

**From:** Debra Vassallo <debra.vassallo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 5:44 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin Should be Censured

To the City Council,

It has come to our attention that Daniel Benjamin shared a video on Facebook that is racially charged and violent. African Americans are being mowed down by cars in this video which is totally unacceptable whether in a private Facebook account or not.

It gives the public the idea that Salem citizens accept this sort of illegal activity as well as racial discrimination.

Please do whatever you can to send a message to Councilman Benjamin that he is out of line. He should resign his position.

Sincerely,  
Debra and Tony Vassallo

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:58 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin video

Dear Mayor Peterson and city councilors

Please ask councilor Benjamin to step down from any future city council business. The hate filled intensity of the last election has many of my friends actually afraid for themselves or members of their families, and to have a Salem city councilor advertise such hate filled views is unacceptable.

Thank you  
Ray Quisenberry

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Lloyd Chapman <lankalloyd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin

Mayor and Councilors,

I was appalled to learn of Councilor Benjamin's Facebook post with its implication that the appropriate response to demonstrations in the street is to run down the demonstrators.

I hope you will consider whatever serious actions you might have available to you as I certainly feel he has not conducted himself "in a manner appropriate to the dignity of the office."

Lloyd Chapman

**From:** susanlloyd@peak.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 3:35 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin

Dear Mayor Peterson and City Council,

I read with grave concern the article on the KATU website concerning Councilor Benjamin's facebook post regarding Black Lives Matter. I am appalled by it as well as the response that was attributed to him in the article.

I appreciate Mayor Peterson's concern, and imagine it is widely shared on council. I urge you to use whatever is in your power- sanctions, censure, etc.- to make sure that neither Councilor Benjamin nor any other member of Council publicly share such hateful and dangerous messages in the future. I also hope that Councilor Benjamin is able to express his understanding of the danger such messages can pose to members of the Salem community, and take actions to redress the damage he has caused.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Susan Graves

**From:** Ellen Stevens <etstevens@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 3:35 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

Mayor and Councilors:

I am angry and offended by Councilor Benjamin's posting on Facebook. This current event combined with his earlier poor choices before his election to Council, demonstrate he is not a worthy representative of our City.

Please ask for his resignation,  
Ellen Stevens

**From:** Lori Beamer <loribeamer.3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 3:14 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** City Councilor Daniel Benjamin

Dear Mayor Peterson,

Councilor Benjamin's actions and words in response to criticism about posting and extremely violent and seemingly racist video on his personal facebook page are disturbing and unsettling. That is coming from my perspective as a white, somewhat privileged woman, living in Salem. I cannot begin to imagine how disturbing it must be for people of color!

I urge you to sanction Councilor Benjamin and create stronger city wide messaging and actions emphasizing equity and inclusion of all residents of Salem.

Thank you!

Lori Beamer  
885 Cottage St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

(503)910-6435

*"I feel the capacity to care is the thing which gives life its deepest significance."*

*~Pablo Casals (Spanish Cellist and Conductor, 1876-1973)*

**From:** Arlene McKenna <arlenejmckenna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:53 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin should be asked to resign!

His actions are vile and reprehensible and do not represent the values of our community. Mayor Peterson should demand he immediately step down!

Sincerely,  
Arlene McKenna  
Salem, OR

**From:** Jess Barton <jwmb@jessbartonlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilman Benjamin

Madam Mayor and City Councilors:

I was frankly disgusted to learn of Daniel Benjamin's Facebook post of November 17, 2016. I see it as **at least** as repulsive as the mayor of Clay, SC finding greatly humorous a Facebook post calling First Lady Michelle Obama an "ape on heels," which ended in that mayor's resignation.

But actually, for a separate reason I consider Mr. Benjamin's post worse, because he chose to defend himself with the tired claim that it's racist to infer that his racist post is racist. In any event, I would ask that you exercise Council Rule 8(b) to deal with the situation appropriately.

Finally, I should mention that I live in West Salem, so am one of Councilman Jim Lewis's constituents. As it turns out, last August 17, I emailed Mr. Lewis to express my concerns with the subsidy of the private golf course the city then was considering. I never did hear back from Mr. Lewis, but hope that maybe this time I will hear from him.

