

Yep. [Wendy.Smith@vansd.org](mailto:Wendy.Smith@vansd.org) etc

hours the unrest and damage in Seattle last night, I was increasingly frustrated by the damage occurring to property and vehicles. As I watched three cars burning out of control in front of Seattle's Nordstrom's threatening to catch the building on fire while reading Mr. Mahler's text about damage, I tweeted fire hoses. What I meant was where were they, as this building was about to catch fire? If people are using that to spread some type of hate message, I am completely dumbfounded. I completely understand the root cause of the unrest and respect everyone's right to peacefully protest. Please don't try to make this something it is not. Never my intent.

5m Like



Jose Gasque

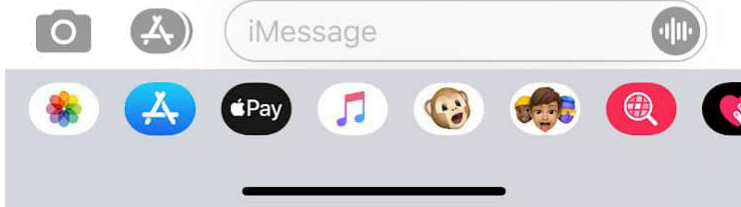
He's right though. Look how they are protecting the buildings with fire hoses. <https://i.pinimg.com/564x/b9/cf/74...>

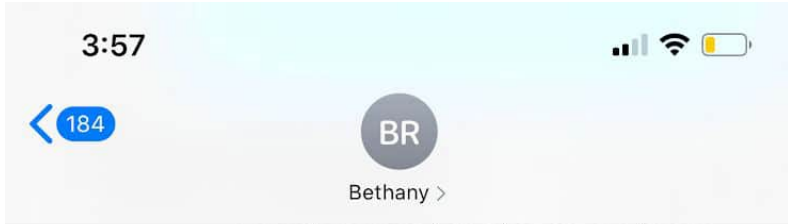


"I am sorry people are misconstruing my tweet". That's like, "I'm sorry what I said offended you", instead of "I'm sorry for what I said"

His intent was clear. That's way worse than just apologizing

intent, only to the way it was received by myself and others in our community.)





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First, I want to make it absolutely clear that Mark Stoker was speaking as an individual and his comments (via Twitter or any other platform) should in no way be construed as representing the views of the district or its Board. As a private citizen, public school educator, school board director, and human being, I unequivocally condemn his remarks and the actions they encouraged. I recognize the hurt inflicted by such words and sentiments and refuse to be associated with them, no matter how remotely. It sickened me to see his comment, and I am dumbfounded that anyone could fail to see it as anything other than racist.

Finally, I also have had people asking how will Director Stoker be held accountable? Will he be disciplined? Will he be required to make amends or apologies? There have been calls made on social media asking people to email the superintendent to somehow bring him to task. In truth, the superintendent has no authority over school board directors. It is, in fact, the other way around. The only authority Mark Stoker is accountable to is his constituency. People are, of course, free to email the superintendent or myself and the other board members. They will get a sympathetic response from those of us who were also disgusted by Director Stoker's comments. However, the only authority who can make Director Stoker accountable for his words are the voters.

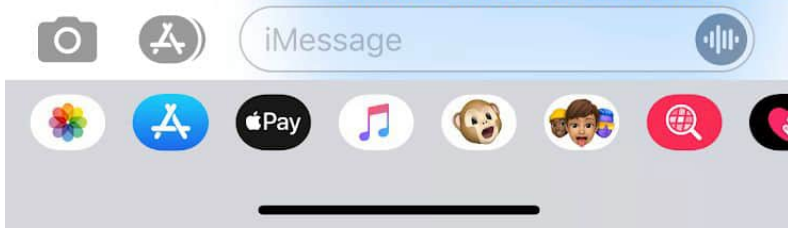
#WendyfortheWin

I just got home. I'm reading this now

That's great

His excuses are the very definition of gaslighting. Trying to make it as others are misunderstanding him, it's on other people for misinterpreting him.

"Please don't make this into



3:57



< 184

BR

Bethany >

"Please don't make this into something it is not"

I was just wondering why there wasn't fire hoses in front of the building that's not burning yet 🚒

Sunday 3:09 PM

Here are a few more shots a teacher shared...

**Lame Stream Media, continually suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome, are fomenting fear as a last shot at the White House in November because they know neither of the two remaining Democrat Primary Candidates has a prayer. One is openly proposing Communist Revolution (has his adult life) and the other trying to remember what he had for lunch. THIS IS ALL POLITICS AND THE REST IS BULL!!!**

**Today Governor Inslee became as much of a tyrant as he has always been an idiot. What happened to local School Boards making decisions with the local public? Either way? AS IF THE THREAT WAS THE SAME IN COLFAX, SPANGLE OR TROUT LAKE AS IT IS IN SEATTLE.**

**I am so pissed off I could spit nails right now and I can tell you I am not alone. And the likelihood of my bringing my son to any makeup days this summer because of this purely political gamesmanship is equal to or less than HELL FREEZING OVER! Damn the consequences.**

