

December 21, 2022

Saint Paul City Council Public Hearing:

Creating Chapter 112 of the Administrative Code to establish
the Saint Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission.

Thirty years ago, I specifically chose my hometown of Saint Paul to open my art gallery and frame shop. Specifically, downtown. This year I turned 60, for those not knowing I am Caucasian/European American. This year I have been self-employed 32 years.

Bear with me... The following is some personal history that may help you understand why my viewpoint on Reparations is what it is:

A year after I was born, my parents separated. We were living in a house on the frontage of HWY 110 (Now Hwy 62) in Mendota Heights. My father worked the night shift at Northwest Airlines as a mechanic. My Mother 'worked' at home. There were six kids, split half after the divorce. We were the Brady Bunch – but in reverse; three boys went with Dad, two girls and myself (being an infant) with Mother.

Mother soon met a man at bar in South Saint Paul, I think he worked at the South Saint Paul stockyards. My first memory of life was him yelling at me and my two older sisters to face the wall and don't touch the floor. We were living on Stryker Avenue mid-block between Sydney and Page – upstairs in a rundown duplex. It was morning I recall; the sun was streaming in against the wall my three-year-old face was inches from. All of us were squatting. Why, I had no idea. But I was in fear and trying mightily to not topple over.

My stepfather had left two kids behind in Montana. He and my mother had a child within a year – given up for adoption. We've never met. They had another child a year later. My father, met a woman, 6-years older than my oldest brother, they had a child.

I could go, and on about what the subsequent years were like, our moving to a rundown house in old Inver Grove Heights near the Mississippi, whereas the basement was half full of mud (from the '65 flood), its windows out and rats lived there freely. After 4th grade, we moved to west-central Illinois to a rented farmstead. Then another – until we were kicked out of it by the landlord. I loved my little 2nd-floor under eve bedroom facing east. Our driveway was a ¼ mile long and I could see east for miles across cornfields dotted by a few trees here and there on the horizon.

I had been working for \$2 an hour from the age of 12 cleaning a western wear clothing store and saddlery 'in town'. I also shined boots for customers at a boot-shine-stand the owner set up for me. He liked my work so much he'd take me to his country place to mow grass, fix fences and to clean-out-the barn. I LOVED IT ALL.

With a bit of money I'd saved, I bought a gallon of yellow paint and repainted my bedroom that had had chunks of plaster falling from its sloped ceiling regularly (I patched this as best I could with a thick flour-paste). Though we'd moved four miles away, I secretly walked back one early evening thru creek bottoms and open cow fields within the next day or two to say good bye to the empty house, the sixth home I'd had at that point. My little dog Scooter was with me as I sat on the floor of my bedroom and said good bye to it and to the view that had brought me much solace. The sun was casting the house's shadow well into the distance.

You see after we were gone, cables were strung thru lower windows and a farm tractor pulling on them pulled down the house before it was then burned. I walked back afterwards and found the porcelain doorknob from the bathroom. I kept it for years.

My next bedroom, until I escaped Mother and George and my mean stepbrother, (my two older sisters had run away from home beforehand from the two previous places) and I moved back to Sant Paul, was a lean-to on the back of the 'house'. It was a renovated former low-roofed one-room school house. I shared my room with a washer, a dryer and the back door of the house. I had no privacy. But again, with the little money I earned, I continued making my way; I bought a piece of linoleum for the concrete floor, a little pine desk, a little pine chair, a little pine bookcase and a little record player – I still have *everyone* of the discount records I bought then.

Two years later, now working as a one-kid cook in a bowling alley pizza parlor 'in town' after school and at night, and though I was not gong to be 18 until fall, George informed me one May evening as we sat in the beautiful yard I'd kept up, I would begin paying rent the day after graduation.

I went for a walk at sunset with little dog Scooter, now getting older, thinking of all the sh-t I'd been thru for all those years and knowing my five older siblings had each had run-ins with the law – I thought the hell I will pay him anything.

Backing up just a bit...

When I was 14, and living in the previous farmstead on that lonely, yet beautiful to me prairie rise, Mother, George and stepbrother went to Florida for 10 days over Christmas and New Years. It was THE BEST Christmas break I'd ever had! In between chores for the animals and going for walks, I stated playing a '33' record by Diana Ross I'd bought for \$2 or \$3 – the soundtrack from the movie Mahogany in which she starred. It, and particularly the title song, 'Do You Know Where You're Going To' I probably played 50 times. It became my theme song. Yes, I realized, I was going away from here. I then counted the years and months until I could leave – nearly four! Oh! I thought, how will I do it...

