

**From:** [n.o](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hallelujah!!!  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 8:18:32 PM

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Mayor, council:

Finally, only a few days left before Cole, Rupsis, Boyette, Tidswell & Rogers are no longer part of the Billings city council. The only thing that would have been better than this is if Shaw was gone as well! And although, Owen had some potential, she still chose to go along with the gang.

The question remains --- will the newly elected members take their oaths of office seriously or will they just fall in line and it be business as usual ---- which means no obligation and duty to SERVE all residents equitably rather than allow favoritism & personal associations control behavior and no courage or character to require integrity, accountability and transparency from city employees as well as themselves.

No matter how many you can fool about how honorable you have been during your tenure you haven't fooled everyone.

**From:** [Lita Pepion](#)  
**To:** [katie harrison](#); [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [St. John, Rich](#)  
**Cc:** [URI BARNEA](#); [sirtracy48@gmail.com](#); [josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com](#); [Admallak@yahoo.com](#); [Barjon's Books](#); [Pastor Amy Sell](#); [Pastor Seth Ramage](#); [Melvin - Pastor Terry](#); [pastorelizabeth@amluth.org](#); [PastorPatLewis@gmail.com](#); [Pastor Heidi Hester](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: WHEN IS OUR CITY GOING TO STAND UP AGAINST HATE?  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 1:14:39 PM

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Maybe we need to go to a meeting? IDK if I can make it tomorrow. Or hang out at City Hall?

---

**From:** katie harrison <sustainabillings@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** .MayorAndCouncil <Mayor&Council@billingsmt.gov>; St. John, Rich <stjohnr@billingsmt.gov>  
**Cc:** URI BARNEA <u\_barnea@yahoo.com>; sirtracy48@gmail.com <sirtracy48@gmail.com>; Lita Pepion <LitaPepion@hotmail.com>; josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com <josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com>; Admallak@yahoo.com <Admallak@yahoo.com>; Barjon's Books <info@barjonsbooks.com>; Pastor Amy Sell <pastoramy@graceumcbillings.org>; Pastor Seth Ramage <pastorrumage@gmail.com>; Melvin - Pastor Terry <melvin.terry1@icloud.com>; pastorelizabeth@amluth.org <pastorelizabeth@amluth.org>; PastorPatLewis@gmail.com <PastorPatLewis@gmail.com>; Pastor Heidi Hester <pastorheidi@hopebozeman.com>  
**Subject:** WHEN IS OUR CITY GOING TO STAND UP AGAINST HATE?

Re:  
<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/406-prides-stands-in-solidarity-with-mayflower-church-after-hate-crime-vandalism>  
(& a string of other recent attacks and signs of hate and white supremacy):

I am still waiting for our city leadership to make a stand against hate. Your silence is not helping the growing situation in which hateful (primarily white supremacist / Neo-Nazis) are escalating their attacks on people that they see as "others".

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No one except for Tom Rupsis has responded to my ongoing messages about this subject. And it has only gotten worse. Tom I appreciate you so very much - but your opinion that saying anything and addressing the problem will somehow embolden the white supremacists and Nazi sympathizers. With all due respect , you are wrong. It is in fact the opposite.

We have to make a stand. Just like Billings city leaders - including the chief of police - did in the 90's - helping spark a NATIONAL MOVEMENT!!!

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Do it for Jonathan

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I thank you in advance, and I do ask for a response to this request please. This is important. This is people's lives, sanity, mental health and safety we are talking about.

Thank you,

Katie Harrison (She / Her)

Founder, SustainaBillings

Founder, Billings Stronger Together

Owner, Billings ReFill Shoppe

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**To:** [katie harrison](#); [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [St. John, Rich](#); [Lita Pepion](#)  
**Cc:** [sirtracy48@gmail.com](#); [josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com](#); [Admallak@yahoo.com](#); [Barjon's Books](#); [Pastor Amy Sell](#); [Pastor Seth Ramage](#); [Melvin - Pastor Terry](#); [pastorelizabeth@amluth.org](#); [PastorPatLewis@gmail.com](#); [Pastor Heidi Hester](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: WHEN IS OUR CITY GOING TO STAND UP AGAINST HATE?  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 1:40:39 PM

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Thank you, Katie, for your bold message. I have known Pastor Amy Carter (serving Mayflower Congregational Church for the past several years), and sent her the following message:

"Dear Pastor Amy and members of Mayflower Congregational Church:

I have no words to express my anger and sadness in light of the recent hateful acts of vandalism against your church.

