



City of Kingsburg

1401 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631-1908
(559) 897-5821 Fax: (559) 897-5568

Michelle Roman
Mayor

Laura North
Mayor Pro Tem

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Sherman Dix
Jewel Hurtado
Vince Palomar

Alexander J. Henderson
City Manager

July 22, 2020

TO: All Kingsburg Citizens and Community Members

FROM: Kingsburg City Council

As community leaders, we understand that the nation is in upheaval over recent injustices that have occurred throughout our country. Kingsburg is not immune to that unrest and we support those utilizing their constitutional rights to speak out against racism and inequalities everywhere. Kingsburg is a diverse and multiracial community. It is all our jobs to promote equality and to raise up our community.

We also know it is exceedingly important to reiterate this council's stance on racism and equality in a way that best represents the values Kingsburg is known for. In early June, City Council members, staff and the police department all participated in a unity event held at Memorial Park and made statements about the importance of fighting injustice and racism everywhere. Police Chief Dadian worked closely with the organizers of the event to ensure it was held peacefully. During the event, Mayor Roman said, "Humanity matters. Decency matters and as a city, we raise that up as part of our values. This is a time for unity."

We take these matters seriously. A recent report of a hanging rope in Memorial Park (originally reported as a noose) was immediately investigated by the Police Department. Ultimately, through the investigation and discussion with employees who maintain the park every week, it was uncovered that the rope had been there for several months and was utilized by residents for attaching piñatas during birthday parties and other celebrations.

This is a pivotal time in our country. We ask that Kingsburg citizens do their part to lessen the divide that already exists. Online comments of vitriol and hate do nothing to further the conversation or build relationships with your neighbors. We ask you to think carefully before posting messages online. As Chief Dadian noted, "we all have a responsibility to add to a healthy and peaceful community." This Council has been elected by our citizens to lead a community that has a shared commitment to mutual respect, understanding, and dignity. We will close by echoing the words of Mayor Pro-Tem Laura North, who during the unity rally said, "I don't have a lot of words to say, because I don't have a lot of answers, but when hate is so loud, love can't be silent."