Back forward now to May 1980, my best friend 'in town' for several years had been Peggy, she was Caucasian, heavier set and 89 (She was very poor and had called me the Vegetable Man being I brought her things from my garden when I could.). She'd had a stroke Christmas Eve 1978 and had been in a coma for many months by May 1980. Still, I went to see her as often as I could to just sit and talk to her – her husband had died 30 years prior and she had no children or family.

The hardest part about leaving was leaving her and Scooter behind. The both died that fall.

I tell you this, and I could tell you so much more about the interesting life I've led, here and 'out West' in northwest Minnesota, northwest North Dakota, northeast and north-central Montana part, part-time while keeping my gallery here for most of it. I could tell you about the various apartments I've lived in as a young adult (one, truly, the cockroach hotel just behind the Basilica in downtown Minneapolis, or the run-down little house I bought and fixed up to be the envy of neighbors in bigger houses in southwest Minneapolis or even my being homeless. Having to work my way through technical college to study architecture, art and drafting (I could not qualify for a student loan. But I did not make a fuss or expect welfare.) and the ups and downs of being self-employed 32-plus years. And the stories I could tell first-hand, about what 'leadership' has done to this city, and continues to do.

One last thing before I close. I 'came out' when I was 20. Initially I told Mother when I was twenty – I drove down to Illinois to do it. She seemed to accept it. As far as my other siblings it ranged from 'It's Cool', to 'It's Sick'. A decade later when I was speaking to my mother over the phone (In spite of my childhood I'd phoned her several times weekly for years and I was then living in a long vacant farmstead I'd bought CFD, atop a high spot in northwest Minnesota. This, just before opening my gallery back here and commuting weekly back and forth.) the subject of my being Gay came up. She'd never wanted George and stepbrother, still living at home rent-free, to know. When I insisted, they knew she replied, "I hope I'm dead before they find out".

Further, when I campaigned twice for City Council against Rebecca Noecker a local gay rights group endorsed her over me, twice. They knew I was running yet did not even reach out to me. Why? Because I did not conform to their stereo-victimhood-type and I identified as independent and non-partisan. (I quit being a Democrat years ago and I am also not now Republican. I like the Greens, and the Libertarians – I respect everyone's viewpoints. I view myself as a political agnostic actually.) From this gay-rights group's dogmatic view, they viewed me as a threat to 'their' gay rights agenda: 1. victimhood, 2. WE all need to think alike.

And that, is what leadership here has been doing here for years – speeding up rapidly in the last several years (While record murders and crime has been normalized, the business and workforce community continues to shrink, and one more Socialist policy after another is perpetuated upon us by, with all due respect and in my opinion, Socialists masquerading as Democrats). Though *countless* people, from all backgrounds, have been so harmed for so many reasons by their actions, or lack thereof, they are fixed upon perpetuating Victimhood.

They are also fixated on targeting African Americans here, for the same reason I have been shunned, ridiculed and dismissed for many years as these 'leaders' come and go...

We're all, supposed to think alike folks, and to view this bunch (most of whom have never owned a business or rental property or known truly what it is to experience true hate, true scorn and true abuse) – as our saviors.

Good grief.

Most of us know how sincere their efforts are. Sadly, Mayor Carter, our first African American Mayor, and his mother, Toni Carter, our first African American county board chair(?) have overseen an historic decline in this city's well-being. So instead, they and other 'leaders' focus on JUSTICE while they've been enriching themselves and separating us, and slowly, methodically and steadily reducing this city and your quality of life here – and they get away with it because 'the media' majority 'protects' them. Often slyly, but it IS occurring, and has been for years.

African Americans here, from infancy forward, are terribly impacted by their collective records: our public schools in which disrespect for teaches and fellow students has become normalized, anti-social and criminal behavior aboard public transit has become normalized, crime within many neighborhoods and lack of consequences for perpetrators has become normalized, the difficulty at ever-higher heights to maintain a business here has been normalized...

