

***“An Event has happened, upon which it is difficult to speak and impossible to remain silent.” Edmond Burke***

On Election Day, an effigy of President Barack Obama was discovered hanging on a billboard in the city of Duluth.

As stewards of a memorial, commemorated in our city on October 10, 2003 honoring the memory of three black men lynched here in 1920, CJMM, Inc. is compelled to speak out.

The Clayton, Jackson, McGhie Memorial is a testament to the public’s commitment to acknowledge its painful history and to move forward to build a more just and inclusive community.

One of the quotes carved in the Memorial wall reads, “An event has happened, upon which it is difficult to speak and impossible to remain silent.” (Edmond Burke)

Tuesday’s symbolic act was another such event, and an assault on our community’s integrity. It was an act of injustice and exclusion. It was an ugly, hateful and blatantly racist way to express one’s opposition to our nation’s first African American President, seeking reelection on Election Day.

As a community, we cannot tolerate bigotry and hate. We cannot ignore or remain indifferent to the heinous nature of this act.

We can speak out and defy such behavior in our community. We can commit to actively eradicate racism and hatred in our midst.

*Clayton, Jackson, McGhie, Inc. Board of Directors*

*In Solidarity with the following Un-Fair Campaign Partners – Office of the Mayor, University of Wisconsin – Superior, Duluth Human Rights Commission, Lutheran Social Services, CHUM, Peace Church, YWCA, League of Women Voters and Men As Peacemakers*

*As well of the Office of Cultural Diversity at UMD, the Office of Institutional Diversity at CSS and Carl Crawford.*