



City of Bellevue

March 18, 2019

MAPS Board and President Ali
MAPS Imam Joban
ICOE Imam Faisal Hasan
ICOE Board and President Javid

To our Muslim friends and neighbors,

As Salaam Alaykum. On behalf of the Bellevue City Council, I want to express our firm support of the local Islamic community during this difficult time. We regret that councilmembers cannot attend Monday night's Interfaith Vigil event, but it is scheduled during our regularly held council meeting. Several city staff, however, will be in attendance.

The Christchurch mosque terrorist shooting has shaken the world; causing aftershocks here on the Eastside. Bellevue, as a community, views hate in all forms as unacceptable. We firmly reiterate the inclusive values set forth in our council vision statement: "Bellevue welcomes the world. Our diversity is our strength."

During this troubling period, we urge everyone to be vigilant. Anyone feeling unsafe or in need of help, should immediately reach out to city staff or the Bellevue Police. We are here for you.

The vigil being hosted tonight along with the anti-Islamophobia discussion are excellent beginnings toward building awareness in our community. Thank you for being a part of the fabric of our diverse city. We look forward to continued efforts that ensure the well-being and success of all Bellevue residents.

Sincerely,

Mayor John Chelminiak