PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM SOUTHERN OREGON COALITION FOR RACIAL EQUITY

Earlier this month, the Southern Oregon Coalition for Racial Equity (hereby referred to as SOEquity) announced we would be holding a community event and march in Rogue River, Oregon on Saturday, August 29, 2020 titled You Are Enough. The goal of this event was to provide a space for residents of Rogue River, especially young people of color, to share their experiences and educate the community on systemic racism. The original itinerary was to lawfully gather in front of Rogue River City Hall and collectively march to the nearby Palmerton Park, where a family-friendly barbecue would take place.

Both actions do not require permits and are protected by the First Amendment right to peacefully assemble. The City of Rogue River reached out to SOEquity requesting that we apply for permits for this event regardless. As our primary goal is education and we have no desire to provoke conflict, we agreed to fill out the permits and pay the corresponding fees. Despite this good faith effort, the City of Rogue River denied our park reservation request and parade permit stating that the Palmerton Park Pavilion had already been reserved and that they did not have the manpower to allow for us to march in the streets. They requested that we stay on the sidewalks and added that we were still welcome to gather in another area of Palmerton Park. We agreed to abide by these requests.

On Wednesday, August 26, 2020, we learned that a group known as the “Rogue River Patriots” had reserved the Palmerton Park Pavilion. Based on screenshots from their Facebook group, they did so with the express intent of disrupting the You Are Enough event and silencing the voices of their fellow residents. The screenshots shared with SOEquity also state that the Rogue River Patriots were working directly with the Rogue River Police Department. Specifically, one post by a group admin says:

**RR POLICE DEPARTMENT**: REQUESTED WE “HANG BACK” AND FOLLOW THEIR LEAD. DO NOT PROVOKE PROTESTORS – THEY’LL BE WATCHING FOR PROVOCATIONS FROM THE PROTESTORS AND ACTING ON OUR BEHALF

Based on this knowledge and screenshots of violent threats from other Rogue River residents, SOEquity looked for an alternative location to protect the integrity of the event and the safety of its participants. Two of our organizers reached out to a Board Member of the Evans Valley Community Center as we believed their values aligned with those of our event and they had previously hosted events with a similar structure of community dialogue, food and music. Their website states: “Evans Valley Community Association is a community-focused organization dedicated to fostering participation in education, arts, agriculture, recreation, civic and social activities for all ages.”

As the You Are Enough event was educational in nature and promoted civic engagement, the Evans Valley Community Association agreed to host the event. One of our organizers went to the Community Center to pay the rental fee and sign the Facilities Use Agreement on August 27, 2020.

On the morning of August 28, 2020, SOEquity Vice President, Dominique Toyer received an unsolicited phone call from Rogue River Police Chief Whipple asking about the details of the You Are Enough event. Ms. Toyer explained that the event had been moved to a private event space for security reasons.
After confirming we were permitted to use the Evans Valley Community Center, we announced the change in location later in the day on August 28, 2020. Just a few hours after this announcement, one of our organizers received a message from an Evans Valley Community Association Board Member that the Board had voted to revoke SOEquity’s rental agreement. The statement announced the event as cancelled (which the Evans Valley Community Association never confirmed with SOEquity) stating that “this event is not a good fit for the Rogue River/Wimer community.”

With this timeline and the multiple attempts to prevent a community barbecue from happening, the City of Rogue River, its community members and its leaders have sent a clear message: supporting people of color is not permitted in Rogue River.

Since these events, SOEquity organizers have received screenshots of further threats of violence and attempts to publicly identify our leaders to opposition groups for intimidation purposes. All of these screenshots are included in this statement.

The Southern Oregon Coalition for Racial Equity is not a hate group. We are an organization of community members working to improve and educate our community and remove racist systems that allow for discrimination and oppression of community members of color to occur. The fact that we want to engage in a discussion around race is apparently so radical to the residents of Rogue River that they have effectively prevented a family-friendly barbecue from occurring. Make no mistake. The only threats of violence and calls for escalation and unsafe actions were from community members who oppose the very existence of a group dedicated to promoting racial equity. That is racism.

While the community barbecue portion of our You Are Enough event has been postponed, we are still calling on our members and the residents of Rogue River who believe that equality will prevail over hate to gather lawfully and nonviolently in front of Rogue River City Hall at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 29, 2020. We will stand with a clear message: being Black and promoting equality should not be controversial.