👍 1

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

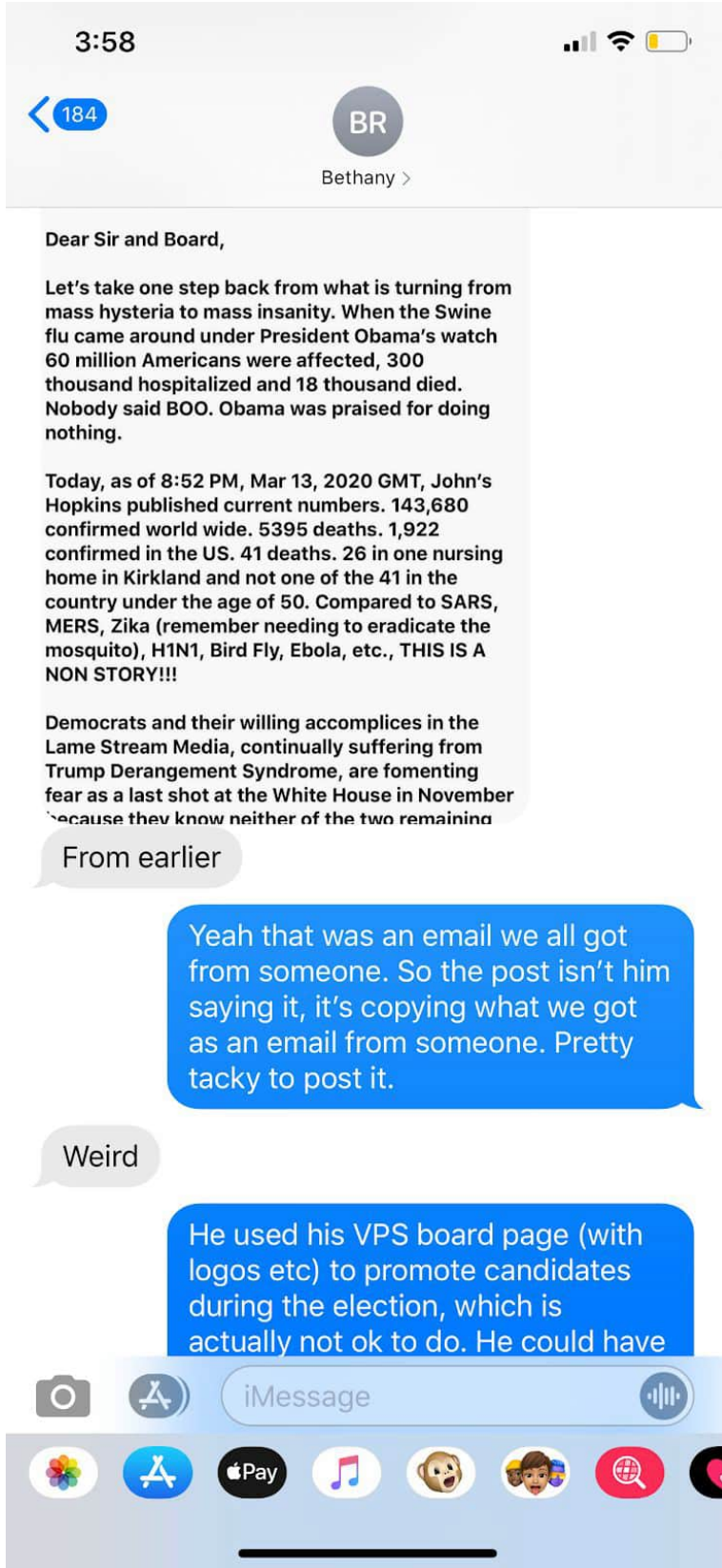
📅 March 13 · 🌐

And so it begins!



iMessage





3:58



< 184

BR

Bethany >

during the election, which is actually not ok to do. He could have done from his personal page, but to use his VPS page for things, you have to be careful. We were told during the levy vote to not post support of the levy (only info) because it's our elected official pages.

He doesn't care, I guess?

Guess not. Or is ignorant.

Monday 8:23 PM

Hey friend. Busy couple of days, huh? 😞 I'm sure you haven't had time to start your book club yet, but another group is starting Everyday Racism. Are you doing White Fragility? I want to do both.

Redirecting...  
facebook.com



Umm yeah busy few days to say the least 😞 100+ emails (I counted), and I'm wanting to respond to each, even though Wendy likely has, just so people know they've been heard and that we read each of them.



iMessage



4:01



< 184



Jane >

[pwd=eFVxNEtocU5BL1hFQzUvOGhvYkpPZz09](#)

Meeting ID: 762 645 8329  
Password: 123456

Doug's 40th birthday is Sunday and we are having a zoom celebration! Zoom link ! We'd love you guys to join 🍷

We'll be there!

Sunday 5:03 PM

How are you managing with this Mark Stoker stuff!?!?

Sunday 6:37 PM

Ugh. 🤔

It's appalling, but it's obvious his privilege is showing if he "didn't intend it". I've gotten tons of emails today that the board has been cc'd on.

I'm glad people are speaking up.

Delivered

No kidding!



iMessage





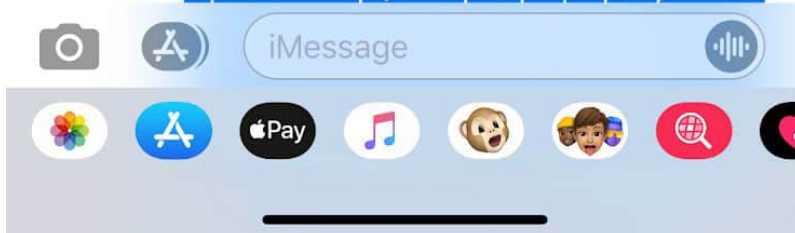
Sunday 7:12 PM

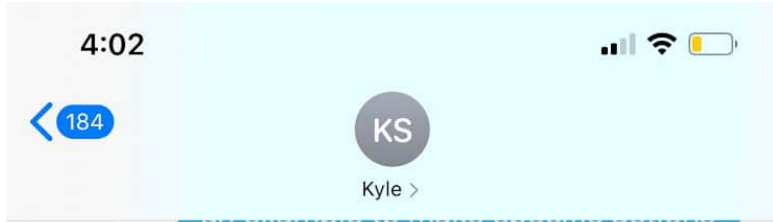
Your public statement on your page is good!

This whole situation is appalling.

Thank you, I was trying to make more of a personal appeal, especially since Wendy did such a job of making a more official comment. I am just so disheartened. Reading these emails makes me want to cry. The lack of equity in VPS is why I ran, I just don't see how we move forward as a board without strong communication condemning the comment and in-depth equity training. How are you?

I'm doing ok. I'm glad so many are emailing. I'm really curious what Mark will do, if he just continues on like "I made an apology" or will really consider stepping down. I agree, I think we need to use this as an example to make specific actions of anti-racism. Do an all board/ cabinet book study, other specific actions. (I say that because Evergreen's board and EEA equity





an example to make specific actions of anti-racism. Do an all board/ cabinet book study, other specific actions. (I say that because Evergreen's board and EEA equity team are doing a book study of White Fragility). It definitely needs addressed and not brushed under the rug. I hope our June 16 meeting can be in person.