They've: Mayor Cater, City Council, and County Board, also perpetuated needless tax increase, after needless tax increase which has so harmed countless people, and renters, so as to fund THEIR merry-go-round utopian vision of how YOU should live your lives. Why do they get away with it? Because we seem to have no civic organization left with any guts and integrity that will publicly call them out on it. And because we have so few 'journalists' left that will actually do the same. Instead, the propogandists in the media (print, online and TV), led by the Pioneer Press, have steadily devolved into largely mouthpieces for elected officials here. They are sly about it, but they are doing it.

My entire life, for which each day I am grateful for and the older I get the happier I get, has been one struggle after another. I could be filled with grievance – but instead I am filled with gratitude. These people can never harm my spirit nor make me aggrieved (of which there is plenty of reasons to be after my surviving 'them' here for 3 decades).

It is my hope that each of you reading this will honestly ask yourselves, is this effort today really, truly about a need?

Slavery existed for thousands of years before Europeans arrived on this continent. Via many cultures and on a number of lands and continents. In Africa, Africans had been enslaving Africans for thousands of years – selling their own people to the world. Including eventually, The New World.

It took England and America to stand up and to 'largely' end the world slave-trade. I understand it was a volunteer group from Minnesota who first came forward to fight for the abolishment of slavery I America. Their memorial, for now, still stands across from the Cathedral.

* * *

I hope many of you might be insulted by leadership here which keeps treating people of color, again, particularly African Americans here, as being incapable of leading their lives, raising families, tending to the needs of older folks, starting a business, going to school, and anything that involves You pursuing Your dreams, without THEIR over-site.

I wrote initially about segments of my youngest years to help explain what it was that helped create who I am today. I have no grudge for that time. I am actually Thankful For it. Difficult times, which most of us do experience, can build character and strength, and empathy, if we allow it.

I care about you. I care about this City deeply, and particularly about your quality of life here. Sadly, with all due respect, I can have no faith that these people in leadership positions (their majority that is) are capable of doing anything here other than what is in their political and or selfish interests. They are not about 'healing' and 'ending injustices'. They are about dividing us every further. This is a Public Hearing today.

They are not bringing people together – the opposite is happening after many of them have held office for years. Instead, their actions really are only creating ever-more DOMINION OVER YOU and encouraging YOU to look to them as your Saviors.

Sincerely,
Bill Hosko



Five years old – with my pet sparrow.
I'd rescued it and nurtured it after it fell from
a high nest I could not reach.



PS I wrote this today, as I am nearing peak busy time at my gallery and frame shop. Forgive me if there may be an error in wording or spelling. I welcome your contact in return regarding my message today.

Thank you.

Bill

Saint Paul
651-222-4767
Bill@BillHosko.Com

-----Original Message-----

From: "Bill Hosko" [bill@billhosko.com]

Date: 12/19/2022 08:37 PM

Subject: Egos and or fear overruling Simple Solutions to protect Saint Paul...

Greetings all,

Below, my two recent emails to our local elected officials and media. I will be in touch again soon.

Thank you

Best regards,

Bill Hosko

651-222-4767

Bill@BillHosko.Com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: bill hosko <billhosko@yahoo.com>

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<rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; <lyuen@mpr.org>; <council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: <dmischke@myvillager.com>; <editor@communityreporter.org>; Tim Spitzack <tim@stpaulpublishing.com>

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 at 11:07:05 AM CST

Subject: Egos and or fear overruling Simple Solutions to protect Saint Paul...

Greetings again Saint Paul Mayor Carter, City Council, Commissioner Ortega, Senator Pappas, others,

From the PPress Letters yesterday:

"There was no Press Conference by Mayor Carter demanding justice after two young men, African Americans, were shot at the Central Light Rail station on Monday Evening. They later died from their wounds. Tuesday morning, as I walked over to the crime-plagued stair tower, next to the crime plagued light rail station and crime plagued bus stops, I was hoping just a little, that out of respect for their lost lives that it would be closed for the day. It wasn't." Bill Hosko.

Before I sent this in, I spoke with a downtown office building guard beforehand. He's a friend, 25, who is also African American. After I read him my letter he replied, "We all know why nothing will be done, these weren't the right type of people dying". He thanked me for what I wrote.

All of us know what he said is true.

