



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Response to Reported Ku Klux Klan Event to be Held**

ASHEBORO, NC – On Friday, March 10, the News and Observer reported that The Loyal White Knights had announced an event would be held in Asheboro in May.

The City of Asheboro feels it important to respond to this announcement and denounces, in the strongest terms possible, the message of hate and division advocated by the Ku Klux Klan and its affiliates.

“The people of Asheboro have worked too hard to unify our community to let an outside group come in and spread racist views without raising our voices loudly in protest,” said Mayor David H. Smith on Saturday afternoon. “They may have a right to peacefully assemble, but we also have a right to object at the top of our collective voice.”

City Manager John N. Ogburn reports that no applications have been received by the city related to the event. Mayor Smith went on to say, “It’s a shame that we spent countless hours collaborating as a community to win the coveted All-America City award last year, only to be reminded that forces of division are out there seeking to tear communities down. If anything, this announcement strengthens my resolve to make Asheboro the most inclusive and welcoming city in North Carolina to all.”

The city will share any information it receives related to this event upon receipt.

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