**Blonigan Letter to Community in Response to George Floyd Letter**

Dear Neighbors:

Thank you for your well-thought-out letter on Facebook regarding systemic racism and the process of working toward its elimination in Robbinsdale. Your community-engaged response is wonderful and something that is sorely needed. I forwarded your letter to the City Manager.

I condemn the murder of George Floyd and am committed to working beside you as an ally to make change happen in Robbinsdale. I will take the following actions to help bring change in Robbinsdale and beyond:

1. I will facilitate government openness by helping you get access to the information you requested.
2. I will encourage (with my vote) the expenditure of City funds to increase training for all staff, including the police department.
3. I will continue to place meeting community members where they are as my top priority.
4. I will encourage City staff to begin organizing community discussions. The Human Rights Commission is the obvious place to start this. (There are openings on the HRC right now and I encourage interested persons to apply for those openings. You could be a member by June 16th.) I will attend HRC meetings where these items are discussed.
5. I will be an ally and allow the community to create its own space and direct the conversation itself, even if it is inconvenient for council members and staff.
6. I will lean on my background as an attorney and community leader to engage in the legislative process and share the City’s perspective with legislators.
7. I will explore all options, including Law Enforcement Citizen Oversight Councils, to give the community a strong voice in how the all City staff, including Police Department staff, serve the community.
8. I will listen to all voices, participate in hard discussions, and facilitate engagement wherever I can.

I appreciate your passion and share your sense of urgency to work on these issues as a community. Please feel free to contact me personally at bloniganlaw@gmail.com or at my office (763.463.5796) or mobile phone (763.537.7776).

Sincerely yours,

                                                                        1st Ward Councilmember

and Candidate for Mayor

                                                                        William A. Blonigan

 William A. Blonigan