



National Justice Party

PO Box 421
Butler, PA 16003

29 March 2021

The Honorable Mayor Bill Peduto,

As you are aware, on Saturday March 20, 2021, a horrific crime was committed against a 12 year old White child at a Mcdonald's location on Liberty Avenue. The suspect, a 51 year old Black man named Charles Turner has been denied bail and charged with attempted homicide, four counts of aggravated assault, two counts of simple assault, and resisting arrest.

We are pleased that swift action was taken to apprehend and charge this dangerous criminal, however we are worried that the state will choose to overlook the ugly role that racial bias and hate played in this crime. Many witnesses reported Turner shouting "White devil" and "White n*ggers" and other racial slurs at the police, bystanders and Mcdonald's staff who attempted to intervene during and after the attack.

The FBI defines a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity." While FBI involvement is required to charge a suspect with a hate crime at the federal level, Pennsylvania state code gives prosecutors the option to add an "ethnic intimidation" enhancement to any crime that is motivated by "malicious intention toward the race, color, religion or national origin of another individual or group of individuals." This can be done without any involvement or approval from the FBI.

We are curious why these enhancements have not been applied to Turner's charges more than one week after the incident, despite the clear and indisputable evidence that racial hatred provided at least part of his motivation for the crime. Mayor Peduto has a well documented history of presenting himself as a staunch opponent of hate, speaking at a summit condemnig anti-semitism just a few weeks ago, passing a resolution against

"White supremacy" on January 26 at the behest of a well-funded lobbying group, and publicly denouncing the March 16 Atlanta shooting for anti-Asian bias.

Given this record, we are perplexed by the mayor's relatively muted response to this particularly brutal example of anti-White violence, referring to the incident as "horrible and unacceptable" while conspicuously leaving out any condemnation of the explicit racial intent of the attack. This lack of government response and negligence in assigning a hate crime enhancement has left White residents of the city of Pittsburgh and the state of Pennsylvania feeling dismayed and confused. We fear that inaction on this issue will send the message to Pennsylvanians of all races that White lives somehow matter less, and that targeted violence against White residents is not taken seriously. We strongly urge the appropriate city and state officials to recognize this incident as the anti-White attack that it is, and to send the message that hatred will not be tolerated no matter the race of the victim or the perpetrator. Anything less is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

The National Justice Party

Michael Peinovich, Chairman

Joseph Jordan

Michael McKevitt

Tony Hovater

Gregory Conte

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