




OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LA CROSSE

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
FROM: MAYOR MITCH REYNOLDS 
DATE: JULY 22, 2021
RE: COPELAND PARK INCIDENT – A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

“So many thoughtful and equity-minded people in our community display signs that read, “Hate has no home here.” It is a powerful statement of justice and fairness and inclusion and I am honored to lead a city of so many who spread this positive message. So it pains me to hear of an attack in one of our parks this week that shows the extent to which hate does in fact continue to exist in our city. And does so quite demonstrably, aggressively and violently.”

“On Tuesday night, two juvenile members of our LGBTQ community were violently attacked in Copeland Park. Apparently not for anything they had done. But simply for who they are. While the perpetrator of this crime has been charged with a felony, the assault apparently cannot be charged as a hate crime under state statutes due to arcane language in those statutes that do not extend hate crime enhancement to crimes committed against transgender or non-binary individuals (La Crosse police officers had immediately requested a review from the District Attorney’s office to determine hate crime enhancement eligibility.)”

“It is, of course, appalling that some members of our community are so consumed by hate that they are provoked to violence against children. But we should extend our indignation of this attack to our state lawmakers who choose inaction on outdated state laws over justice. To those lawmakers, I urge immediate action. Take action to prove to your constituents that the rights of all matter. Take action to demonstrate your devotion to justice and fairness. Take action to make certain our message of “Hate has no home here” is more than words on a sign.”

Contact: Caley Rucker, Executive Secretary, Mayor’s Office, ruckerc@cityoflacrosse.org

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