



## A bold new direction

# City values draft to include condemnation of white supremacy

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

A new draft of a Keizer values statement includes a statement condemning white supremacy, a massive shift in the wake of backlash by residents who wanted the statement to go further.

The statement could also include recognition of the Kalapuya Tribe members that once inhabited the land the city now occupies. The val-

ues statement and its contents were the only topic at a city council work session Monday, Nov. 9.

Even without public input to lead off the meeting, tension was palpable from all corners, but the entire council was commended by multiple residents who offered comment later in the night. Council members appeared swayed to discuss condemning white supremacy, if not totally convinced, by testimony provided by

Benny Williams, the president of the Salem-Keizer NAACP (See related story NAACP below).

The statement included by consent of the council was found by Councilor Elizabeth Smith in a resolution from the City of Philomath: "Keizer condemns racism and those who display racism, discrimination, intolerance, bigotry, and hostility; and does not tolerate expressions or acts of hostility, intimidation, or

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Keizer resident Mathew Poteet offered emotional testimony at a city council work session.

harassment, and, instead, is committed to elimination of all forms of racism everywhere it exists; and denounces violence against people of color."

A statement acknowledging the Kalapuya, or American Native populations, was left to be further developed.

Including a definition of white supremacy proved to be a sticking point.

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## NAACP president tells council it can aim higher

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Benny Williams, president of the Salem-Keizer NAACP, urged members of the Keizer City Council to be bolder than the existing draft of a values statement at a meeting Monday, Nov. 9.

"It's not that difficult," said Williams referring to the more than two years it's taken to move the city to the point of a draft resolution. "We are going to have those that disagree, but we have to stand up and stand out and lead. We've had progress, now is the time for us to make greater progress."

It was the third time in two months that the council dedicated significant time to drafting a statement of values for adoption by the city. Residents turned out en masse to watch the proceedings and offer feedback. Williams led off the night offering the perspective of local Black leadership.

The pressing issue of the night was whether the statement should include a condemnation of white supremacy. Councilor Roland Herrera was the only one to support such a statement in previous meetings. Other councilors, either vocally



"If we make it known, and stand behind it, that is the start."  
— Benny Williams, President, Salem-Keizer NAACP

KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
Salem-Keizer NAACP president Benny Williams offered testimony that appeared to sway several member of the Keizer City Council to revise a planned statement of values.

or by their silence, balked at the suggestion.

"When a student is condemned for ignorance, nothing happens from that point forward. And that is not ideal," said Councilor Laura Reid, a teacher

at McNary High School. "While I'm in agreement that there is no room for hate, I think we need to be able to focus on the enlightenment and productive communications." Meeting any challenge

is a matter of the tools at hand, but denouncing white supremacy wasn't a high bar to clear, Williams said.

"Some things require debate, others enlightenment, Please see HIGHER, Page A7

## Residents take softer tone after changes

By LAUREN MURPHY  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Tensions were running high going into the City Council work session on Monday, Nov. 9. More than one Keizer resident in attendance started off their testimony by saying they came in with a different prepared statement, which was revised by the progress made in the work session.

Most in attendance echoed previous calls for condemning white supremacy, which the council added to the value statement during the time before public comment.

"I came here tonight with a heavy heart after hearing some of the comments and some of the concerns that were made, but I want to thank you for taking the time to assert that my life matters as a citizen of Keizer," said resident Claire Snyder. Snyder is a Black and Latina woman who has lived in Keizer since she was 6 years old.

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## Pandemic pause in effect until Nov. 25

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Parts of Oregon, including Marion County, entered a two-week pause in its phased reopening Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Gov. Kate Brown announced the changes in nine counties where community transmission of COVID-19 is on the rise. The pause in Marion County extends through Wednesday, Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving.

"We are seeing in real time

how this virus can quickly snowball out of control. This Two-Week Pause is a series of measures and recommendations intended to curb human contact — both through reducing the amount of people we interact with, and the frequency of those encounters. We must stop this virus from spreading. We must preserve our hospital capacity. And we must save lives," said Brown.

Pause measures include:  
• Urging all businesses to

mandate work from home to the greatest extent possible.

• Pausing long-term care facility visits that take place indoors to protect staff and residents.

• Reducing maximum restaurant capacity to 50 people (including customers and staff) for indoor dining, with a maximum party size of six. Continuing to encourage outdoor dining and take out.

• Limiting social gatherings  
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## K. Juran wins council seat

Keizer businessman Kyle Juran will be filling the Keizer City Council seat being vacated by Marlene Parsons in January.



K. Juran

Juran defeated candidate Michele Roland-Schwartz with 51% of the vote, according to the latest numbers from Marion County. After the first round of vote tallying, Keizer City Council. My goal as a city councilor is three votes, but Juran took

the lead the following day and expanded on it.

Keizertimes reached out to Juran for comment, but he did not return the message.

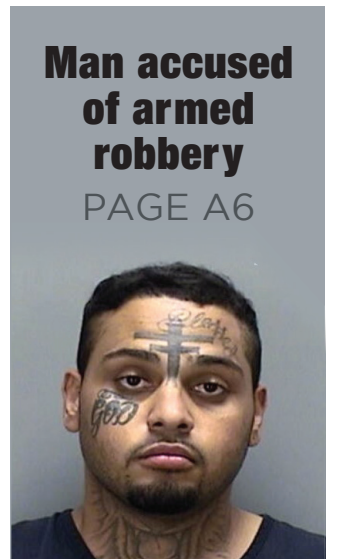
On a message posted to his candidate Facebook page, Juran wrote, "I am honored to be elected by the community to the Keizer City Council. My goal as a city councilor is Please see COUNCIL, Page A7



**Doutt to South Virginia**  
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**'You guys have chicken, I have a waffle, let's put them together.'**  
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**Man accused of armed robbery**  
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**Library books on the move**  
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