

# HUMAN RELATIONS INITIATIVE

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## AWARENESS & EDUCATION LESSON TRUMP PARADE TRUCK DRAGS BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG & COMPARISON TO JAMES BYRD, JR. (deceased)

**Human Relations Initiative, Inc.** is a non-partisan organization which advocates for cultural social transformation by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through awareness, education, and dialogue (mission statement).

A component of the portfolio of services is **Awareness & Education Engagements**. Therefore, we respectfully share the following information as a resource.

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*Source:* Review of an article from news source mycanyonlake.com, titled “NB Trump Parade Truck Drags Black Lives Matter Flag’ City Says Free Speech Isn’t the Issue”.

We appreciate that democracy allows for individuals to express their support of candidates running for political office. We cannot speak to the heart and mind of the individual(s) who chose to perform this act.

We opt to use this real time current event as an opportunity. We understand the symbolism of dragging a "BLACK LIVES MATTER" behind the bumper of a truck. For many it brings thoughts of the lived experience of hatred: bias, prejudice, discrimination, violence, genocide.

[FOLLOWING DISCRETION IS ADVISED]

More specifically, it brings past memories flooding to the present of James Byrd, Jr. James Byrd Jr. (May 2, 1949 – June 7, 1998) was an African American man who was murdered by three white supremacists in Jasper, Texas, on June 7, 1998. Shawn Berry, Lawrence Brewer and John King dragged Byrd for three miles behind a pickup truck along an asphalt road. Byrd, who remained conscious for much of his ordeal, was killed about halfway through the dragging when his body hit the edge of a culvert, severing his right arm and head. The murderers drove on for another 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) before dumping Byrd's torso in front of a black cemetery in Jasper. [WIKIPEDIA]

HUMAN RELATIONS INITIATIVE, INC unequivocally condemns all acts of bullying, exclusion, harassment, hatred, oppression, prejudice, racism, and violence.

Respectfully, while it is easy to differentiate via group(s) we may individually identify with; we all fall under one group together; HUMAN.

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When an individual reviews this lesson, they are provided with a deeper understanding and an opportunity to identify possible blind spots.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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