Jesse Wm. Barton



**From:** Bob Woods & Vickie Hardin Woods <bobandvickie@hardinwoods.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:23 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin Video

We saw the report on KATU TV showing the video posted by Councilor Benjamin on his Facebook account. It shows a violent reaction to protestors in the streets. The video shows African American protestors being run down. It quotes Ron Dwyer to make the point that "people are starting to get tired of the BlackLivesMatter bullies blocking the roadways". What it actually shows us is vehicular assault.

We want to express our strongest objection to one of our elected officials expressing himself in such a despicable way. In all times, it is imperative that all people take a stand against such racist and violent speech. We are all granted the freedom to speak out and, just as Mr. Benjamin was doing on his Facebook page, we ask the rest of the Council to speak out against what was said. Please do not let this stand without a condemnation from the rest of you. This incident puts a stain on the city we live in, the City of "Peace."

We understand and appreciate the work that you do as local officials. Mayor Petersons comments are greatly appreciated. We count on you to be the face and voice of our citizens. Please speak for us.

Vickie Hardin Woods Bob Woods  
3474 El Dorado CT S  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:** d4nowar@gmail.com on behalf of Dan Bentson <dan.bentson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:12 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** City Councilor Daniel Benjamin should step down.

Hello,

I have been a Salem resident for my entire life and am disgusted by the behavior shown by Daniel Benjamin as a representative of the city council. His actions do not represent me or the city that I call my own, and his actions reflect poorly on the city. Sharing a violent video of people being run down by citizens is horrific and is not appropriate to the dignity of the office.

Please remove Daniel Benjamin from his position of authority, as he is unfit for the position and not representative of the values of the city.

Thanks,  
Dan Bentson

**From:** Robert Mansolillo <mansoro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:06 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin

City Council,

I'm writing to express my disapproval and concern over a facebook post made by Councilor Benjamin. Social media seems to have become this place where people feel they can post or write anything they please without fear of backlash. Weather the post was on his private account or not, it clearly expresses the view that he does not value human life. We should all know that anyway based on his multiple domestic assault convictions. We have a violent, sexist bigot representing the City. This is not the type of person I want representing the City I call home, and I would be extremely ashamed of the City of Salem if it allowed something like this to go unpunished.

Sincerely,

Robert Mansolillo  
Salem Resident

**From:** Gail Warner <red.warner@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 1:59 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin

City Council members have an obligation to uphold the goals and objectives of the City of Salem. Since the City has a Human Rights and Relations Commission, established in 1967 to "address questions and complaints of discrimination and to serve as a resource regarding human rights and relations", I request that the matter of Mr. Benjamin's web post and comments to the media be forwarded to the HRRC for further action.

In a time of great national tension over race and discrimination, our local elected officials should provide us with actions to emulate rather than criticize. Mr. Benjamin's actions are immature, racist and not befitting a City of Salem council member.

Gail Warner  
Ward 4

**From:** Richard Reid <richard@bluffhouse.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 1:37 PM  
**To:** Salem Weekly  
**Cc:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Salem Community Vision; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Salem city councilor shares violent, racially charged video; activist demands he resign

So far the “activist” demanding Benjamin resign is NOT a Salem resident. For now the Mayor is leaving the matter up to Benjamin when it should be left up to us.

Peterson wrote, "according to our Council rules, the City Council does have the right to sanction a councilor if their 'actions reflect poorly on the city' or if they don't conduct themselves 'appropriate to the dignity of the office.' The City Council can pass a resolution publicly censuring a City Councilor. Further, the mayor can remove the councilor from all Council sub-committees ... I will talk with Councilor Benjamin about the inappropriate item. His response will determine my next steps."

Please forward thanks,  
Richard

by Joe Douglass, KATU News  
Monday, November 21st 2016

## Salem city councilor shares violent, racially charged video; activist demands he resign

SALEM, Ore. —

Salem City Councilor Daniel Benjamin shared a violent, racially charged video on Facebook Thursday, and now a local activist is calling for him to step down.

The video shows several African-American people being run over by vehicles.

Benjamin apparently did not shoot the footage himself.

