



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Linda Gorton
Mayor

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Mayor, diverse group release joint statement appealing for peace, seeking safety in Lexington

Mayor Linda Gorton today released a joint statement she, Lexington Police Chief Lawrence Weathers, and a group of Lexington Jewish and Muslim/Palestinian leaders have been working on since October.

The statement is an appeal for peace in Gaza and Israel, and a united stance to “keep Lexington peaceful, and all of its residents safe” at a time when there have been extremist attacks on Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities around the country. “Lexington is saying ‘not here,’” Gorton said.

Ten members of the Urban County Council have signed on to the statement. Business, faith, education, and civic leaders have also voiced their support.

Lexington residents are invited to sign on to the statement. Please send your name and address to mayor@lexington.gov. Residents are welcome to include the organization they represent.

The statement follows:

FOLLOW MAYOR GORTON:

www.facebook.com/MayorGorton www.twitter.com/MayorGorton www.instagram.com/MayorGorton

As the world witnesses fighting in Gaza and Israel, Lexington prays for peace.

When the violence spills over into our country, with extremist attacks on Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities, Lexington says **not here**.

Even at this time of turmoil and division, we must remember what unites us as creatures created in the Divine image. Loving one's neighbor as oneself makes no exception for neighbors whose ways we approve of and those whom we do not. We do not have to agree about the solution to this crisis to treat one another with respect, acknowledge each other's grief, affirm each other's humanity, and pray for a future where cruelty and violence are replaced with compassion and peace.

We are leaders of Lexington's faith community, businesses, government, public safety agencies, community groups, and civic organizations. We represent different religions, different backgrounds, and different ways of life.

Proud of — and strengthened by — our diversity, we stand united in our determination to keep Lexington peaceful, and all of its residents safe.

Mayor Linda Gorton
 Rabbi Shani Abramowitz, Ohavay Zion Synagogue
 Imam Shaheed Coovadia, Masjid Bilal
 Nick Fain, Temple Adath Israel
 Dr. Jamil Farooqui, President Masjid Bilal Ibn Rabah
 V. Rev. Fr. Thomas Gallaway, Pastor of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church
 Mindy Haas, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass
 Rich Ornstein, Temple Adath Israel
 Charlie Oudeh, Ramallah Club
 Dr. Nadia Rasheed, MD
 Justin Sadle, Jewish Community Relations Council
 Tyler Scott, Mayor's Office Chief of Staff
 Isabel Taylor, Lexington Multicultural Affairs Coordinator
 Lawrence Weathers, Lexington Police Chief
 Rabbi David Wirtschafter, Temple Adath Israel

Councilmember-at-Large Chuck Ellinger
 Councilmember Tayna Fogle, 1st District
 Councilmember Hannah LeGris, 3rd District
 Councilmember Brenda Monarrez, 4th District
 Councilmember Liz Sheehan, 5th District
 Councilmember Preston Worley, 7th District
 Councilmember Fred Brown, 8th District
 Councilmember Whitney Baxter, 9th District
 Councilmember Dave Sevigny, 10th District
 Councilmember Kathy Plomin,, 12th District

The Ven. Laurie Brock, St. Michael's Episcopal Church
 Rev. Brandon L. Gilvin, Senior Minister, Central Christian Church
 Superintendent Demetrus Liggins, Fayette County Public Schools
 P.G. Peoples Sr., President/CEO, Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County
 Robert L. Quick, IOM, CCE, President & CEO, Commerce Lexington
 Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Catholic Diocese of Lexington

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