

Wil Stahly
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I am one of the authors of the statement published by the Farmers' Market Broadening Inclusion (BIG) with the review and approval of the committee. (This is a committee with diversity that includes two African Americans, four Caucasians, two Latinos, Brazilian.) BIG has posted a statement denouncing the original statement. I however, stand behind the statement. I hope everyone joins us as we broaden the conversation and our horizon.

One clarification... The statement in question was approved by the committee and it did go through a process. Their apology is a knee jerk reaction and wrong.

As I became more and more involved in local politics here in Bloomington I started to pay closer attention to local and national narrative on wide range of issues in particular to those involving Black/African American communities. Like many members of the Black/African American members of our community I wear many hats. I'm Black. I have one leg. I'm an immigrant. I'm adopted. My birth parents deceased at an early age. I'm Somalian -technically making me African American or Somali-American. Today I'm a father, a husband, a son, a home owner, and a young professional.

These types of conversations are hard to have and I'm asking many of our black and white community members to step out of their comfort zone and discuss all aspects of our culture. This must happen sooner than later if we're to have a fighting chance.

Do all Black lives matter? Yes, absolutely we do matter. And if all Black lives matter let's make sure it matters all the time, and not just in certain situations. Silence is certainly violence as many issues hinder us from succeeding. We have got ourselves into another cyclical cycle after every highlighted crime against black men, women, children of all gender. We have become accustomed to the same responses, same conversations, and same results. Maybe it's time for us to expand the conversation and start helping from all angles.