Questions can be sent to Kayla Wade, Founder and President of the Southern Oregon Coalition for Racial Equity at southernoregonequity@gmail.com.

Enclosures
SCREENSHOTS SENT TO SOEQUITY:

- **William Yoakum**
  - 6d · 18
  - Is there a bag limit and a size limit on BLM
  - 7 likes, 1 comment, seen by 50

- **JeanneMarie Brady**
  - Aug 19 · 18
  - Thank you for the add
  - 2 likes, seen by 41

- **Brent Caldwell**
  - Aug 19 · 18
Greg Roberts
19h
(to Ashland)
They are from Eugene!
18h
Like

Heather Sundin Lorenz
Greg Roberts I read that but Ashland is closer and more like home for them. Everyone down there will accept them with open arms!
18h
Like

Greg Roberts
No comment.
18h
Like

Kelly R Henson
I sent a very strong message on their Facebook page. And it won't be pretty for the so called Boop Troop. I told them. You come to Medford don't expect to leave the way you came in. In other words severely beaten or dead.
18h
Like

Adam Martinez
Nope.
17h
Like

Dorie Trusty
Pamela Lynn
Rene Dyment ▶ WIMER
1h

Robbie Bush
I’ll bring the shepherds

Jeff Ludwick
I sure hope they don’t block the roads.

Emy Munsell Sakraida
Jeff Ludwick vroom vroom! Run them over! So sick of this shit!!
Write a reply...

Chad Sabin
You people must be board. It's simple, if they come. We the people will be there. No need for discussion
45m  Like  Reply

Renee Wood Traylor
Hey folks, BLM said, they are coming for us who live in the country! And we better be willing to give them our homes or they will burn us out! I am Ready for them! And what a big surprise they have coming. Really shouldn't mess with country folk!
14m  Like  Reply

Renee Wood Traylor
I take their remarks Serious, as Portland isn't PortLand anymore! They Are Not Gonna Fuck my life up, or my children, or Anyone who they threaten! Their gonna be taken out in 1 Big Whack!
12m  Like  Reply
Kitty Fuentez Conrad
If you submit your support for BLM to the creators of the movement and justify it with patriotism, you will be killed where you stand.
BLM WANTS ALL WHITE’S TO DIE.
You don’t get to take someone’s movement of hate and reparations via looting and riots, roll them in white sugar sprinkled with vanilla and serve it on a plate at a BBQ.
THAT'S NOT WHAT BLM IS ABOUT!
Know your facts!
Know your movements!
Did you NOT SEE the black lady yelling at the white boy to "stop speaking for her?"
Did you know they want to use their own voice?! Did you know they are a M...
sugar sprinkled with vanilla and serve it on a plate at a BBQ.
THATS NOT WHAT BLM IS ABOUT!
Know your facts!
Know your movements!
Did you NOT SEE the black lady yelling at the white boy to “stop speaking for her?”
Did you know they want to use their own voice?!
Did you know they are a Marxist group fighting against the whites?
BLM DOES NOT = Patriotism, you are now making caca up!
Go clean up your community, cook something for an elderly person, teach a kid to read, or better yet, do your research on BLM so you have a better understanding of what they are about.
Act respectful (no matter your color) and you will get respect in return.
THATS WHAT MATTERS!
🔥❤️🔥
GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!
🔥❤️🔥
Judi McCarty  
Rogue River  
Oregon

Just curious. We all know Brad Smith wrote the article about Rogue River being racist. Who decided we needed a cleansing by organizing the rally/BBQ on the 29th that may or may not be happening? I know Mr. Smith wrote about it but who invited the group to speak here? Again, just curious.

Rick Kempa

Maybe no one, just a hoax to stir up shit

Ashley Nicole

Rick Kempa your comment is instigating and seems like you’re stirring the pot. People have the right to peacefully assemble. It’s in the constitution.

James Smith

Prolly a hoax
Crittendon Haydon

**Brad Smith** the only extremist around here in trump country is douchebags like yourself. Take your bs pack it up and move your America hating azz to California. So sick of you libtard democrats pushing your bs on everyone else. But do t worry you’ll get to put your purse down soon and fight for your rights. When the dems cheat on this mail in bs we will have a civil war and it will be all ya lames with your pink hair and extra body parts against true Americans who served and defended this country. In closing your a douchebag pos and what’s wrong with this country, *#maga #kag #walkaway #civilwar*

Walter Stevenson

**Brad Smith** well that man who was kicked in the head and died sure didn’t look like any law enforcement officers. Definitely looked like a guy attacked by cowards
Judi McCarty ▶ Rogue River
Oregon

Bradley Jackson
That pos better not never ever let me get my hands on him

Bree Burton
Bradley Jackson who is inciting violent now?