Yes, we need to meet in person and we need to provide an accessible forum for community comment. There is a lot of emotion and hurt right now, people need to be heard.

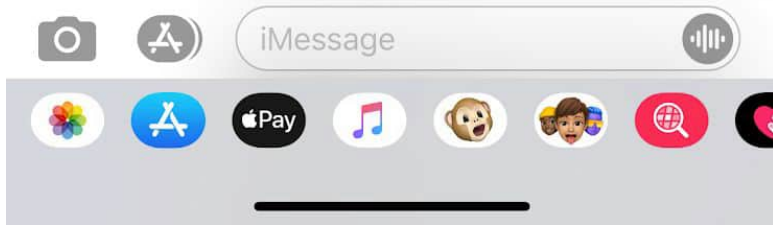
Monday 4:21 PM

Well the last few days have been interesting! Back in December I never would have guessed we'd be here. 🤔

So true!

I am ready for a good night's sleep - this has been an exhausting day.

Agreed! I'm excited for the appointment process and seeing who applies.





4:02



< 184



Kathy >

Saturday 11:31 PM

Mark Stoker is on the school board for Vancouver Public Schools

**Dave "Softy" Mahler** @Softykjr · 1h

The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have.

183 replies · 36 retweets · 335 likes

**Mark Stoker** @markstoker · 1h

Two words. Fire Hoses!

**Kathy Decker** @KinderKathyD · 2m

WHAT?

Angry Comment Send

You, Angelique Ortega and 1 other

So this was just forwarded to me...

Yep.

Oh. My. Goodness.

Yikes.

Kinda shocking, huh?

Yeah 🤔

iMessage



4:02



< 184



Kathy >

Yeah 😊

I'm glad I saw it and responded.

I'm glad you did too. I see another has too. But, it was screen shotted and shared on FB now by a VPS employee (Bethany Rivard is friends with her and Bethany saw it and sent it to me).

Yes, I saw it, too. FB informed me of the post, since I'm in it. She and I just became FB friends a half hour ago 😊

Sunday 10:24 AM

Can you still see Marks tweet? I believe he changed his settings to private since last night, I can't see it any more.

No. I did take a screenshot of it.

Sunday 1:07 PM

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iMessage



4:02



< 184



Kathy >

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Finally, I also have had people asking how will Director Stoker be held accountable? Will he be disciplined? Will he be required to make amends or apologies? There have been calls made on social media asking people to email the superintendent to somehow bring him to task. In truth, the superintendent has no authority over school board directors. It is, in fact, the other way around. The only authority Mark Stoker is accountable to is his constituency. People are, of course, free to email the superintendent or myself and the other board members. They will get a sympathetic response from those of us who were also disgusted by Director Stoker's comments. However, the only authority who can make Director Stoker accountable for his words are the voters. I encourage you to email him directly and let him know

Well done!

That was Wendy's post!

I know



Ok I wasn't sure if you saw her name at the top. He's commented that he didn't intend that (someone shared to the good citizens page)



iMessage



4:04



Adam Aguilera

Monday at 1:32 PM · 🌐



Stoker, whose term of office expires in December 2021, encouraged his board colleagues to consider the district's rich culture and diversity when selecting a successor. "The board should appoint a director that reflects the demographics of the district in order to bring new ideas and representation not currently on the board," he wrote.

"That new director will have an opportunity to make an impact on the district's future."



Like



Comment



Share



Linda AC and 162 others

29 shares

[View previous comments...](#)



Tracie Barrows

Thank you to all of those who sent letters to the board to share your feelings on this. I read every one of them and plan to respond to each (there were a LOT so I haven't been able to respond to each yet!)

4d Like Reply



Eric Patton

Tracie Barrows 🙌

We appreciate your voice.

3d Like Reply



Write a comment...



4:05



Adam Aguilera

Sunday at 3:11 PM · 🌐



Heather Beaupre Lindberg

**Michele Wollert** I only want one. I hope **Lindsey Luis** is ready.

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



Alan Sutliff

Wow

4d Like Reply



Janet Hamilton

Tracie?

4d Like Reply



Tracie Barrows

**Janet Hamilton** I have seen it; I posted the Columbian article as well as my own statement. His words are not representative of the board.

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



Marsha Manning

Alterior is not a word. A school board guy should know that.

4d Like Reply



Emily Rants

**Marsha Manning** it wasn't the "school



Write a comment...



4:08



Tracie Barrows

Monday at 2:08 PM · 🌐



Update on VPS School Board:



Tracie Barrows VPS School Board

Monday at 2:02 PM · 🌐

Photo below of the press release of the resignation of Mark Stoker from the VPS School Board.

Racism has no place on our school board dias.  
Racism has no place within Vancouver Public Schools leadership, or within the walls of our buildings.  
Racism has no place in our community.

As a school board director, as a leader in education, and as an ally to our Black students and community members, I vow to help our district move forward from this with direct, clear actions to promote anti-racism.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jun/01/stoker-resigns-from-vancouver-school-board-after-comment-on-protestors/>

## Board director resigns from Vancouver Public Schools

Mark Stoker, a member of the VPS board of directors since 2007, has resigned his position, effective immediately, in response to concerns about comments he made on his personal social media account.

As reported yesterday in an [article in \*The Columbian newspaper\*](#), Stoker apologized publicly for those comments. In a letter of resignation to VPS Superintendent Steve Webb, he wrote, "I have determined that to continue to serve on this board would prove too big a



4:09



**Tracie Barrows**

Monday at 2:08 PM · 🌐



publicly for those comments. In a letter of resignation to VPS Superintendent Steve Webb, he wrote, "I have determined that to continue to serve on this board would prove too big a distraction from the critical work needed to overcome the challenges created by these unprecedented times. The focus must be solely on the work."

Stoker, whose term of office expires in December 2021, encouraged his board colleagues to consider the district's rich culture and diversity when selecting a successor. "The



Like



Comment



Share



Linda AC and 14 others



**Billy Mckenzie**

It's still mind-blowing to me how many adults over 35 in America are ignorant of the use of water hoses on African Americans. Someone who is a leader in education is not aware of this?