In one scene, ominous music plays as a crowd gathers on a street. Suddenly a car plows into them.

The video then launches into a series of collisions between vehicles and groups of people.

The post includes a description from conservative blogger, Ron Dwyer, saying, "As this video shows people are starting to get tired of the Black Lives Matter bullies blocking the roadways."

"It's very indecent when it comes from public officials," Teressa Raiford told KATU regarding the video.

She's lead organizer for Don't Shoot Portland, an organization she claims is the most active Black Lives Matter group in Oregon.

She's lead organizer for Don't Shoot Portland, an organization she claims is the most active Black Lives Matter group in Oregon.

"I think it's sickening and it's pretty much disgusting. You're promoting racial intimidation and harassment and possibly murder," Raiford said. "He needs to resign ... Ask him to resign or just go ahead and get done with him."

Salem Mayor Anna M. Peterson said she's horrified by the video.

"It actually made my stomach churn when I could see people actually being mowed down on purpose," Peterson said.

She told KATU she talked with Benjamin Monday afternoon.

"I told him that I was disappointed and shocked at the video and I suggested that he take it down," Peterson said. "We're striving hard to let people in the community know that the city of Salem stands firmly beside the civil rights of every person in this city."

Benjamin told a KATU reporter off-camera the post was on his personal Facebook page and although it was public, anyone who doesn't like it can unfriend him.

He also said it has nothing to do with race and, "To infer I'm a racist is actually racist."

"I think that's hogwash and we all know it," Raiford said, regarding Benjamin's response. "It is promoting racism."

"I'm just extremely disappointed," Peterson said late Monday afternoon, explaining that she wasn't sure if Benjamin would face any action from the city.

She later emailed KATU saying the city attorney told her an elected city councilor can only be removed if they're convicted of a crime or they don't show up to work and don't communicate with city officials for 30 days.

"That being said," Peterson wrote, "according to our Council rules, the City Council does have the right to sanction a councilor if their 'actions reflect poorly on the city' or if they don't conduct themselves 'appropriate to the dignity of the office.' The City Council can pass a resolution publicly censuring a City Councilor. Further, the mayor can remove the councilor from all Council sub-committees ... I will talk with Councilor Benjamin about the inappropriate item. His response will determine my next steps."

In the original post, Dwyer writes, "Video courtesy of Devious Keely. Give her page a like."

Regarding the footage, Keely told KATU, "It was passed to me from friends of mine that I just put together in a mash-up. A lot of it is from news feeds like local stations such as yourself. The music is something I also do not own. I have noticed it's being re-purposed into things I never meant it to mean. This wasn't about BLM (Black Lives Matter), or anything with Trump; just people not understanding that blocking roadways is 1) Illegal in most states without a permit, and 2) Dangerous and something that one should not do."

**From:** Carlene Benson <bensonwc@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 1:19 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

Dear Mayor and City Councilors, the appalling video posted by Daniel Benjamin is outrageous in the negative attention it brings to Salem. He must be censored and if he has any common decency (which doesn't seem at all apparent), he would do well to resign. This is embarrassing to me personally as a resident. For crying out loud, Salem is the "City of Peace". There is no way he can represent any part of the city. He must go.

Carlene Benson  
545 Leslie St. SE

**From:** Michael Hughes <hughes.m@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 12:54 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin's Fitness for Council

Dear Mayor Peterson and City Councilors:

I was shocked and disgusted to hear about the video Councilor Benjamin posted on Facebook. It was not only in poor taste but showed an appalling lack of judgment. This is not the type of person I want running my city.

Daniel Benjamin is certainly not a leader who I would want anyone to follow nor should he be considered a representative of the majority of the people of Salem. He has degraded the image of our entire city. He needs to get help to overcome his childish attitude or resign his seat and allow someone with more maturity to represent his ward.

Michael Hughes



**From:** Geoffrey James A.I.A. <gjamesarchitect@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 12:54 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Daniel Benjamin



Dear Mayor and Council:

I urge you to censure and replace City Councilor Daniel Benjamin who posted "hate speech" on his Facebook page on November 17th.

