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## A Statement From Council Member Chris Beale on the Death of Manuel Ellis

City of Tacoma Washington sent this bulletin at 06/05/2020 04:54 PM PDT



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I join Mayor Woodards and the Tacoma community in deep feelings of grief, sadness and anger at the loss of Manuel Ellis. To the family, I want to say I am deeply sorry for what happened - I hear you and stand with you in your demands for justice for Manuel. We must use this moment as the catalyst for true systemic and institutional change. While we wait for the investigations to conclude, the Tacoma City Council must lead on anti-racist work. It is time that we all denounce racism, identify white privilege, dismantle white supremacy and build systems that are more equitable and just. As a white man in this community and Nation, it is mine and all of my peers' responsibility to implement policy and practices that are not only motivated by racial equity but are founded in anti-racist action. I stand with the Mayor and my fellow council members to put into action the recommendations the community made during Project Peace that include the use of body worn cameras for our police department. I will champion this and other reform policies in Tacoma. Together we can create safer communities with better economic, social and life outcomes for all people regardless of the color of their skin, and we must do so with urgency. We can do better and we will do better.

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