A comedian I listen to often uses the phrase he/she is stupid or a liar. I think Mr. Stoker might be a little of both. Thank you Vancouver School board. Someone losing their job should be a difficult decision. This particular decision was a layup.

4d Like Reply



Write a comment...



4:09



Tracie Barrows VPS School Board

Monday at 2:02 PM · 🌐



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Write a comment...





4:09



Tracie Barrows VPS School Board

Monday at 2:02 PM · 🌐



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Stoker, whose term of office expires in December 2021, encouraged his board colleagues to consider the district's rich culture and diversity when selecting a successor. "The



Taylor Whitney and 20 others

1 share



Write a comment...





**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



I echo the words of our school board president, Wendy Smith, in stating that Mr Stoker’s words are his own and in NO way represent the views of the district or the board.

As an elected member of our community, and as an educator myself, I take seriously the responsibility I have to ensure we create safe spaces for our students and staff, that racism is not tolerated within our walls, and that we move forward to tackle the systemic racism and social injustices that exist within education.

My email inbox, messenger, and texts have been flooded today from concerned parents, educators, and citizens. I am grateful for those who are using their voices to express their hurts and outrage in holding Mr Stoker accountable for his words, whether they were intentional or not.



COLUMBIAN.COM

**Vancouver school board member apologizes for urging ‘fire hoses’ at protests**

👍❤️ Rob Lutz and 35 others

15 Comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Add a Donate Button





**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



**Rob Lutz and 35 others**



**Cara Gob**

Actions. Waiting for district to change their actions. Create conversations with the community. The board allows community members to comment at board meetings. There is no dialogue. Years of trying to communicate concerns. The attorney general's office found the district guilty of discriminatory practices. The current forum to address that has me concerned. The person in charge denied our rights to FAPE. My concerns have never been addressed. Everything has been denied by the district. When will there be accountability in VPS?

4d Like Reply



**Kathy Decker**

**Cara Gob** I'm working very hard on holding VPS accountable. I am the board rep on this task force. Please email me any concerns you have. There are amazing community representatives on this task force as well.

4d Like Reply



**Cara Gob**

**Kathy Decker** thank you my understanding was that shoup was in charge. That is wonderful to hear you are involved. Speaking with you during the board elections you gained my



Write a comment...



4:10



**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



are involved. Speaking with you during the board elections you gained my confidence.

4d Like Reply



**Tracie Barrows**

**Cara Gob** We are working hard to create more opportunities for community conversations (one example: the community forums about building elementary school(s), bond project revisions). Kathy is on the committee for addressing the attorney general findings, and that committee has representatives and community stakeholders.

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



**Bethany Rivard**

Thank you.



4d Like Reply



**Eric Patton**

Thank you for sharing. Unfortunately I believe the only action that would be suitable for Mr Stoker to take at this point is to step down. His apology rings hollow, and deflects personal blame. I will continue my support for you personally and the members of the board that uphold human



Write a comment...





**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



members of the board that uphold human dignity for everyone as a core value. Please know that his two words sent a chill through our community. Words have real power. Trying to roll back "fire hoses" is like trying to get toothpaste back into the tube with a butter knife. It only makes it worse. VPS and it's diverse parents and students deserve better, and sooner than November.

4d Like Reply



**Sindy Sands**

**Tracie Barrows** thanks.. important to address this..

4d Like Reply



**Bonnie Verwey**

fire him



4d Like Reply



**Tracie Barrows**

**Bonnie Verwey** School board directors are elected, so they can't be "fired" like an employee can. He can resign, or he could not be re-elected in 2021.

4d Like Reply



**Bonnie Verwey**

i think ive seen other elected officials essentially fired without resigned or waiting.

4d Like Reply



Write a comment...



4:10



**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



**Amy Edwards**

The only thing that will cause him to leave before the election is continued public pressure to resign.

4d Like Reply



**Cheri Blanton Chavers**

I never, ever believed for a second his remarks reflected on the rest of the board. It reflected the condition of his heart and his heart alone.

Thank you for all you do, Tracie!!

4d Like Reply



**Tracie Barrows**

**Cheri Blanton Chavers** I know many understand that, but it's important for me, and I am sure the other board members, to publicly state that and to make it clear that I do not condone his words.

Thank you!

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



**Loren Lee**



Write a comment...



4:10



**Tracie Barrows**

Sunday at 5:24 PM · 🌐



**Tracie Barrows**

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Thank you!

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



**Loren Lee**



**Mayor Jenny Durkan** ✓

@MayorJenny

I want to acknowledge that much of the violence and destruction, both here in Seattle and across the country, has been instigated and perpetuated by white men.

4:59 PM · 5/31/20 · [TweetDeck](#)

4d Like Reply



**Steven Johnston**

Please encourage him to step down. You and Wendy are on the right side of history! Vancouver schools need a leader who sees value in every child, regardless of race.

4d Like Reply



Write a comment...



4:11



**Tracie Barrows VPS School Board**

Monday at 5:38 AM · 🌐



I posted this statement yesterday to my personal page, but want to share it here:

I echo the words of our school board president, Wendy Smith, in stating that Mr Stoker's words are his own and in NO way represent the views of the district or the board.

As an elected member of our community, and as an educator myself, I take seriously the responsibility I have to ensure we create safe spaces for our students and staff, that racism is not tolerated within our walls, and that we move forward to tackle the systemic racism and social injustices that exist within education.

My email inbox, messenger, and texts have been flooded today from concerned parents, educators, and citizens. I am grateful for those who are using their voices to express their hurts and outrage in holding Mr Stoker accountable for his words, whether they were intentional or not.

(For those asking about context, the article from the Columbian is linked in the comments)



Like



Comment



Share



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This post is performing better than 85% of other posts on your Page. Boost it to show it to more people.

310 people reached >

Boost Post



Adam Aguilera and 20 others



Write a comment...





4:11



**Tracie Barrows VPS School Board**

Monday at 5:38 AM · 🌐



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Like



Comment



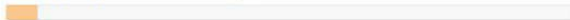
Share



**Get more Likes, Comments and Shares**

This post is performing better than 85% of other posts on your Page. Boost it to show it to more people.

