



## **City of Lewiston Press Statement May 9, 2022**

### **Mayor Carl L. Sheline Urges Lewiston Forward**

As the top municipal official elected to represent Lewiston people, I'm disheartened and disgusted with the amount of time and effort we spend on issues that not only don't move us forward, they hold us back. We need to do what we are elected to do, it needs to be done transparently, and must be on behalf of ALL Lewiston residents.

We should not find out about major policy issues from [the local newspaper](#). We can't govern this way – not only because it's ineffective, but because it's unethical. Councilors should not have the expectation to work on council business in complete secrecy from the rest of the council and the public. We must conduct the public's business transparently.

Lewiston's diversity is our strength. We have experienced challenges along the way, and, yet, we have done what Lewiston does: we've worked hard to create a community where all people are accepted and welcome.

Lewiston Public Schools are diverse, vibrant, and full of promise. We must celebrate the beautiful mosaic of our schools, our students, and our educators. Lewiston's families must be able to count on our schools to offer a well-rounded education. We need to focus on the needs of our kids, families, and communities – and not further divide a city that has already been divided by racist and xenophobic rhetoric and actions many times.

We want people in our community, especially teachers and students of color, to know that officials at the highest level of city government have their back. We must have conversations that promote acceptance and compassion for everyone. We must commit to engaging in meaningful dialogue that leads to a greater understanding of who we are and where we come from. We encourage the Lewiston community to join us in continuing these tough conversations, because that is the only way we move our community forward together.

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