



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Statement on the Republican Central Committee letter of Sept. 9

Sept. 24, 2025

As mayor of Missoula, I oppose any form of harassment, intimidation and vandalism. I am proud of how the City of Missoula supports free speech and people's rights to disagree with each other.

I am disappointed and dismayed by the divisiveness that has overtaken our country. I am alarmed that the chair of the Missoula County Republican Central Committee (MCRCC) reports vandalism and intimidating or harassing behavior from the public at the Western Montana Fair. The MCRCC has asked me to denounce these acts, and of course I do, just like I denounce the theft of Pride flags from our downtown businesses, coal-rolling a bicyclist or yelling at a 16-year-old retail worker for the sign in their employer's window. If behavior crosses a line into intimidation, threats or vandalism, and in any case in which people feel unsafe, they should ask for law enforcement help by calling 911.

It is a crisis that the civility of our American civic discourse has eroded. It takes each and every one of us to recognize this and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

It is my understanding that Mr. Darling and some colleagues met with Missoula County Board of Commissioners Chair Juanita Vero and fairgrounds staff last week, and I hope that was productive.

There appears to be some confusion with the matter of the letter from the MCRCC. The Committee mailed my office a letter addressed to the Board of County Commissioners. I did receive a similar letter addressed to me a week later, on September 23. The commissioners are the correct elected officials for incidents that occur at the Western Montana Fair or on the Missoula County Fairgrounds, which are functions of Missoula County.

Sincerely,

Andrea Davis
Mayor