310 people reached >



**Boost Post**

Adam Aguilera and 20 others

**Most Relevant** ▾



**Tracie Barrows**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020...>



**Vancouver school board member apologizes for urging 'fire hoses' at...**

columbian.com

4d Like Reply Message



Write a comment...



4:12



Tracie Barrows VPS School Board

Sunday at 12:25 PM · 🌐



Sabrina Sheehy

How about we start by removing Mark Stoker from the school board?

4d Like Reply Message



Tracie Barrows

**Sabrina Sheehy** With elected school board members, there's no "firing" or authority of other board members to remove another director from office; he can resign, or not be re-elected in 2021 if he chooses to run again. If you haven't already, you can make sure to email him to express your concerns!

4d Like Reply Message



Sabrina Sheehy

**Tracie Barrows** done

4d Like Reply Message



Write a reply...



Laree Foster

Hello and thank you! I shared this post in the WSASP group, I hope that is okay!

4d Like Reply Message



Tracie Barrows Replied · 1 Reply

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.



Write a comment...



6:46



Vancouver Education Association

Sunday at 3:41 PM · 🌐



Superintendent Webb in frustration and disgust with your online commentary this weekend. As leaders within our school community, we are charged with the task of leaning into constructive discourse around racial and social injustices – to share the work of dismantling systems of oppression. Instead, your Tweet not only ignores the history of unnecessary use of force against protesters- particularly those of color- it appears to be a call to apply that sickening practice.

Whether this was your intent or not, your response justifying the comment and claiming that it was misconstrued dismisses the impact it has on the students, families, and educators you were elected to represent. We expect community leaders such as yourself to serve as examples for our students in cultural competency and digital citizenship.

We look forward to a sincere public apology. Now



Like



Comment



Share



Heather Beaupre Lindberg and 159 others

14 shares

Most Relevant ▾



Tracie Barrows

Thank you to all of those who sent letters to the board to share your feelings on this. I read every one of them and plan to respond to each (there were a LOT so I haven't been able to respond to each yet!)

4d Like Reply



Write a comment...



9:04



< 185



Kelley >

Ok awesome!

Great news about Stoker. His excuse for acting this way in the first place was...interesting.

It's bizarre! Actually not when I think about him, but the situation and how he ended up leaving the board. I'm glad he's gone but never would have imagined it would be this.

Glad it all worked out, thanks for doing your part!

100+ emails. Just that I was included on, I'm sure there were many just sent to him and maybe superintendent but not cc'd to other board members. I'm glad the community spoke up and held him accountable.

Tuesday 10:02 AM

Wow. I just emailed all five of you. And his auto reply was just so weird. Also, Cam wants to join the vps book club so I sent her the invite. Hope that's ok.



iMessage



9:09 📶 🔋

← 184 RL  
Rhonda >

Sunday 7:13 PM

Have you seen this??



Vancouver school board member apologizes for urging 'fire hoses' at protests  
columbian.com

Wtf?!?

Yeah. 🤔

I hate how he backtracks to cover his own ass. Own up to your mistake, you didn't learn if you're now lying

He's the guy that during my campaign was like, we can't let these union leaders be on the board, conflict of interest.

📷 🔄 iMessage 🔊

🌈 🍎 Apple Pay 🎵 🐶 🧒 🔍 📱



These people who ate there for too long forget their purpose



Yeah, and I think this is a good example why people in tune with what's going on in classrooms and with education equity movements etc is important.

Social justice etc

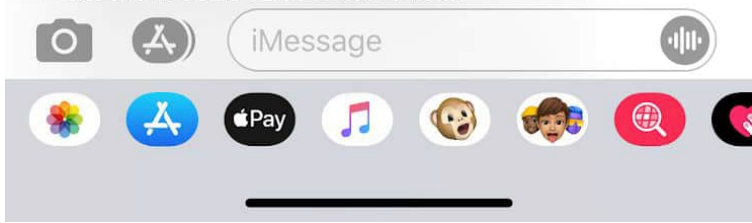
Oh what letters did they send?

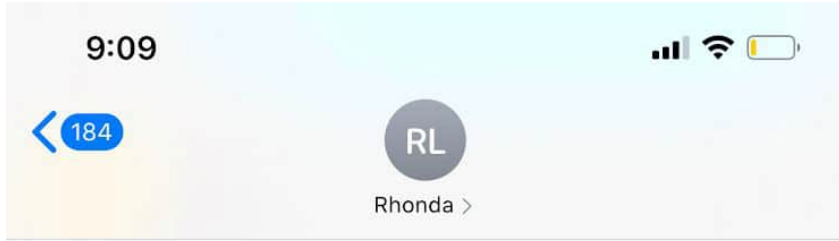
Let me go find it



Ok, one letter (I sometimes like to make things plural but really don't mean to 😊, Aaron makes fun of me for that ex. Jo Ann's, Best Buy's )

Beaverton School District Families - and any school district in the nation:  
  
Yesterday, I received an email from Portland Public School Superintendent: Statement on Topic: Death of George Floyd





I just saw your posted about stoker resigning.

How did that even come about???

Did someone push him to resign?

Well, we've gotten TONS of emails from community members about it.

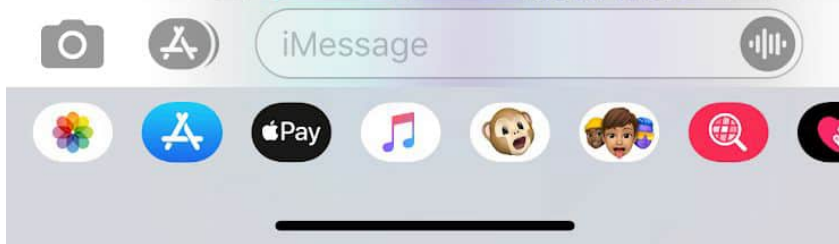


So big community push to ask him to resign.

Pressure from community

Nice. I like that it's not being tolerated! And his lies are not ok just because he backtracked.

Did VPS superintendent release a statement yet regarding what happened?



9:10



< 184



Ryan >

you.