William Wilcox
This is a bunch of crap about nothing. I've lived in Rogue River for a long time now and have never seen any racism here at all. Great town to live in.

William Wilcox
Brad Smith, I disagree, I'm half Mohawk Indian and I have never heard anyone say or do anything racist in this town. I think you're stirring up trouble myself.

Brad Smith
William Wilcox
Well, others disagree.
Jinxie Lou ▶ Rogue River
Oregon
1h • 🎉

Sherry Meaux
this event is not gonna be peaceful
watch im against this event i will be
to voice my opinion on tnis crap
and blm
1h Like Reply

Jessika Castleberry
Sherry Meaux ... after reading so
many comments like yours i
wonder why this event wont be so
peaceful. 😕

In case you missed it, thats
sarcasm.
43m Like Reply

Sherry Meaux
Jessika Castleberry i think not
honey bit i will protect my police
department and my community
from
people like you
41m Like Reply

Nick Pike
Write a comment...
Greg Roberts
5:26
19h · 😞

Chris Hoag
Arrest them!
4h · Like 1

Greg Roberts
Not going to happen. Due to restrictions in the jail thanks to COVID.
2h · 😞 Like 1

Linda McClellan
I don't think so
1h · Like

James Rumble
I'll be happy to put a bullet in their heads.
1h · Like

David Everist
What email President Trump all round call for President Trump Come to Assistance for National Guard And The Army because we stop Civil War by Marxists and US Attorney General to Charges against theses terrorist groups Ask for help To Save Republic of the United States
1h · Like

Dyanna Prinz
What time and where we meeting
1h · Like 2

Dyanna Prinz
I'll be there can't decide which AR to bring
1h · Like 2
Judi’s Post

Jennifer Bach Potter

TOP KEYBOARD COMMANDO
FROM THE ASHLAND CESSPOOL

2d  Like  Reply

Dennis Matthiesen

Mabey we should protest at his house!!

1d  Like  Reply

Jinny Marie Neiswanger  🌟

Dennis Matthiesen now there’s an idea. I bet he’d want to call the police to have us removed. What a hypocrite he would be.

1d  Like  Reply
Ron Akerman
Just so you know who their leader from Portland is:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaylamwade

Marc Mason
Ron Akerman she is an amazing and accomplished young lady.

Nancy John Riley
Marc Mason Stay away from Southern Oregon. Do your damage in Portland.

Marc Mason
Nancy John Riley that's not very neighborly.
MISSION STATEMENT
Rogue River Patriots: An effort to protect our great community’s integrity. This is a communication forum to keep like-minded citizens of Rogue River informed of any movements that threaten the well-being of our community and its citizens. This is a place that community members can communicate and network together for the best interest of our town. We will not stand by and allow any group to come into our town and threaten its well-being. We will protect our town’s businesses, buildings, structures, and streets. We as Patriots honor the constitution, including the first amendment which protects the right of the people to "peaceably assemble". However, Antifa is not a peaceful organization and has tied themselves to the BLM movement. There has also been a lot of media by the BLM leaders claiming to be a Marxist group. This does not align with the beliefs, values, and culture here in our community. These groups are known for the destruction and devastation of cities throughout the "UNITED STATES". Politicians have undermined and taken away the police’s ability to protect our communities from these extremist groups. Rogue River Patriots is a group of organized residents formed to establish a presence to assure that we do everything we can to protect our community and its citizens from potential harm. We are not racist. Many of us come from diverse ethnic backgrounds. We are simply concerned about our community’s greater good.
NOTES/MINUTES OF MEETING

FLAGS: PURCHASE (AS A GROUP) 3X5’ FLAGS TO INSTALL ON BRIDGE.. A GOAL OF 50

INSTALL ON SATURDAY MORNING – 8/29

PARKS: RESERVE PARKS – GET PERMITS – FOR ALL

BBQ – PLANNED FOR PALMERTON

FOOD DONATIONS PROVIDED – NEED COOKS – POT LUCK???

