

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Subject:** Statement on Violence in Washington, D.C.  
**Date:** Friday, January 8, 2021  
**From:** South Bend Common Council Members: Karen L. White, Sharon McBride, Sheila Niezgodski, Henry Davis, Jr., Canneth Lee, Lori Haman, Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner  
South Bend City Clerk, Dawn M. Jones

### **Statement on Violence in Washington, D.C.**

It was with shock, horror, and anger that members of the South Bend Common Council and City Clerk Dawn Jones viewed and learned about the violence in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. The unlawful invasion of the U.S. Capitol by violent thugs who stormed the People's House was not only an attack on the democratic system established by our country's founders nearly 250 years ago, it was also an attack on every single person who has fought and died for, lived by, and sought to advance, that system over time. That attack must be condemned by all. Those responsible for these despicable acts of violence must be held accountable, and quickly.

This was not just an attack on a building, or a symbol, or a system of government. At least five people tragically lost their lives. Many more were injured. Even more feared for their own safety.

It is easy to say that true Americans would never do such a thing because we are better than that. But are we? Do we hate others for their political beliefs? Or for the color of their skin, country of origin, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation? If so, that hate will be the death knell of our democracy whether it comes in the nation's capital, in rural areas, or in our cities and suburbs.

A democratic system of government is not easy to maintain. It requires participation by its citizens. Equally important, it requires that everyone views everyone else as an equal and to be open to consider their ideas with the understanding that they will consider our own ideas. This is what the members of the Common Council and City Clerk strive for. This is what we ask all our residents to strive for.

Condemnation of the violence in Washington D.C. is easy. Anyone can say the words. It is far more difficult and important to put those words into action. But that is what we all must do if our democracy is to survive. Our people, and therefore, our government, may not be perfect, but we need to be much better than what we saw in Washington D.C.