



A message to our citizens in Sandpoint:

The past several weeks and months a growing amount of divisiveness has gained a foothold in our community and this pains all of us to witness. As we watch how this has played out in other communities across the country, it points to the need for all of us now – more than ever – to come together as a community. Historically, we have always found a way to acknowledge and celebrate our differences and opinions, even in the most difficult of times, and we must return to our foundation in this regard.

As your elected officials at the City of Sandpoint, we are responsible for overseeing your local government to ensure necessary, effective and efficient services are provided to our residents, businesses and visitors. We are the stewards of your hard-earned tax dollars which requires us to be vigilant in our focus on the business of your local government.

We are also responsible for overseeing the enforcement of our city ordinances and laws fairly and equitably. Government must remain neutral and protect the rights of all citizens.

In the last two weeks, we received a letter from the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at the Georgetown University Law Center. This letter was unsolicited by the City. While we respect this organization's mission, we have our own legal counsel at the City who serves as our chief legal advisor to ensure we are acting lawfully and protecting the rights of our citizens, business and property owners and visitors. We are confident in the advice we receive and will not be pursuing additional outside assistance at this time.

We are living in unprecedented times and we have heard from members of our community who are fearful for the health and safety of their family members and friends. We have also heard from many individuals who are concerned about the intentions of others as they exercise their right to express their freedoms as granted under the U.S. Constitution and Idaho law.

We are committed to supporting the public we serve and providing excellent service. In doing so, we stand against prejudice, fear, ignorance and hate and will work to bring our community together and to maintain a welcoming environment where every person feels safe.

We encourage all of our community members to join us in this effort and strengthen the connections in our community. It is time for us to mend our rifts and come together with compassion and without judgment to acknowledge and celebrate our differences and find common ground. We must remain committed to protecting this beautiful place known as Sandpoint.

MAYOR SHELBY ROGNSTAD
SANDPOINT CITY COUNCIL