RR POLICE DEPARTMENT: REQUESTED WE “HANG BACK” AND FOLLOW THEIR LEAD. DO NOT PROVOKE PROTESTORS – THEY’LL BE WATCHING FOR PROVOCATIONS FROM THE PROTESTORS AND ACTING ON OUR BEHALF

IF ARRESTED: DO NOT RESIST – DO NOT MAKE A SCENE – HIGH PROBABLY YOU WON’T BE CHARGED

OPEN CARRY: NO LONG GUNS / SIDE ARMS ONLY

DO NOT BRANDISH WEAPONS.. DO NOT PUT HANDS ON SIDEARMS. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT IF YOU ARE NOT WELL TRAINED AND FULLY CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITY TO USE A FIREARM.. DO NOT CARRY.

MEETING PLACE: ACROSS THE STREET FROM RRPD (RR COMMUNITY CENTER)
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MEETING PLACE: ACROSS THE STREET FROM RRPD (RR COMMUNITY CENTER)

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: RADIOS (TUNED TO SRF-5)

PICTURE/FILMING OPERATORS –

FIRST AID CENTER: STATIONED AT RR COMMUNITY CENTER BETWEEN ANNEX BLDG
COMMUNICATION FROM EVANS VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:

Good morning Emily. I wanted to touch base with you regarding Saturday. The Board has some concerns regarding the BBQ. I am getting caught up them right now. I do know that we would like if you could clarify that the Community Center is not affiliated with your organization and that we are only renting out the facility. As a PTA based organization, we have to be careful with political issues. Open and unbiased. You, like anyone else, are just renting the use of our facility. I knew this would be a touchy subject. Just trying to have our ducks in a row.

Yes, absolutely. We are only advertising it as the space we will be having the event. All advertisements state the event is sponsored by SOEquity. I will forward your message to the president of the organization.
Alrighty Emily...... you guys are good to go! There were concerns with opposition causing conflict, and whether we have a statigency plan in effect if so. I brought up the fact that you will be renting the use of the facility, therefore making it a private event. We charge $8 an hour, so we are looking at $24. 😞 We require you to use the gravel parking lot by the baseball field for vehicles. If there is any way you or someone could swing by the CC today before 2:00, you could pick up a Facility Use Agreement form. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

I work until 6 pm tonight, but let me check with the group! My partner might be able to get out there. We will also have a de-escalation team from the Rogue Action Center in attendance. We plan to post
Good afternoon Emily. I have a heavy heart and will just go ahead and forward what has been voted on by the board. I personally apologize, but we ended up having to discuss and take a vote.

From Danial Garrison, President, Evans Valley Community Association  Re: Cancellation of You Are Enough, August 29th, 2020. I wish to address the You Are Enough event that had been originally scheduled to be held in Rogue River and then at the community center in Wimer. The event has been cancelled. Due to community concerns, past history of events like these in other areas and the possibility of an escalating and possibly dangerous environment, it has been decided that this event is not a good fit for the Rogue River/Wimer community.
Please contact the Evans...
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Please contact the Evans Valley Community Association page on Facebook with any questions or concerns.
DIRECT MESSAGE TO THE SOEQUITY WEBSITE:

NAME
zeke

EMAIL
mahoney4923@yahoo.com

MESSAGE
I was going to ask if you were a bunch of morons but after reading about your surprise that you got run out of rouge river I realized you have already answered my question. Even if your a peaceful group (which I doubt) why on earth would you think RR would welcome any type of march or protest after watching Portland,Seattle and many other cities burned looted and shut down for business? Who in their right mind would welcome that? Peaceful sounds great until radical Antifa and BLM pay a visit! Then all hell breaks loose! But after reading your goals your just another jam it down your throat idiot group! A bunch or stupid bored privileged white college kids. In the end your parents will pay for everything and you will return to your suburban upscale lives. Just like rehab for an addict,you cant force racism out of someone you stupid asses! It took the jews 2000 years to evolve from slavery. But you expect blacks in less than 300? The answer and the problem is education. Knowledge is power. Very few of the black and brown community take advantage of the education offered to them. The democratic party has made lazy people out of them for votes with the free housing,food etc. My son wanted to become a fireman in a large Ca. city. He spent years getting every certification and hands on training by volunteering for wildfires etc. A battalion chief finally told him in private to give it up unless he can become a black female lesbian thats in the process of a gender change. If he had those qualifications he’s hired! Give it up on the white guilt crap! We elected a black man twice to the highest office in the free world. This proves you can be anything regardless of color. But.... you have to get off your lazy ass and go to school!