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City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor
Seattle LGBTQ Commission

TO: Edward B. Murray, Mayor
FROM: City of Seattle LGBTQ Commission
DATE: July 24, 2017
SUBJECT: Request for Resignation

Dear Mayor Murray,

We are writing to request your immediate resignation as Mayor of Seattle.

Due to allegations and mounting evidence that you have repeatedly engaged in sexual abuse of minors, we believe that you should no longer serve as the leader of the City of Seattle. Lloyd Anderson, Jeff Simpson, Maurice Levon Jones, and Delvonn Heckard have all come forward with their personal experiences of abuse and evidence has recently emerged illustrating that you did abuse Simpson.

We acknowledge that you have dismissed these allegations of sexual assault as “right-wing, anti-gay” activity. It is true that homophobic acts remain highly prevalent and destructive within the LGBTQ community. It is also true that within our LGBTQ community, many axes of power, including class, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and disability aim to suppress our power by dividing us. We perceive your attempt to dismiss these claims as a “politically motivated” monolithic issue of homophobia to be a maneuver that is divisive and damaging to our community. Claiming homophobic intent to shield yourself from accountability and erase the experiences of survivors of sexual abuse is silencing, manipulative, and morally repugnant.

In addition to the evidence regarding deeply grave sexual abuse, we believe your response has been harmful and inappropriate, particularly to LGBTQ individuals, survivors of sexual abuse, and individuals with criminal history. You have responded to the allegations by invoking the accusers’ criminal records as proof of their unreliability. **We affirm that survivors of sexual assault must be believed and honored, no matter their identity or social standing.**

To serve in the honorable role of Mayor of Seattle, one should be an exemplar of leadership, accountability, and honesty. Based on what we know at this time, we do not believe that you can embody these ideals, and public trust in your leadership has eroded.

We stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault, and all those disproportionately impacted by abuses of power. As a Commission, we aim to uplift, not silence, the perspectives and experiences of the most marginalized members of our community.

Noting both that you are the first openly gay Mayor of Seattle, and that many individuals on the Seattle LGBTQ Commission were appointed by you, we do not take our decision to call for your resignation lightly. While some may say that you should be given the opportunity to serve out the remainder of your term, we feel that would be inadequate. With both moral and pragmatic motivations, we feel we must call for your resignation.

Continuing in your position as Mayor sends a clear, devastating message to current and past survivors of sexual assault (including young people who may currently be experiencing abusive situations), that their pain and experiences are less important than maintaining the status quo; staying in office distracts Seattle from critical matters that require our full energy now -- such as addressing the homelessness crisis; **remaining in office erodes our civil institutions and our commitment to justice.**

It is for these reasons that the Seattle LGBTQ Commission is requesting you resign from your position.

Respectfully,

Julia Riccardi
on behalf of the City of Seattle LGBTQ Commission