I was dumbfounded, it took me back to when I was a young boy and continuously called racial slurs. However, my resistance to this, with my children in mind, was that if I wanted something to change, I needed to voice my opinions and get involved, something I have always protested to my family, so I decided to run for Burien City Council. I have never been against people having different opinions from me, in fact, I think it's vital that we see it from different perspectives, but that should never give the justification to verbally or physically hurt someone; everyone we cross paths with has a story, and while we can try and make them see the world differently, we cannot force them to do so- these rights built in the foundation of America, the right to freedom and justice. No politician or civilian should have to go to an event fearful that they'll be hurt because of their perspective of helping their city, or worried for themselves and their families that someone will harm them in their homes, or that they need to tell their children to be extra cautious because their parents chose to be involved in changing something in America. Today I speak on this, on behalf of myself, my family, community members, people that have been verbally or physically assaulted, and America's constitutional beliefs. Although our country is divided, I not only have hope for the future, but I will continue to try and redress the divide the best that I can. I will continue to uphold to the best of my abilities, the values that made this country possible. With that said, I would like to thank the FBI, U.S Department of Justice, and the Washington State Attorney General, for their work in bringing justice to those aforementioned. Let this bring closure and give us the fortitude to continue to make our democracy work for the benefit of everyone in the United States of America.

Jimmy Matta