



## A Letter to Mayor Dan Horrigan from DSA Akron

March 4, 2020

To the Office of Mayor Horrigan:

We as citizens who live and work in the Greater Akron area condemn Mayor Horrigan's recent endorsement of Michael Bloomberg as unconscionable and demand its immediate retraction. Bloomberg has an odious record, both as an individual and as a public official, that does not reflect the values of our community or the spirit of the comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance Mayor Horrigan recently signed in the City of Akron.

Mr. Bloomberg has shown malicious contempt and disregard for women, people of color, and poor and houseless peoples. With sixty-four allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment, and/or assault, Mr. Bloomberg is the epitome of the dangerous predatory behavior that threatens and demeans women and other people vulnerable to gender discrimination. An endorsement of such a person is an endorsement of such behavior. We condemn all sexual harassment, assault, and nonconsensual acts both physical and verbal. We demand Mayor Horrigan do the same.

Mr. Bloomberg expanded and fought to keep Stop and Frisk, the most repressive example of racist policing in our time. During his entire tenure as Mayor of New York City (2002 to 2013) over New York City police made 5 million unprovoked stops of black and brown men (88% of whom were innocent.) This was a policy of flagrant harassment of communities of color, denying them the peace of mind and security that all individuals should have when walking the streets of their neighborhoods. Mr.

Bloomberg has offered halfhearted apologies for his commitment to this atrocious policy, but is on record supporting racist policing as recently as 2015. Mr. Bloomberg is also on record making a variety of racist remarks and expressing a lack of comprehension of the serious consequences of other racist policies, including redlining. The effects of redlining still cause hardship in Akron communities today. We condemn racism, racist policies, police brutality, and harassment. We demand Mayor Horrigan do the same.

Mr. Bloomberg has the proclivity to leverage his extensive wealth for personal ambition through the guises of political contributions and philanthropy. In 2017, Mayor Horrigan participated in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, a collaboration between Bloomberg Philanthropies and Harvard University. Due to this connection, we cannot be assured Mayor Horrigan's endorsement is based entirely on any inherent merit of Mr. Bloomberg's economic policies. Mr. Bloomberg is spending copious amounts of his personal fortune on his presidential campaign in Akron and throughout the nation. We condemn big money in politics, whether it comes from corporations or individual oligarchs. We demand Mayor Horrigan do the same.

Sincerely,

The Democratic Socialists of America - Akron Chapter



**Democratic  
Socialists *of*  
America**