This is the latest serious Violation of Council Rule 8(b) which directs that:  
"Councilors ... shall at all times, while in session or otherwise, conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the dignity of their office."

The subject (and outrageous) video posting has now been removed.  
However, if you look at Daniel Benjamin Facebook page you will see numerous other violations of this Council Rule.

I ask that the Council take action immediately, and appoint a respected neighborhood leader in this position.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey James  
Ward 3

**From:** Maura Ryan <maurar08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilman Daniel Benjamin's Actions

I am writing today to voice my disgust at the actions of Daniel Benjamin. Elected officials are supposed to be held to high standards, especially in public. While many areas of the country have lowered their standards and given in to hatred and racist rhetoric, I had hoped that my city would shine as an example of the opposite. If no action is taken against the horrifying posting of such a violent video, I can only assume that the city council does not share my hope.

Let's leave aside the racism apparent in Benjamin's Facebook post. Stripped of all of the hateful implications of intimidation and suppression, the video posted was of people being hit by cars. In what world would that be an appropriate video for an elected public official to post? As his Facebook profile was set to public, in this day and age, that is the same as expressing those thoughts in person.

The thought process involved in posting that video implies that not only does Benjamin feel strongly about the issue, he expects others to feel the same as him. I feel the need to strongly voice that I do *not* feel the same as him, and Councilman Benjamin does not represent me.

I hope to God that he doesn't represent Salem, either.

Citizen of Salem,  
Maura Ryan

**From:** Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Daniel Benjamin

Dear Mayor and Council:

I urge you to take appropriate actions to censure the behavior of City Councilor Daniel Benjamin who posted "hate speech" on his Facebook page on November 17th.

In doing so he violated Council Rule 8(b): "Councilors ... shall at all times, while in session or otherwise, conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the dignity of their office."

The post on November 17th is not the only instance of this. If you look at Councilor Benjamin's Facebook page you will see numerous violations of this Council Rule.

I ask that the Council take action without delay.

Sincerely,

Jim Scheppke  
Ward 2

**From:** Marcele Perry <marceleperry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:33 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin is racist and violent

Daniel Benjamin needs to go. His racist and violent views are too much to ignore. People are not bowling pins and cars are not toys for killing groups OS people. Shame to us all.

**From:** Denise Duren <duren.denise@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:19 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Horrible conduct of Daniel Benjamin

What will all of you do about his racist conduct. Salem has made national news about his racism. My friends from back east first told me we were on the news.

Thank you,

Denise Duren

**From:** n\_carl@netzero.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:43 AM  
**To:** Daniel Benjamin  
**Cc:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** What An Example

Hey Dan,

You obviously don't realize you are an ignoramus ... aka " STUPID JACKASS"

and a total embarrassment for the rest of the city.

I do hope to see you around town somewhere so I can **loudly express** (verbally only, or course) my disgust in person !

Very sincerely,  
Salem Resident & Registered Voter

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**Diabetes Will Kill You (Do This To "Stop" It)**

Life Advice Daily

<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3242/583475f83141475f73bbast01duc>



**From:** Jonathan Jones <jbmjphoto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:15 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

to Whom It May Concern:

In light of the news this week of Councilman Benjamin sharing and proliferating a horrific video depicting violence and hatred that is racially motivated, I, as a proud member of the Salem community and a minority, demand that Councilman Benjamin tender his resignation, effective immediately. His views do not represent the views of myself, our city, or our country. There is no room in city governance for hatred or violence, and he has shown, unrepentantly, that he believes in both.

With hope and force of voice,  
Jonathan Jones  
3293 Edward Drive SE  
Salem, OR

**From:** Sarah Chilcote <sarahandkeith@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 7:55 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

I am thoroughly disgusted by Mr. Benjamin's purported sharing of the racist anti-Black Live Matter video on facebook. I implore Mayor Peterson and the City Council to investigate this and, if proven, take action against Mr. Benjamin. This type of racist cannot be ignored, and will put a very unfavorable spotlight on our fair city.

Thank you,  
Sarah Chilcote



**From:** Daniel Adams <daniel.adams@orhighered.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 7:47 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duñcan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilman Benjamin

Our family moved to Salem in Dec of 2015 because we believed it was a place where we could raise our family. If there is any truth to the recent reports, City Councilman Benjamin's actions, whether public or private, are not worthy of his office and represent a moment of crisis if the Council is interested in public faith in the institution.

