



## SAI Steering Committee

# Statement on Hate

When Summit Area Indivisible (SAI) was formed in the early part of 2017, we made it a clear priority to represent inclusion and diversity. We explicitly stated—and reaffirmed in 2021—that we stand *for* human rights and peaceful co-existence with our neighbors within the United States and other countries around the world. We are *against* division, authoritarianism, racism, hatred, corruption, and manufacturing or manipulation of facts to create “alternate facts” or conspiracy theories that hurt our democracy and our neighbors.

Over the past few years, we have seen the precipitous rise of racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and all kinds of oppressive actions against any and all minority groups in the United States. These racist issues are not new in our country, but during these last four years some elected leaders have unleashed much more chaos, confusion, doubt and hatred, giving those with hate or fear in their hearts a platform and a voice from the highest levels of our government. Rhetoric from our previous President about the COVID 19 pandemic put a target on our fellow Asian American neighbors which has led to an increase in attacks on these communities. Gun violence has become a “normal occurrence”—we are not safe nor free to live our daily lives. The January 6, 2021 insurrection was clearly an attack on the very nature of our democracy, the certification of a free and fair election, by using “the big lie”, a propaganda technique, to grossly distort the truth. GOP leaders have openly attacked our democracy by choosing to side with the previous President vs. standing up for the American people. The same leaders who have fueled the hate, do not want to take any action to prevent future attacks even when the majority of the American people want this hate to stop. They want to maintain the division in America. They are feverishly focused on dismantling the very core of our democracy, our VOTE. In states with GOP leadership, bills are being presented, passed and signed into law, to disenfranchise the “black and brown” votes. Summit and our surrounding communities—all of whom are represented in our Summit Area group—have been witness to and hurt by signs of hate, too.

The SAI Steering Committee, representing all SAI members, clearly, unanimously and without any doubt or reservation, denounce any form of hatred, bigotry, and any form of “the big lie” to distort the truth—**period**. We also denounce vitriolic attacks on elected officials, regardless of party, volunteers and neighbors by those who do not agree with their point of view and we denounce the defacing of any property.

As SAI members, our goal is to be beacons of hope and light, striving to leverage diversity and inclusion to solve problems and progress as a human family. We believe that education, respectful dialogue, and engagement are critical to driving understanding among diverse groups. We denounce any person or group in our communities that try to divide us with signs and symbols and words of hate. As Summit Area residents, parents, grandparents, young adults and students, each one of us plays a key role in driving dialogue and understanding and calling out hate when we see it or experience it. It is our responsibility to alert the appropriate authorities but also to understand that we can bring about change only with light and love—not with more hate. We encourage all of our members to turn their anger, disappointment, and fear into action, education, love and unity. We must stand with each other to protect our democracy which starts with our VOTE.

*In solidarity with all people,*  
SAI Steering Committee