Same! It will be nice to know a few people!

Did you let Renee know too?

No but I will

Monday 2:17 PM

Do you feel okay about the resignation?

Umm yes. I 100% support, he should not have tweeted what he did.

Agreed

I had a letter prepared myself to ask him to resign, but then we heard this morning he was going to, so i didn't sent/post it

Absolutely no tolerance for that crap

Wednesday 3:17 PM

Tell Doug to come outside



Text Message





7:03



Adam Aguilera

Monday at 1:32 PM · 🌐



Jennifer Cosenza Gephart

Erin Lark I second that 👍

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



Jake Garcia

Excellent 👍 1

4d Like Reply



Paul Warner

Excellent. Now what does it take to get a POC put in his place?

4d Like Reply



Tracie Barrows

Paul Warner There will be an appointment process, more to come on that soon and how to apply.

4d Like Reply



Write a reply...



Sobia Sheikh

Nice!

4d Like Reply



Kelly Olson

Thank you!!! ❤️

4d Like Reply



Write a comment...



**Text messages:**

12:00 90%

< **Kathy Decker**  
(360) 921-6145

**K** Don't know if you wanna but someone might want to alert Steve that he's going to need to be aware of Mark's recent tweet regarding the riots. 😞 10:13 PM

**K** **SOFTY** Dave sorry man... The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have. 107 37 381

**Mark Stoker**  
@markstoker  
Replying to @Softykjr  
Two words. Fire Hoses!

Tweet your reply  
MMS 10:18 PM

Sunday, May 31, 2020

**Sadly this doesn't surprise me. It sickens me, but doesn't surprise me. I would be surprised, however, if Steve didn't already know. Any superintendent worth their salt would be following their board members' various social media accounts.** 9:54 AM

12:09 89%

< **Lisa Messer**  
(360) 852-2933

**L** You had a super fun weekend !

Vancouver school board member apologizes for urging 'fire hoses' at protests  
<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/may/31/vancouver-school-board-member-under-fire-for-urging-fire-hoses-at-protests/>  
( Sent from The Columbian ) 8:38 AM

Vancouver school board  
A member of the Vancouver Public...  
www.columbian.com

**Soooo much fun. I was up to 1:30 last night responding to emails...** 9:15 AM

## Facebook: Wendy Smith for Vancouver Schools



Wendy Smith for Vancouver Schools



May 31 at 12:53 PM · 🌐

I have had several people share with me today a comment made via social media by one of my fellow VPS school board directors. The comment was clearly racist in tone, if not intent. (I can't speak to another person's intent, only to the way it was received by myself and others in our community.)

First, I want to make it absolutely clear that Mark Stoker was speaking as an individual and his comments (via Twitter or any other platform) should in no way be construed as representing the views of the district or its Board. As a private citizen, public school educator, school board director, and human being, I unequivocally condemn his remarks and the actions they encouraged. I recognize the hurt inflicted by such words and sentiments and refuse to be associated with them, no matter how remotely. It sickened me to see his comment, and I am dumbfounded that anyone could fail to see it as anything other than racist.

Finally, I also have had people asking how will Director Stoker be held accountable? Will he be disciplined? Will he be required to make amends or apologies? There have been calls made on social media asking people to email the superintendent to somehow bring him to task. In truth, the superintendent has no authority over school board directors. It is, in fact, the other way around. The only authority Mark Stoker is accountable to is his constituency. People are, of course, free to email the superintendent or myself and the other board members. They will get a sympathetic response from those of us who were also disgusted by Director Stoker's comments. However, the only authority who can make Director Stoker accountable for his words are the voters. I encourage you to email him directly and let him know your feelings. But please also remember this in 2021: elections matter.

6,289

People Reached

1,949

Engagements

Boost Post

86

20 Comments 41 Shares

Like Comment Share

All Comments

Comment as Wendy Smith for Vancouver Sc...

Charley Praither I am a former resident of Clark County. There are children in my family who attend VPS. This kind of thing is unacceptable when it comes to the people caring for our community's youth. I am demanding the resignation of Mark Stoker - VPS School Board Director Position 2.

Like Reply Message 1w Edited 16

Charles Swarts Thank you, Wendy! Well said and appreciated. Mark Stoker words were not acceptable and incomprehensible when representing children in our district. ❤️ Cam

Like Reply Message 1w 4

Jillian Jones Thank you for your response Wendy! You've always been an asset to Vancouver Public School Board! As a VPS parent and EPS educator, YOU will always have my support!!! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Like Reply Message 1w 5

Pamela Shipman Larsen Thank you Wendy for you response. You have my support and I hope Mr Stoker dies the right thing and resigns from his position.

Like Reply Message 1w

Siobhán Doyle I've emailed each board member. Please urge him to resign.

Like Reply Message 1w

Amy Surface Elections really do matter. Thank you ❤️

Like Reply Message 1w 3

Jennifer Begier Lewison I have children of color in the Vancouver School District. Mark Stoker has got to go! #RECALLmarkstokerVPSboard

Like Reply Message 1w 10

Carmen McKibben Mba This is servant leadership that is needed. Gracias 🙏

Like Reply Message 1w 3

Terri Niles He needs too held accountable. Thank You Wendy Smith for speaking up and condemning this behavior. We will not forget this when its time to fill out our ballots. VOTE !!

Like Reply Message 1w 4

Ashley Clinton Thank you for speaking up Wendy!

Like Reply Message 1w

Mark Holland Citizens, vote him out at the next election.

Like Reply Message 1w

Bethany Rivard Thank you. 🙏 3

Like Reply Message 1w

Jennifer Gay Thank you Wendy ❤️

Like Reply Message 1w

Susan Kipp I call for Mark Stoker's immediate resignation.

Like Reply Message 1w 6

Marika Diaz Wilkerson Thank you.

Like Reply Message 1w

Natalie Emery Wise Thank you Wendy. Here is the list of superintendent and board members. <https://vansd.org/school-board/>



Like Reply Message 1w Edited 1

Dane Williams Does anybody have a screenshot?

