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Statement from Mayor Boudreau's Office

The purpose of this statement is to address questions surrounding the nature of Mayor Jill Boudreau's association with accused police-shooter, Ernesto Rivas.

When Rivas first approached the Mayor in 2015, he asked what could be done about gang violence in the City, and said that he was looking to turn his life around and wanted things to be better for the young ones in his family.

Mayor Boudreau immediately notified the police department of her conversation, as well as each subsequent conversation; seeking advice on how to approach such a unique interaction. Rivas shared vital information with the Mayor, and she relayed that same information to law enforcement. In a KIRO Radio report, Mike Lewis refers to Mayor Boudreau as a "friend" of the alleged shooter. This label is not only misleading, but highly offensive to Mayor Boudreau; as her motivation in all of these interactions with Rivas has never been for the purpose of developing a friendship, but rather her concern has been for the improvement of public safety in Mount Vernon.

Availability and transparency are platforms upon which Mayor Boudreau ran for office. It is quite common for the Mayor to make time for any member of the community—for example, at her weekly Mayor's Coffee Events—and it would not be uncommon at all for her to be available to some residents by phone or email.

Mayor Boudreau's years of service within the Mount Vernon Police Department, prior to being elected to her first term as Mayor in November 2011, have cultivated a passion within her for justice and safety in the Mount Vernon community.

During the December event, Mayor Boudreau immediately relayed her interaction with Rivas to law enforcement, and took direction from law enforcement during the incident.

For these reasons, Mayor Boudreau is a witness in this case.