As a rabbi, and a victim myself of the 1993 racist activities in Billings (known later as "Not in our town"), I want to assure you that I am 100% behind your efforts to keep your faith, and to continue to work on spreading love and brotherhood/sisterhood among all the inhabitants of this planet, regardless of their religion, skin color, or preferred identity and association. Please remain strong in your resolve and rest assured - you are not alone!

On this, first night of Chanukah, let us stand courageously against hatred, and let us pray together to spread the message of light and hope.

Sincerely,

Rabbi (Ret.) Uri Barnea"

- - - - -

For anyone interested in communicating directly with Pastor Amy, her email is: [pastor@mayflowerofbillings.com](mailto:pastor@mayflowerofbillings.com)

Uri Barnea

On Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 01:14:32 PM MST, Lita Pepion <[litapepion@hotmail.com](mailto:litapepion@hotmail.com)> wrote:

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<josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com>; Admallak@yahoo.com <Admallak@yahoo.com>; Barjon's Books <info@barjonsbooks.com>; Pastor Amy Sell <pastoramy@graceumcbillings.org>; Pastor Seth Ramage <pastorrumage@gmail.com>; Melvin - Pastor Terry <melvin.terry1@icloud.com>; pastorelizabeta@amluth.org <pastorelizabeta@amluth.org>; PastorPatLewis@gmail.com <PastorPatLewis@gmail.com>; Pastor Heidi Hester <pastorheidi@hopebozeman.com>

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**From:** [Tammi Russell](#)  
**To:** [Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 1:04:53 PM

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Snow plowing of the residential streets.

I have a concern as to the plowing that was done on Saturday the 13th in my area.

The plowing was done using a loader with a mounted plow on the front where the bucket would have been. Don't know if it was mounted with skid plates or not. Later on this.

When they plowed they left the street corner on the southwest side of the road blocked with a berm. This is the crosswalk to the grade school and is the safe route to school. My sidewalks had been shown

Veled and now there is a berm blocking the ada ramp. I am 71 years old and just recover from double knee replacement and have no way to clear it.

They also plowed the alleys which has never been done before. I had spent money and time hauling in screened crushed rock and it now has been plowed everywhere. Don't know why it was plowed and do not think there were skid plates on it. The rock was placed to take care of a sewer line replacement that had been done some years ago.

Today it is 50 degrees out and was predicted to be that way for today through Thursday.

Why did we waste my tax dollars for this.

Not happy with this work and the waste of my money on the plowing and the alley.

Ron Russell  
2732 Howard Avenue  
406 670 3695

**From:** [katie harrison](#)  
**To:** [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [St. John, Rich](#)  
**Cc:** [URI BARNEA](#); [sirtracy48@gmail.com](#); [Lita Pepion](#); [josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com](#); [Admallak@yahoo.com](#); [Barjon's Books](#); [Pastor Amy Sell](#); [Pastor Seth Ramage](#); [Melvin - Pastor Terry](#); [pastorelizabeth@amluth.org](#); [PastorPatLewis@gmail.com](#); [Pastor Heidi Hester](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] WHEN IS OUR CITY GOING TO STAND UP AGAINST HATE?  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 12:49:20 PM

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Re:

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/406-prides-stands-in-solidarity-with-mayflower-church-after-hate-crime-vandalism>

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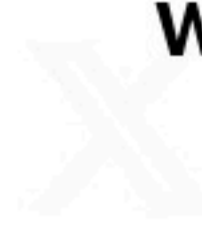
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MONTANA'S NEWS LEADER  
BILLINGS

LOCAL NEWS



WATCH NOW 

# 406 Pride stands in solidarity with Mayflower Church after hate crime vandalism



Photo by: Mack Carmack, MTN News

Mayflower Congregational Church, UCC Billings experiences vandalism





Dear People of Mayflower,

Today we bring some sad news. Our church building has been defaced. One week after our "God is Still Speaking" sign was torn down and shredded, we discovered this morning that someone with red spray paint painted six swastikas and hate language. We have called the police and they will investigate.