Like Reply Message 1w

Faith J Wilson Elvia Wilson

Like Reply Message 1w

Shelley Houle <https://twitter.com/randalh.../status/1267207363716501504...>




Like Reply Message 1w 2

Kelly Olson Thank you Wendy for speaking up.

Like Reply Message 1w

Write a comment...


## Facebook: Wendy Smith




 **Wendy Smith**  
May 31 at 12:54 PM · 🌐

 **Wendy Smith for Vancouver Schools**  
May 31 at 12:53 PM · ⚙️

I have had several people share with me today a comment made via social media by one of my fellow VPS school board directors. The comment was clearly racist in ...


[See More](#)

  19 4 Comments


 Like     Comment     Share    

 **Madison Brown Silva**  


Like · Reply · 1w

 **Paul Hamann** Thank you, Wendy, for representing me. Thank you for representing decency.

I'm going to write up my views tonight so they're waiting in Mr. Stoker's email tomorrow, You and the other board members will also get a copy. I don't feel like 2021 is soon enough.





Like · Reply · 1w  1

 **Kelli Keeley** It was definitely NOT racist. Can u come up with a better way to protect the cities from destruction? This is not aimed at the protesters it is aimed at the stupid people of all colors that ruin it for the protesters. Once the curfew is in place ( actually to protect them) legal protesters need to go home for their own safety. The ones left should face the law!

Like · Reply · 1w

 **Kelli Keeley** Innocent people are going to be injured because of a few people that dont get it.

**Messages sent to Facebook Page: Wendy Smith for Vancouver Schools**

Amy Surface     Move to Done

MAY 31, 2020, 2:04 PM

Hi Wendy,  
I didn't see the post from Stoker. Can you IM it to me?

Thank you for your leadership.





Amy Surface

JUN 1, 2020, 1:26 AM

I apologize for my delayed response. It's been a day! I'm sure you've probably already found the answer to your question. But in case you haven't, here is a link to the Columbian article covering the story:  
<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/may/31/vancouver-school-board-member-under-fire-for-urging-fire-hoses-at-protests/>

JUN 1, 2020, 6:26 AM

Thank you Wendy.

Matt Brands     Move to Done

MAY 31, 2020, 3:36 PM

What was said by Mark Stoker? I might need to move into the district before 2021 so I can get rid of him!

JUN 1, 2020, 1:27 AM

I apologize for my delayed response. It's been a day! I'm sure you've probably already found the answer to your question, but in case you haven't, here is a link to the Columbian article covering the story:  
<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/may/31/vancouver-school-board-member-under-fire-for-urging-fire-hoses-at-protests/>



Katie Gillespie



JUN 1, 2020, 2:15 PM

Hey, Wendy, it's Katie. I'm not sure if I have a bad number for you or not but I just tried to give you a call to see if you have any additional response to Mark's decision to step down.



**Facebook Messenger:**

12:07 [Signal] [Wi-Fi] [89%]

← [Profile: Bethany] Bethany  
Active 8 minutes...

Did you see this???

10:37 PM [Signal] [Wi-Fi] [60%]

Samantha Lord 13 mins · [Profile]

Mark Stoker is on the school board for Vancouver Public Schools

Dave "Softy" Mahler @SoftyKjr · 1h  
The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have.

Mark Stoker @markstoker · 1h  
Two words. Fire Hoses!

Kathy Decker @KinderKathyD · 2m  
WHAT?

Angry Comment Send

You, Angelique Ortega and 1 other

Write a comment...

MAY 31 AT 9:58 AM

Sadly doesn't surprise me. This fits in with what we already know of his character. He is the living, breathing embodiment of white privilege.

12:05 [Signal] [Wi-Fi] [90%]

← [Profile: Tracie, Rob] Tracie, Rob

MAY 30 AT 11:26 PM

→ Tracie forwarded an image

10:37 PM [Signal] [Wi-Fi] [60%]

Samantha Lord 13 mins · [Profile]

Mark Stoker is on the school board for Vancouver Public Schools

Dave "Softy" Mahler @SoftyKjr · 1h  
The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have.

Mark Stoker @markstoker · 1h  
Two words. Fire Hoses!

Kathy Decker @KinderKathyD · 2m  
WHAT?

Angry Comment Send

You, Angelique Ortega and 1 other

Write a comment...

Bethany just sent this to me. 😬

MAY 31 AT 10:07 AM

She sent it to me too. (And Kathy too.) Sadly, this is not surprising. It fits his character completely. Privilege is his defining characteristic.



12:07

89%



Paul

Active 38 minutes...



MAY 31 AT 11:57 AM

Wendy, did you see this? On Twitter yesterday.



Dave "Softy" Mahler @Softy... · 12h

The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have.

123 43 469



Mark Stoker @markstoker

Replying to @Softyjr

Two words. Fire Hoses!

7:48 PM · 30 May 20 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Likes



Kathy Decker @KinderKathyD · 10h

Replying to @markstoker and @Softyjr

WHAT?

2

Yes, I have. Several people shared it with me this morning.



Thank you.

12:22

88%



**Tracie**

Active 16 minutes...



JUN 1 AT 9:40 AM

Mr Stoker,

I spent my time yesterday and today reading the many emails of concerned parents, teachers, and citizens regarding your words over this past weekend. I want to now email you to express my own concerns.

Your words were racist. Whether you intended them to be, whether they reflect deeper biases or prejudices you have, I do not know. But the words you posted on social media were racist in nature. They triggered immediate, negative responses from our community with their historical context. I hope that you use this situation to reflect, learn, and grow, and to examine your own privilege. However, I do not believe that your time of learning and growth can happen while also leading this district and making decisions for our students, staff, and community. Vancouver Public Schools needs to move forward from this with direct, clear actions to promote anti-racism.

Racism has no place on our school board dias. Racism has no place within Vancouver Public Schools leadership, or within the walls of our buildings.

Racism has no place in our community.

As a fellow board director, as a leader in education, and as an ally to our Black students and community members, I ask that you submit your resignation.



