



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

For Immediate Release:
October 29, 2008
Director

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Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission
Statement concerning the discovery of an effigy of Senator Barack Obama on
UK's Campus this morning

An effigy of Senator Barack Obama was discovered hanging on the campus of the University of Kentucky Campus this morning. The Commission joins University of Kentucky President Lee Todd in expressing our offense to this disturbing conduct described and in the strongest terms condemns the actions whatever the motivations of the actor(s).

We are very encouraged by the initial actions of University and its leaders by moving swiftly to address these events, the diverse cultures that co-exist in our community need to be brought together in dignity and with respect for each other. We renew our call on the University of Kentucky to be the leader in this endeavor. We pledge our support to make this a teaching moment for the University and the Community as we learn to live with and respect each other as we all move forward up to and through this upcoming election.

Unfortunately during this election, and just this week, we have witnessed in other communities around the country similar kinds of conduct. We equally condemn those images of a similar display involving Governor Sarah Palin and Senator John McCain. These images have no legitimate place in any political discussion and certainly not in any political campaign when we as citizens are about to vote in the most important election in our lifetime.

In conclusion we must note that appropriate law enforcement agencies have begun their investigation, we should be very cautious to attributing motives of the perpetrators until their work is done. But nevertheless we should move forward to build bridges of acceptance, inclusion and understanding in that we are all Americans and that we all belong.

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The Commission is the agency responsible for enforcing the local anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing and public accommodation in Lexington-Fayette County. Additional information on the Commission is available on its web site at www.lfuchrc.org. For further information about the statement please contact William D. Wharton, Executive Director at 859-252-4931, ext 222 or via email at wwharton@lfuchrc.org.