I expect the Mayor and the City of Salem to take immediate action which prevents Councilman Benjamin from representing our city.

I additionally hope remaining members of the City Council will undertake diversity/inclusion training in a good-faith effort to continue to learn how to better meet the needs of all community members and to begin to restore public trust.

sent from my mobile device

**From:** Justin Ego <ego@aleinsalem.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 6:53 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Daniel Benjamin

Councilors,

Mr. Benjamins actions do not represent the city of Salem. I do not believe that he should be afforded the privilege of representing us in an official capacity. As the City Council, please do not let his beliefs and actions come to define us.

Thank you for your time.

Justin Ego  
Salem resident

**From:** kaylan.m.adams@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 6:36 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilman Benjamin

I was horrified to learn of Councilman Daniel Benjamin posting a racially violent video on his Facebook page. This is absolutely unacceptable behavior from an elected representative in our community. I am writing to ask that he be officially sanctioned. He must understand there are consequences to this type of behavior.

Thank you for representing our community.

Best,  
Kaylan Adams  
(503) 309-6824

**From:** kellyoneillcrane@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 2:39 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Sanction Benjamin

Dear Salem City Council,

I was horrified to learn of the racist, violent video that Benjamin recently shared on social media. I ask that he be officially sanctioned by the council to send a message that Salem, as a city, does not condone racially intolerance.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Crane, Salem resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Lee Roden <rodenlee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2016 11:20 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Mr. Benjamin

I find this to be very troubling - Not what I would expect from an elected official in Salem. I hope the council will make a statement about this kind of behavior and take the appropriate actions towards Mr. Benjamin.

<http://katu.com/news/local/salem-city-councilor-shares-violent-racially-charged-video-activist-demands-he-resign>

Lee Roden  
Ward 1

**From:** Sharlee Blackwell <s.black4477@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2016 11:04 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Censure!

<http://katu.com/news/local/salem-city-councilor-shares-violent-racially-charged-video-activist-demands-he-resign>

I am appaled. Councilman Benjamin should be censured. Yes, his FB Page is "personal", however, he is a representative of our city!

I was very warm and fuzzy about the video .

<https://m.facebook.com/kmuz.885.fm/posts/10153970810756560>

You all released, but hearing about this makes me sick. 51% of our students in the SK school district are people of color. Do the right thing.

Thank you  
Sharlee. Blackwell  
3321 Ratcliff LN SE  
Salem, OR 97302

**From:** Roz Shirack <rozshirack7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 6:32 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Call for Councilor Benjamin's Resignation

Mayor Peterson and Council,

I am deeply troubled by Councilor Daniel Benjamin's posting of the violent videos showing willful injury of peaceful Black Lives Matter protestors on his Facebook page. His apparent support of violence against people of color must be refuted by all of us. Please take official Council action to ask Councilor Benjamin to resign from Council. This will send a clear message that the Council does not share Benjamin's view and will not ignore his public hate speech. If he will not resign, then please censure him and remove him from all Council committees so he in no way can speak for the City of Salem.

Thank you for taking prompt action to demonstrate that Salem does not tolerate racism.

Roz Shirack

**From:** Brian Hines <brianhines1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin's domestic violence arrests

Here's the blog post I wrote tonight about Salem City Councilor Daniel Benjamin's domestic violence arrests. In 2014 I didn't publicize information about his second 1996 arrest because Benjamin told me he was a "changed man" and I believe in second (or third) chances. But this new racially charged outrage made me feel that people needed to know about his violent past.

