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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

SELAH ALLIANCE FOR  
EQUALITY, COURTNEY  
HERNANDEZ, REV. DONALD  
DAVIS JR., LAURA PEREZ,  
ANITA CALLAHAN, KALAH  
JAMES, CHARLOTTE TOWN,  
AMANDA WATSON, and ANNA  
WHITLOCK,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF SELAH; SHERRY  
RAYMOND, in her official capacity  
as Mayor of the City of Selah; and  
DONALD WAYMAN, in his  
official capacity as City  
Administrator for the City of Selah;

Defendants.

No.

**DECLARATION OF KALAH  
JAMES IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT**

I, KALAH JAMES, declare:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am competent to be a witness in this proceeding. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and if called to testify, I could and would testify completely thereto.

2. I have been a resident of Selah, Washington my entire life.

3. I am currently an Administrator of the Selah Alliance For Equality (“S.A.F.E.”).

4. As an Administrator of S.A.F.E., I share equal decision-making authority with S.A.F.E.’s other five Administrators. I also lead S.A.F.E.’s Education working group. My group is tasked with encouraging Selah schools to be more

1 inclusive and welcoming environments for all students. I also run S.A.F.E.’s  
2 Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/-SelahAllianceforEquality/>.

3 5. As the mother of two Black sons, I believe that S.A.F.E.’s mission of  
4 inclusion and equality is of the utmost importance. My sons are two of the only Black  
5 students at their school. The Black Lives Matter movement has made them feel seen,  
6 celebrated, reassured, and comforted.

7 6. This summer, I began going to chalking events with my family to voice  
8 my support for the Black Lives Matter movement. My sons took part in drawing art  
9 in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Below is a photo of chalk art drawn  
10 by my sons and their father at a chalking event at Selah Middle School on June 18,  
11 2020:



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16  
17  
18 7. I was angry and shocked to hear Selah City officials’ derogatory  
19 comments about the Black Lives Matter movement. In particular, I was appalled that  
20 the City did not condone City Administrator Don Wayman’s comments that those  
21 who support the Black Lives Matter are “devoid of intellect and reason” and his  
22 characterization of the movement as a “left-wing mob.” Instead of reprimanding Mr.  
23 Wayman, the City continued to give him further airtime to degrade a movement that  
24 has been so impactful on my family. The City’s comments and actions made me feel  
25 that racial equality was not a priority to the City, nor was it even tolerated.  
26

1           8.     The members of S.A.F.E. decided to place signs throughout Selah  
2 advancing S.A.F.E.'s mission of equality and inclusion and calling for Mr. Wayman  
3 to be fired. I donated approximately \$100.00 to S.A.F.E.'s sign fundraiser. The signs  
4 seemed like a safe alternative to promoting S.A.F.E.'s message after our chalk art  
5 had been removed repeatedly.

6           9.     As soon as S.A.F.E. began putting up the signs, the City officials began  
7 taking them down. It is my understanding that the City contends the signs violate  
8 Selah Municipal Code Chapter 10.38. I have not witnessed the City remove other  
9 signs with the same vigor that they have removed S.A.F.E.'s signs.

10          10.    The City's removal of S.A.F.E.'s signs is very concerning to me and  
11 demonstrates the City's relentless opposition to messages of racial equality. The  
12 City's actions have made my family feel unwelcome in Selah and I have begun to  
13 feel that this is not a safe place to raise my children. Feeling so heavily silenced has  
14 been terrifying. I have chosen to keep my children in online school even when they  
15 had the opportunity to attend school in person in large part due to the City's  
16 aggression.

17          11.    I am concerned that the City is creating divisiveness in Selah by its  
18 determination to silence our speech. I have been subject to harassment online due to  
19 my support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Some community members have  
20 even gone so far as to suggest that my open support of Black Lives Matter should be  
21 reported to my school district's administration, and that my belief that Black Lives  
22 Matter makes me unqualified to be a teacher. I believe that the City is emboldening  
23 citizens to harass S.A.F.E. members, including my family.

24          12.    The S.A.F.E. signs are not *just* signs to many of us in Selah. Speaking  
25 from experience, they can hold great significance for marginalized members of  
26 Selah's community. Similar messages have inspired my own family. A few months

1 ago, someone painted “BLM” on a hill near Selah. My sons were so excited to see  
2 BLM proudly on display in their City. It was a symbol that there were people in our  
3 community who believe that Black Lives Matter—that my sons’ lives matter. The  
4 BLM painting quickly vanished, but it was impactful for us. I believe that there are  
5 other families in Selah who might feel the same way if they saw S.A.F.E.’s signs  
6 supporting racial equality in Selah.

7 13. I feel that my voice and viewpoints are being stifled by the City and its  
8 uneven and unfair enforcement of its municipal code. On behalf of myself as an  
9 individual, and on behalf of S.A.F.E. as a member, we bring this lawsuit to protect  
10 our ability to further voice and further our mission.

11  
12  
13 s/Kalah James  
Kalah James

12/7/2020  
Date