



## FORT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL

---

Office of the Common Council

200 E. Berry Street, Suite 120, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

260.427.2977 (office) [www.cityoffortwayne.org/city-council.html](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/city-council.html)

June 10, 2025

On behalf of the Fort Wayne Common Council, we want to take a moment to speak directly to our community about the violent assault that took place inside Pike's Pub just over a week ago.

The brutal attack on James Simmons was more than an act of violence. It was an assault that shocked our city's conscience and cut deeply into the fabric of who we are.

Let us be clear: there is no place for hate, racism, violence, or lawlessness in this community.

We also want to directly acknowledge the concerns voiced by many in our community about the role Pike's Pub may have played in enabling this incident. We hear you. We see you. And we agree: any establishment that creates or tolerates an environment that allows racism to thrive is a threat to public safety.

This Council supports the work already underway by the Allen County Sheriff's Department, the FBI, and the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. Should the facts confirm that Pike's Pub violated laws or regulations, or failed to protect the public, we support them receiving the maximum penalty available under the law — including the suspension or permanent revocation of their liquor license.

We are grateful for the swift response from local, state, and federal partners, and we thank the public for staying engaged, informed, and united in your calls for justice.

But justice doesn't stop with one arrest or one closure. It lives in how we respond — as a community — to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Let this moment reaffirm our intolerance for businesses or behaviors that incubate hate. Let it strengthen our resolve to prioritize safety and accountability in every neighborhood, on every block.

And to the many of you who have shown up, spoken out, and stood in solidarity with James Simmons and his family: thank you. You are the reason this case has remained in the public eye. You are the reason real change is possible.

This Council stands with you — and we will continue to support every legal and legislative measure necessary to make the greater Fort Wayne community safer, stronger, and united against hate.



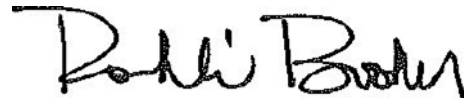
Russell Jehl  
Fort Wayne City Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Nathan Hartman  
Fort Wayne City Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Geoff Paddock  
Fort Wayne City Council, 5<sup>th</sup> District



Rohli Booker  
Fort Wayne City Council, 6<sup>th</sup> District



Michelle Chambers  
Fort Wayne City Council, At-Large



Thomas Freistroffer  
Fort Wayne City Council, At-Large