<http://hinessight.blogs.com/salempoliticalsnark/2016/11/daniel-benjamin-was-arrested-twice-for-beating-up-women-in-the-1990s.html>

— Brian

-----  
Brian Hines  
Salem, Oregon USA  
[brianhines1@gmail.com](mailto:brianhines1@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonBrian>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StrangeUpSalem>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SalemPoliticalSnark/>  
<http://twitter.com/oregonbrian>  
[www.hinesblog.com](http://www.hinesblog.com) (blog)  
[www.churchofthechurchless.com](http://www.churchofthechurchless.com) (other blog)  
[www.salempoliticalsnark.com](http://www.salempoliticalsnark.com) (other other blog)



**From:** Jon Walton or Christine Ertl <ertlwalton@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 7:57 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** DAniel Benjamin

Daniel Benjamin has lost his right to represent the City of Salem. His offensive remarks, videos and repeat Facebook posts must be publically reprimanded. Please consider asking him to step down before a recall effort is underway.  
Respectfully,  
Christine Ertl

**From:** Mary; Vorachek <maryvorachek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:52 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Ward 6 City Councilor, Daniel Benjamin

Dear Mayor Peterson and members of the Salem City Council,

Advocating deadly violence against people by anyone is despicable and possibly a crime. Daniel Benjamin, Councilor from Salem's Ward 6, appears to advocate vehicular homicide against protesting members of the Black Lives Matter movement. His apology aside, he shows very poor judgement and does not belong on any governing board.

Mary A. Vorachek  
680 16th St. NE  
Salem OR 97301

**From:** Erin Brewer <erinrachelbrewer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:28 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin needs to resign.

Hello,

I am writing to you today to ask for the resignation of Daniel Benjamin. It is unacceptable as a public servant to promote and condone violence towards peaceful protesters. Condoning violence towards anyone is unacceptable, but I am especially offended that he is suggesting in Facebook posts that the people who stand up for marginalized people in the face of oppression should be run over. This is not someone who represents my home state of Oregon, and should be removed from public office.

Thank you.

Erin Brewer  
541.972.5201

**From:** Margaret Stephens <mlstep@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 7:40 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

I am asking that Daniel Benjamin resign immediately.

If he does not resign I ask that the Council and Mayor remove him from office.

Thanks,

Margaret Stephens  
1830 23rd St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**From:** Barbara Wolfe <barbaraw67@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 8:32 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Cc:** SALEM MAYOR  
**Subject:** First time I've sent the council an email

Madam Mayor & Councilors:

I am appalled at the insensitivity of Daniel Benjamin's post of African-Americans being struck by automobiles! The sheer amount of hateful public statements in a wide variety of arenas & mediums across the country is horrific.

With the name "Peace" (Salem) as our moniker, and with the growing diversity in our community, people of all races, religions, ethnic groups and creeds should be welcomed, not vilified!

Please take action to remove Daniel Benjamin from his position if he does not resign on his own.

Barbara Wolfe

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Zachary Brunot <zachary@elmerlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:21 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

Dear City Council:

I am writing to express my opposition to Councilor Daniel Benjamin's ongoing presence on the Salem City Council. While it is unclear whether Mr. Benjamin is advocating violence toward protestors, is living vicariously through those in the video, or just found the video "share-worthy," his actual motives don't really matter. That is because anyone who perceives an affinity with those in the video willing to advocate violence is not fit to be a representative of this city in any capacity whatsoever. The sentiments contained in the video are repugnant to our fundamental values of health, safety, and human dignity.

His actions not only reflect very poorly on his judgment, and tarnish the dignity of his office and this city. Mr. Benjamin's actions have demonstrated that he represents only some of Ward 6's residents; those who choose to mock the ugly reality of police brutality, and view civil rights protests as more of an inconvenience than a tool of Progress. Most importantly, he confirms the suspicious and cements the concerns of the racial minorities living in Salem who already feel distrust toward the government—state, local, and federal.

I urge you to act quick to remove what may become an indelible stain from Salem politics.

Thank you for your time,

Zachary Brunot

**Zachary W. Brunot | Associate Attorney**  
Randy M. Elmer, Attorney at Law, P.C.  
245 Commercial St. SE, Suite 220 | Salem, OR 97301  
T: 503-581-9770 x302 | F: 503-581-3456  
[zachary@elmerlaw.com](mailto:zachary@elmerlaw.com) | [www.elmerlaw.com](http://www.elmerlaw.com)

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**From:** epwhitehouse@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:37 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Cc:** Cara Kaser; Sally Cook; matt ausec  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin

Dear Councilors:

At the small downtown church which my wife and I attend, we gathered for Thanksgiving dinner last Saturday evening to introduce this American custom to the two refugee families which we are sponsoring in Salem. There were about a dozen of them, from Iraq and Syria, men, women and children, all delightful and wonderful people who are struggling to learn English and make their way in Salem. I am so glad that they probably did not read this morning's paper.

