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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Fremont Releases Open Letter to Fremont Community
Letter Reaffirms City's Values of Being a Compassionate City

Fremont, Calif. – November 29, 2016 – The City of Fremont today released the following letter addressing the importance of diversity and maintaining safety and civility within the Fremont community:

November 28, 2016

An Open Letter to the Fremont Community:

The City of Fremont is one of the most diverse cities in the United States, and has been recognized as a national model of how people from different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds can live and work together in peace and harmony. This is our City's greatest strength.

In recent conversations with many community members, we've heard several disturbing stories about hateful and terrifying exchanges as well as actions on our streets, in local businesses, and at schools and parks. Many community members have recounted in great detail how these interactions have left them feeling scared and fearful in their daily lives. Civility must continue to be our utmost priority, and there is no excuse to act disrespectfully toward certain members of our community because of the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, or their sexual orientation. We cannot and will not stand for this behavior in our community.

As a matter of official public policy, the City of Fremont has zero tolerance of prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred, and violence. We strongly encourage anyone who has experienced an act of hate to report the incident immediately to the Fremont Police Department at 510-790-6800 option 3, or 9-1-1 if in immediate danger. We offer our assurance that all incidents will be thoroughly investigated and addressed. Additionally, we want to assure you that the City will be vigilant and vocal as it relates to any changes in federal policy that can impact this city we all call home.

Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to the universal "golden rule," to treat others as you would like to be treated. As a Compassionate City that has adopted and signed a Compassionate City Charter on January 12, 2016, join us in making kindness and compassion a clear, luminous, and dynamic force in our polarized world.

We call on our Fremont community to continue the long tradition of tolerance and respect for people of all religious and cultural backgrounds, so that all Fremont residents feel accepted and safe in our community.

Bill Harrison
Mayor

Rick Jones
Vice Mayor

Suzanne Lee Chan
Councilmember

Vinnie Bacon
Councilmember

Lily Mei
Councilmember

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