We are writing to let you know so you are aware the next time you come to Mayflower.

In the meantime, we will continue to pray for peace and understanding.

Blessings,

Amy

**From:** [Cole, Bill](#)  
**To:** [Penny Ronning](#); [Council](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#); [Iffland, Kevin](#); [St. John, Rich](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Investigation and Accountability Following Hate Crime at Local Church  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 9:10:03 AM

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Thank you Penny for this alert.

I also saw reports on social media and have asked Chief St. John to look into the situation, which he intends to do.

Depending on what information emerges, it's currently my intent to comment at Monday's council meeting and condemn this hateful crime.

Bill

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Penny Ronning <pennyronning@gmail.com>  
Date: 12/13/25 12:23 PM (GMT-07:00)  
To: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>, "Kukulski, Chris" <kukulskic@billingsmt.gov>, "Iffland, Kevin" <ifflandk@billingsmt.gov>, "St. John, Rich" <stjohnr@billingsmt.gov>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Investigation and Accountability Following Hate Crime at Local Church



Dear Members of the Billings City Council,

I am writing to express grave concern regarding the recent spray-painting of swastikas on a local church. This was not an act of simple vandalism—it was a hate crime and an act of intimidation, and it must be treated as such.

People and institutions that serve the vulnerable have always been targets of those who seek power through fear and oppression. Our response now will define what we tolerate as a community. Silence, minimization, or delay only emboldens hate and puts more people at risk.

I respectfully call for a full and transparent investigation, clear public communication regarding steps being taken, and accountability for those responsible. The City of Billings has a responsibility to ensure the safety of its residents and to make clear that acts of hate have no place here.

This is not who we are. I urge the City Council to act decisively and publicly in condemning this act and supporting efforts to identify and prosecute those responsible.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
Penny Ronning  
Resident of Ward 4

**From:** [Penny Ronning](#)  
**To:** [Cole, Bill](#)  
**Cc:** [Council](#); [Kukulski, Chris](#); [Iffland, Kevin](#); [St. John, Rich](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Investigation and Accountability Following Hate Crime at Local Church  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 9:27:08 AM

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Mayor Cole,

Thank you for your prompt response and the steps you have taken. Your leadership and public voice matter deeply in moments like this, as they set the standard for accountability and community values. I appreciate your willingness to act.

Sincerely,  
Penny

On Sun, Dec 14, 2025 at 9:10 AM Cole, Bill <[coleb@billingsmt.gov](mailto:coleb@billingsmt.gov)> wrote:

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**From:** [Rupsis, Tom](#)  
**To:** [katie harrison](#)  
**Cc:** [.MayorAndCouncil](#); [St. John, Rich](#); [URI BARNEA](#); [sirtracy48@gmail.com](#); [Lita Pepion](#); [josiahhugs@weareunspokenwords.com](#); [Admallak@yahoo.com](#); [Barion's Books](#); [Pastor Amy Sell](#); [Pastor Seth Ramage](#); [Melvin - Pastor Terry](#); [pastorelizabeth@amluth.org](#); [PastorPatLewis@gmail.com](#); [Pastor Heidi Hester](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] WHEN IS OUR CITY GOING TO STAND UP AGAINST HATE?  
**Date:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 1:28:55 PM

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With all due respect, I don't believe I ever said it was my opinion that we shouldn't respond. I believe I was trying to explain the hesitancy I've heard from some in the city any time there has been a push to publicize an incident. I do understand that angle, and have respected the advice and insight of those that have given me that counsel. But personally I'm all for calling these f'ing cowards out for their kind of hate and bigotry that has no place in our city. Or in any other civilized 21st century society for that matter.

Tom

-----

Tom Rupsis  
City Council - Ward 5  
[rupsist@billingsmt.gov](mailto:rupsist@billingsmt.gov)  
406-545-0701

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