We all make mistakes, but it is so important that our elected leaders show by example that they know how to disagree while remaining agreeable.

Councilor Benjamin is representing a ward in Salem which had previously been represented by an African American woman. His election was almost entirely financed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Homebuilders' Association. I would like to think that they do not approve of the remarks attributed to Councilor Benjamin.

I wish the man no ill, but I think it would be best for him and for our City if he were to make a public apology and then offer his resignation. If this does not happen, then he will probably face a recall election.

Sincerely, Evan White

**From:** Elaine Z <tbunni331@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 10:28 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Video posting

Dear Councilor Benjamin:

I am a life long resident of Salem and a current resident of Ward 6, none of which is really relevant to my main concern: your lack of judgment.

I understand that you claim that you were only trying to foster discussion and get people to start a conversation. What I don't understand is why you felt it was necessary to do that by posting a disturbing and offensive video.

I understand you claim the view presented in the video is not your own. What I don't understand is why you couldn't find a video to post that more closely aligned with your (professed) views.

I understand you feel threatened and put upon and have withdrawn your Facebook account into a private status due the public's response to your actions. What YOU don't understand is that many people feel threatened every day, and have no option to withdraw. They have to live in our society, and perpetuating the images in that video, for any reason whatsoever, makes them LESS safe.

As a Salem City Councilor you are expected to uphold the values of the people of Salem, and to exhibit good judgment. In this, I believe you have failed.

Sincerely,

Elaine Ziebart



**From:** Jen Hiser <jenhiser@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin

Daniel Benjamin should resign. We cannot tolerate bigotry and racism from elected officials. I believe that if we had seen his racism prior to his election, Salem would not have chosen him.

Thank you,

Jennifer Hiser  
South Salem resident

**From:** Bill Hayden <hayden\_bill@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 3:38 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin's violent, racially charged, video on Facebook page

Dear Mayor and City Councilors:

I saw the KATU news story, as well as the article in today's Statesman Journal, regarding the violent, racially charged, video that Councilor Bengamin posted on his personal Facebook page. Even though he has now taken the images off his web site and apologized for the action, I believe that particularly in today's post-election racially tense environment, such behavior on the part of an elected official in our community is totally inappropriate and only serves to alienate minority groups from our City government and broader community.

Personally, I found the video extremely offensive. It seemed to suggest that at least one Salem City Councilor thinks that violently mowing down (killing) nonviolent "Black Lives Matter" demonstrators is OK now that we are in a post-Obama environment.

Salem is a City of Peace. If we seriously view our city in such light, actions like the one described above should be condemned by the Mayor and Council. Councilor Benjamin was not acting in a manner appropriate to the dignity expected of one who serves in his capacity as a City Councilor. As a minimum, censure is called for.

I urge your thoughtful consideration of my perspective on this event and the action I believe you must take.

Sincerely,  
Bill Hayden  
1254 Karen Way NW  
Salem, OR 97304

**From:** Roz Shirack <rozshirack7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 5:29 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Thank you re: Councilor Benjamin's Resignation

A heartfelt Thank You to each of you for representing Salem as a safe and welcoming city for all people. I'm sure your decisive action to add the censure discussion to the Monday Council agenda and Mayor Peterson's "frank" discussion with Councilor Benjamin were responsible for his decision to resign.

I'm thankful for Councilor Andersen's proposed resolutions to investigate Benjamin's actions and request his resignation.

I'm proud of my City and neighbors who were ready to publicly stand with me against hate and violence.

On Thanksgiving I will think of each of you personally when I reflect on all I have to be thankful for.

