

Mr. Gleason

It is with great sadness and disappointment that I am contacting you.

However, it is past the time that I should have begun to speak out and take action against the white supremacy stance that you and Forest City promote by continuing to emphasize the use of the "Stapleton" brand.

We are first going to address Stapleton United Neighbors, the neighborhood association that I helped to found...in order to work for a change of their own group. But Forest City is next on the list. And although I have enjoyed living in this community as one of its first residents, I have to say that I am disappointed with some of the aspects of the community...particularly as relates to diversity and equity and particularly BECAUSE OF THE BROKEN PROMISES FROM YOU AND FOREST CITY.

Here are some things that I remember.

I remember when YOU PROMISED that the use of the term Stapleton would just be as a "locator" and would be phased out over time.

I remember the commitments to "New Urbanism" and the Diversity claims from long ago.

I remember the PROMISE of affordable housing that were to be developed as our communities grew.

And I live in the abject failure of these developer promises and commitments. Where the Stapleton name has been used to realize enormous gains for white affluent citizens, at the expensive of working class and minority citizens.

I remember.

I was here when the first schools were built and white, affluent families sent their children to other schools because "choice" allowed too many children of color to attend.

I was here when the King Soopers opened, and white, affluent families were offended because "too many" people of color from surrounding neighborhoods were consumers at the grocery store.

I was there when the first pool opened...and fees were raised in order to help discourage patronage from "too many" people of color from surrounding communities.

I was there, listening to and reading the racist and privileged vitriol on the Stapleton internet, intranet and other social media platforms.

I was there when my children...original residents of Stapleton, were treated as strangers and imposters in their own neighborhood... because of the color of their skin.

I was there when a Stapleton resident called 911 because she thought that two Black men, in a fully marked police car and full uniform..."must" be "impersonating" police officers.

I was there. And in fact, you and Forest City already know. How do I know you know? Because you cover it in your 2015 Stapleton Marketing Plan under Diversity Perceptions. "Exclusive to higher income levels", "homogenous and uninviting to people of color" "Gated Community", "Stapleton Moms", "Strollerville"

So you already know. But what was one of the main plans in response to these perceptions? To highlight diverse residents and parade them to the public AS IF, they represented the climate of this community. Another lie in a sea of lies and misrepresentations

Well. Okay. So be it.

From my point of view, it is time to just call it what it is. White Privilege. White Supremacy. Racism. And no... it's not like Forest City is a hate group or the new incarnation of the KKK. Nope. But what you and Forest City do represent...is the institutionalized and systemic racism and privilege that operates at the expense of people of color and difference. I think we have had quite enough of that.

So some of us plan to just tie you and Forest City directly to these expressions of white privilege, white supremacy and racism. We will just call it what it is. At a time when places across the nation are dismantling their monuments to white supremacy, it is way past time that we dismantle ours. But if we can't...that's okay...we will make sure that everyone hears about the past, the present and the legacy of white supremacy in Stapleton. And that Forest City has been happy to make a profit off of that legacy.

I am so disappointed. I actually believed all that nonsense that you and Forest City promised. Shame on me. I should have known better. Now that I do know better, I am sure to expose the conditions.

Sincerely,

Gregory Diggs, Ph.D.

Second Stapleton Resident