Here's what I drafted:

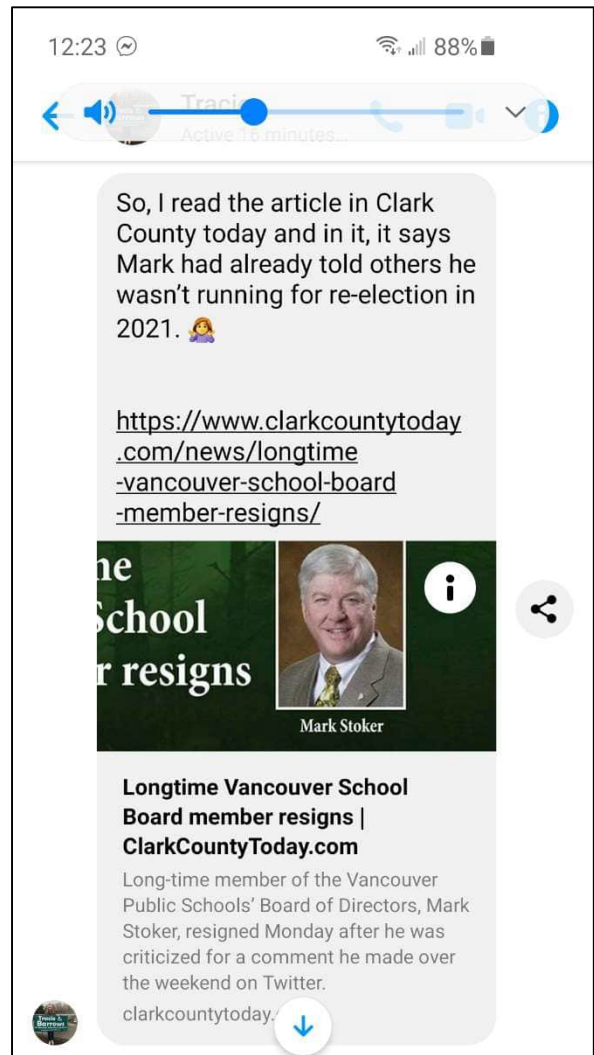
JUN 1 AT 10:17 AM

Mark is resigning. Will call soon.




Ok. I won't send email then








**LeShawn Gamble**  doesn't recommend Mark Stoker.

May 31 at 7:20 PM · 



Mark Stoker is the kind of racist that Washington is known for. The ones that look for opportunities to dog whistle and try and fly under the radar. Well you've been found out. Wonder how many people of color who have suffered under his bias perspective.



 Share

 Message





**Troy Brynelson**

3 mutual friends including Michael Bomar and Royce Pollard

journalist at Oregon Public Broadcasting and Business Reporter at The Columbian

Studied at University of Oregon

Lives in Vancouver, Washington

MAY 31, 2020, 12:49 PM



Hey Mark, this is Troy Brynelson. I cover Southwest Washington for Oregon Public Broadcasting. How are you doing this morning?

PR



Eric Patton

You and Eric aren't connected on Facebook

Lead Instructor at NW Line JATC and Foreperson at Asplundh Tree Expert Company  
Studied Line clearance arborist at NW Line JATC

MAY 31, 2020, 4:29 PM

Mr. Stoker,

I hope you understand I believe this might be the best and quickest way to address a deep concern I have. Your recent tweet was and is completely unacceptable coming from a position as a community leader, and particularly leading our proud and diverse education system. I am certain that you are keenly aware in a time where social media is as ever present as it currently is, that our words often have deeper and longer lasting effects than our very actions. "Two words: fire hoses" speaks volumes to the community about your priorities and beliefs, and I am outraged. I am personally asking for you to step down and consider the impact two words can make on an entire community.



PR



Jennifer Patton

1 mutual friend: Doug Lasher

MAY 31, 2020, 4:44 PM

Mr. Stoker, your "two words" should be followed by four more: "I'm sorry" & "I resign". Your words can only be interpreted as racist and that makes you unfit to hold an office on our Vancouver School board which oversees a large and diverse community. Your words were trite and offensive and speak to who you are as a person. I am extremely disappointed and deeply sorry that many of the families in the Vancouver Public schools will feel disenfranchised and unrepresented by one of the very people who was given the privilege to serve them.



PR



Dave Boroughs

3 mutual friends including Doug Lasher and Linda Murray  
Former Teacher-Librarian (retired) at Evergreen Public Schools  
Studied Oceanography at University of Washington  
Lives in Los Ayala, Nayarit, Mexico

MAY 31, 2020, 8:24 PM

Two words: Fire Stoker. The students and families of VPS deserve better than your racist thoughts and words. A public apology will be a good start. 44 years, 3 kids and 2 grandkids in the district. We have to do better.

 **Mark Stoker**  
@markstoker  
Vancouver · Joined April 2009  
166 Following · 91 Followers  
Not followed by anyone you're following

Tweets · **Tweets & replies** · Media · Likes

 **Dave "Softy" Mahler** @Softykjr · 2h  
The property damage to businesses downtown that were suffering already is inexcusable. How are we not more prepared for this? We knew these protests were scheduled days in advance. We knew people with ulterior motives would try and show up and disrupt it. And they have.  
110 replies · 37 retweets · 386 likes

 **Mark Stoker** @markstoker · 2h  
Two words. Fire Hoses!  
1 reply · 1 retweet · 1 like

 **Mark Stoker** @markstoker · 5h  
Replying to @Softykjr  
Cut the power to downtown Seattle! The stores are lit up like Christmas!





Deb Lynne

2 mutual friends: Samuel Vilhauer and Jane Van Dyke

Lives in Vancouver, Washington

MAY 31, 2020, 9:42 PM

If the protesters are tearing apart any town they should be arrested. I think the fire hose is a non violent option. In this day and age we have to stand back and watch our town burn down so we don't hurt feelings. It's pretty unanimous the shooting was terrible but it doesn't give people the right to tear apart innocent people's lives who have nothing to do with it.

JUN 1, 2020, 3:54 PM

Sorry to see you resigning 🙄



**Mark Stoker** 

@markstoker



Replying to [@N\\_Haima](#) [@SuptVPS](#) and 2 others

Did you see the cars burning out of control in front of Nordstrom's with no fire presence nearby? It needed to be extinguished before the building caught fire! Period.

11:17 AM · May 31, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

||| [View Tweet activity](#)