Roz Shirack  
Ward 2

**From:** ANITA OWEN <fundraisingor@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 25, 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Bill Hayden; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** RE: Councilor Benjamin's violent, racially charged, video on Facebook page

Well said,bill. I agree 100%. Anita

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Bill Hayden <hayden\_bill@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** 11/23/16 6:38 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** citycouncil@cityofsalem.net  
**Subject:** Councilor Benjamin's violent, racially charged, video on Facebook page

Dear Mayor and City Councilors:

I saw the KATU news story, as well as the article in today's Statesman Journal, regarding the violent, racially charged, video that Councilor Bengamin posted on his personal Facebook page. Even though he has now taken the images off his web site and apologized for the action, I believe that particularly in today's post-election racially tense environment, such behavior on the part of an elected official in our community is totally inappropriate and only serves to alienate minority groups from our City government and broader community.

Personally, I found the video extremely offensive. It seemed to suggest that at least one Salem City Councilor thinks that violently mowing down (killing) nonviolent "Black Lives Matter" demonstrators is OK now that we are in a post-Obama environment.

Salem is a City of Peace. If we seriously view our city in such light, actions like the one described above should be condemned by the Mayor and Council. Councilor Benjamin was not acting in a manner appropriate to the dignity expected of one who serves in his capacity as a City Councilor. As a minimum, censure is called for.

I urge your thoughtful consideration of my perspective on this event and the action I believe you must take.

Sincerely,  
Bill Hayden  
1254 Karen Way NW  
Salem, OR 97304

**From:** Sam Speckman <speckmansam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 27, 2016 11:52 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Warren Bednarz; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Daniel Benjamin resignation

Hi,

I just wanted to say that I was glad to hear that Daniel Benjamin resigned from his position as city councilor. His post on social media was disgusting. It was very concerning to see a government official sharing the kind of material that is curated and posted online by racists and bigots.

I'm sure you are busy people, please don't feel compelled to reply to this email.

-Sam Speckman, West Salem

**From:** Todd P. Silverstein <tsilvers@willamette.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 4:45 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Peterson; Warren Bednarz  
**Cc:** Brad Nanke; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Dan Atchison; Daniel Benjamin; Diana Dickey; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** please censure Councillor Benjamin

Weds., 23 November 2016

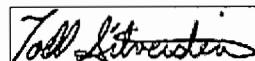
Mayor Peterson ([ampeterson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:ampeterson@cityofsalem.net)) and

Councillor Bednarz ( [wbednarz@cityofsalem.net](mailto:wbednarz@cityofsalem.net) )

[citycouncil@cityofsalem.net](mailto:citycouncil@cityofsalem.net)

As you know, on the front page of today's *Statesman-Journal* was an article detailing some recent unacceptable Facebook postings by Councillor Daniel Benjamin (Ward 6, East Salem). These postings suggest that he is racist, Islamophobic, and anti-democratic (see Facebook page descriptions below). Mr. Benjamin's non-apology, "I truly apologize if I offended people" is entirely inadequate. I strongly encourage the City Council at its next meeting to publically censure Mr. Benjamin and remove him from all City Council committees and sub-committees.

I appreciate your concern regarding this issue.



Todd P. Silverstein, Ph.D.

1945 Saginaw St. S.

Salem, OR 97302

1. **racist**: video depicting African-Americans getting hit by cars, with description stating that “people are starting to get tired of the BlackLivesMatter bullies blocking the roadways.” The implication seems to be that it’s acceptable to run over African-American protesters.
2. **Islamophobic**: citing several recent Muslim terrorists (e.g., the Shoe Bomber, Beltway snipers, Fort Hood Shooter), the caption read “It’s not a phobia if they really are trying to kill you.” The clear implication here is that because a few Muslims have engaged in violent extremism, we should fear all Muslims.
3. **Anti-democratic**: “Those in the blue [states] want a revolution [sic]. Those in red [states] own 95% of the guns [sic]... What could possibly go wrong???” This could be read as supporting civil war, pitting armed conservative “red states” against unarmed liberal “blue states.”

--

Todd P. Silverstein  
Professor of Chemistry

Chemistry Department  
Willamette University  
900 State St.  
Salem, OR 97301

office: Olin Science Center (rm. 317)  
phone: 503-375-5359  
fax: 503-375-5425  
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<http://www.willamette.edu/cla/chem/faculty/silverstein/index.php>