



Royce C Engstrom

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Good morning. Thank you, Mayor Engen, for inviting me to be a part of today's announcement. I offer you my congratulations on the City of Missoula reaching full compliance with the Department of Justice. I know for a fact that you personally, Chief Brady, and so many others within the City have worked tirelessly this past year and even before that, to address sexual assault in our community. You entered into this agreement with the DOJ with the determination to improve the safety of our community and with your tangible actions, you have done exactly that. This community – meaning the University of Montana campus and all of Missoula – have come together to work to protect our citizens from sexual assault.

Assistant Attorney General Gupta and U. S. Attorney Mike Cotter, you send a strong message by being here in person, a message that sexual assault will not be tolerated and a message that you will work with our communities to address this aspect of our societies. Thank you for being here in person, and Assistant Attorney General Gupta, thank you for your words of encouragement two weeks ago when we met in your office in Washington, D.C.

In the wake of the recent attention to our community, let's remember what makes Missoula distinctive:

- One of the strongest community-university partnerships anywhere in the U. S.
- A population that is engaged, dedicated, and committed to making our home as safe and inspiring as possible.
- A community of people willing to tackle the toughest of issues.

At the University, we are working diligently on our own agreements with the Department of Justice and in our case, also the Department of Education. We know our deadlines and we are working hard to meet them. Our agreements focus heavily on education and training – of our students, our employees, and our police department. Much of that training has been done in collaboration with the Missoula Police Department, and interaction between the two has never been stronger. Under the leadership of Chief Marty Ludemann, a man with extensive experience with the Missoula PD, our officers have completed over 900 hundred hours of training.

In addition, we have revised policies and procedures; we have adjusted staffing levels in key areas of campus; we have improved our confidential care system; we have made

reporting methods more clear; we have clarified the adjudication process; and we are analyzing our results in constant feedback mode.

Please understand that the end of any of these agreements does not indicate an end to the important work that has been done over the past two years. Instead, UM and its Missoula partners have in place an excellent model for addressing sexual assault, and we will continue to work together and implement the practices that work in our community.

From the beginning, I have emphasized three goals: to care for survivors of sexual assault, to use due process to remove proven offenders from our University, and to prevent sexual assault from happening in the first place. So many members of our University and our community have dedicated themselves to those goals. We know that we are not the only community to experience serious problems with sexual assault. We are in the spotlight as much as any community, and we will meet our legal, ethical, and humanitarian responsibilities. We couldn't ask for better community partners – partners with whom we will continue to work day in and day out on this critical issue.

Mr. Mayor, thank you for your leadership, your personal commitment, and for allowing me to be a part of today's announcement.

Royce C. Engstrom
President
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