

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Inclusive Springfield Condemns Proposed “Whites-Only” Settlement**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (7/30/2025) – The Inclusive Springfield Board, composed of local leaders and community stakeholders, is speaking out against the proposed “whites-only” settlement announced by the group “Return to the Land.”

Inclusive Springfield is a community-driven initiative facilitated by **Community Partnership of the Ozarks (CPO)** and guided by a cross-sector board of local leaders who work collaboratively to promote dignity, opportunity, and belonging for all. The board collectively issued the following statement:

The Springfield community is home to a multilayered, colorful mosaic of cultures that is continuing to grow. We strive to be a community where the inherent dignity, value and worth of every member of our community is embraced. As our community continues to grow, we will continue to work towards being a place where all people feel valued and that they belong. The proposed “whites-only” settlement by the group “Return to the Land”, is discriminatory to many of our valued community members. This kind of divisive agenda is reflective of biased, outdated discriminatory practices which are contrary to the values of our community.

“Return to the Land” is yet another organization in a troubling pattern of groups that use divisive and harmful rhetoric to fracture families, communities, and society at large. By promoting discrimination, they perpetuate violence and spread false, damaging stereotypes about some of our most vulnerable populations. The strength of our community comes from the unique contributions of every individual and our shared commitment to unity.

Inclusive Springfield and all its partners through the public and private sector vehemently condemn these actions and urge likeminded businesses and individuals to do the same.

The Board urges other community organizations, businesses, and individuals to stand united in rejecting hate-based rhetoric and affirming Springfield as a place of belonging for all. For more information about Inclusive Springfield and how to get involved, go to [inclusivespringfield.org](https://inclusivespringfield.org)

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**ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS:** *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit [www.cpozarks.org](http://www.cpozarks.org).*