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**MICHIGAN  
ROUNDTABLE**  
FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



## **Michigan Roundtable stands with Roseville leaders and citizens in speaking out against school board member's hateful comments**

The Michigan Roundtable joined a group of concerned Roseville citizens on Monday night to speak out against hateful social media messages from School Board Vice Chair Alfredo Francesconi.

Michigan Roundtable President and CEO Steve Spreitzer attended a gathering of some 30 concerned community members who called for Francesconi's resignation following the school board member's decision to share offensive posts about Muslims and African-Americans. Spreitzer also reached out to Francesconi and School Superintendent John Kment and others in an effort to advance the work of the Roundtable, which seeks to honor difference by advancing inclusion.

"People with bigoted points of view used to mask them or post anonymously, but now many seem unabashedly hateful toward African Americans, Muslims and others," Spreitzer said. "Generalizations about a group of people are dangerous and come at a time when bullying is on the rise and needs to be stopped, not encouraged by a member of a local school board." Spreitzer added "opposition to Francesconi's comments from the mayor and city manager, coupled with ongoing actions by open-minded leaders like Police Chief James Berlin and the actions by concerned citizens bode well for the future of Roseville."

The Michigan Roundtable has worked for more than 75 years to stop bigotry and bullying. In the wake of the recent presidential election and the subsequent rise in incidents of bullying and harassment, the Roundtable has been called by organizations and communities to address the human relations challenges brought forth by the election. One of these requests came from a local CBS affiliate, which asked the Roundtable to provide a range of perspectives on the implication of the election from people who are most vulnerable.

Please tune into CBS's Street Beat on CW 50 Detroit (WKBD), which will air at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 10 and feature reflections from Michigan Roundtable co-director of programs Yusef Shakur, Fatima Salman representing the Michigan Muslim Community Council and Raul Echevarri of the United Neighborhoods Initiative, as well as a summary segment by Spreitzer.

To learn more about the Michigan Roundtable, visit [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org).

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*The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has been a not-for-profit human relations and racial justice organization located in Detroit working to overcome discrimination and racism by crossing racial, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries for the past 75 years. We bring together community leaders from government, law enforcement, education, faith, grass roots organizations and business to understand different points of view and then take action to overcome structural impediments to inclusion and equity. Our programs are recognized by national organizations for bringing about sustainable change.*