

Herald-Times Guest Column

Mayor Wrong About Schooner Creek Farm

By Robert Hall, Guest Columnist August 18

This guest column was written by Robert Hall of Bloomington, who is leader of the Grassroots Conservatives.

The mayor of Bloomington, John Hamilton, announced last week that the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market would reopen after being closed for two weeks due to safety concerns. He condemned white nationalism and white supremacists as a scourge on the community. The mayor again blamed the wrong people for the safety concern.

The error with the mayor's statement is that no white nationalists or white supremacists have been identified at the farmers' market. No violence or vandalism has been attributed to such groups. Nada!

The real culprits were Antifa and NoSpace4Hate groups who caused vandalism, intimidation and interference with market business. As a result of their actions, outraged citizens of our community who cherish the First Amendment came to the defense of Schooner Creek Farm. It has not helped heal the community when the mayor continues to advance a false narrative.

The mayor mentions the mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. He failed to mention that these two horrific tragedies were caused by radical leftists who were Antifa sympathizers. The hateful ideologies of white supremacy, slavery, KKK, and segregation that the mayor mentions originated in the south by Democrats.

The new safety measures proposed by the mayor including increased presence of police and public safety officers should help protect the safety of the public and vendors from the left.

The NoSpace4Hate group has been handing out flyers calling for a boycott of Schooner

Creek Farm. One of their protesters was arrested for violating farmers' market rules and when was led away by police, supporters screamed hate and cursed the police.

NoSpace4Hate had planned a large protest rally at the farmers' market for Aug. 3, but it was canceled after the mayor closed the market for that day.

A dozen Antifa thugs dressed in black with hoods, masks and sunglasses stared menacingly while surrounding the Schooner Creek Farm booth and blocked customers from buying vegetables. Antifa is a known domestic terrorist group that includes local members who have been convicted of a violent racist attack.

In addition, fascist hate graffiti "SCHOONER CREEK FARM ARE NAZIS" was spray painted on buildings near the farmers' market. The graffiti was at 8 places on the historic Johnson Creamery building and also on other places in the area.

This vandalism was a hate crime. The FBI defines hate crime as a criminal offense committed against a person, property or society that is motivated by the offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin.

NoSpace4Hate is falsely accusing Sarah Dye, the owner of Schooner Creek Farm, of being a white supremacist. Sarah Dye denies all accusations of being tied to white supremacy. It's one thing if someone admits it but Ms. Dye denies it. She is disgusted at the level of lies, misinformation, falsehoods and intimidation by the protesters.

The innuendo has unfairly persecuted her reputation. Here is what I learned about Sarah Dye.

- She just wants to sell her produce at the farmers' market as she has for 9 years.
- She is peaceful and does not spread hate.
- She does not recruit for white supremacy at the farmers' market.
- She is proud of her European heritage but does not proselytize her beliefs.
- She has made some mild pro-white comments on an obscure internet blog.
- She has no criminal record and has not been accused of a crime.

- She may have thoughts (wrongthink) that are politically incorrect, but that is not a crime.
- She is part of the American Identity Movement but it is not a white supremacist organization.
- She used to be very liberal but became conservative a few years ago.

I encourage people to visit the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market and buy from Schooner Creek Farm.

https://www.hoosiertimes.com/herald_times_online/opinion/columns/mayor-wrong-about-schooner-creek-farm/article_19fea5eb-df9d-557f-9b5b-fa4acfe256eb.html