Mayor Carter, you posted on Twitter, that the shootings were "disgusting". Councilmember Noecker, you stated they were "tragic". Today, Councilmember Noecker you are hosting a 'virtual' meeting to discuss the deaths and ongoing crime. A 'virtual' meeting? These, young men, and so many others, male and female, children and adults, who've been shot, stabbed, beaten and robbed, and murdered, onboard, and alongside, light rail deserved better.

Some can and will surmise you are not holding a public meeting (which could have been live-streamed) to ensure that those rightfully disturbed and even angry cannot come together in one place - whereas you can control the optics of a 'virtual' meeting. And please, let's not state it is 'to keep people safe' when thousands are gathering together in XCEL Center for hockey, or hundreds were together in Park Square Theater this weekend for a Christmas program.

With all due respect, I predict the results of your meeting later today will be:

1. You'll get well placed 'appreciations' for all you do, in a difficult time,
2. More monitoring of the situation will occur and there will be a follow-up meeting,
3. More security will be placed - and more funding will be needed,
4. The Stair Tower will be closed earlier - thereby keeping law-abiding citizens ever more unable to access the skyway system that was massively safer before all of you took office,

What you should do today if you are indeed serious about actually fixing the situation:

1. State that statistics show the great majority of crime surrounding public transit (on board buses and light rail and upon light platforms) in the Twin Cities metropolitan area is being perpetrated by individuals who have not paid to be there,
2. State that statistics show the Twin Cities light rail system is by far the most dangerous in America,
3. State that you will direct the Met Council to start fulfilling their priority responsibility - keeping public transit users safe and secure,
4. State that immediately, this can be done by them bringing in temporary fences and a gate at each entry point of the three downtown light rail platforms (a total of 12 points) (Existing payment stations would be just outside these new access points.) and that a Metro Transit officer will ensure payments are made before access is granted. (As we know, loitering around these stations and the crime that is coming with it would of course dramatically decrease.)
5. State that the great amount of new revenues being collected will easily pay for the officers,
6. State that if they refuse, you will direct Mayor Carter to request Governor Walz bring in the National Guard to install the fences and gates and to collect fares,

7. State that the Met Council needs to begin the process of retrofitting each high crime platform one by one, starting with the three downtown and expanding down the length of the system in Saint Paul and state that if they refuse will you begin a process to file a suit against the State of Minnesota; light rail as it is, is a dangerous place for the public - which owns the light rail lines,

8. Lastly, apologize to the countless people who have had bad experiences aboard light rail in Saint Paul, and particularly to those who have been affected directly by crime.

To all others receiving this email, contact Council Member Noecker and tell her it is time to end 'Honor-System' Light Rail in Sant Paul once and for all.

This includes you, members of the media. Start writing and talking about these SOLUTIONS. Your readers and viewers deserve to know about them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Hosko

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: bill hosko <billhosko@yahoo.com>

To: <ggilmore@pioneerpress.com>; <mburbach@pioneerpress.com>; <editor@startribune.com>; <newsreply@kstp.com>; <tips@wcco.com>; <fox9news@foxtv.com>; <rafael.e.ortega@co.ramsey.mn.us>; <toni.carter@co.ramsey.mn.us>; <jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us>; <mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; <rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; <lyuen@mpr.org>; <council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: <dmischke@myvillager.com>; <editor@communityreporter.org>; Tim Spitzack <tim@stpaulpublishing.com>

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 11:19:34 AM CST, bill hosko <billhosko@yahoo.com> wrote:

December 13, 2022

Saint Paul Mayor Carter, City Council, Commissioner Ortega, Senator Pappas, others,

All of you have heard about this: 2 dead after shooting at downtown St. Paul light rail transit station – Twin Cities

All of you are culpable. Yes, I will dare say this because it is true.

As we also know, for years every one of you (to a lesser degree newer Council Members), have known how to stop this. Including you, paper editors and TV media. Every one of you get off your asses, swallow your pride and START the process to 'honestly' educate the public about the root cause of crime on board, and surrounding, Light Rail in Saint Paul; honor-system payment for riding light rail here. 'More security' will never make these trains safe nor restore the massive drop in use and public trust.

It is time to get bids post haste and start retrofitting each and every one of the light rail station platforms in Saint Paul with fences and gates to control access to these platforms. Starting with the highest crime platforms in this city: Central, Union Depot, 10th Street, Rice Street. Do the others over 5 years if need be then.

It is also time to acknowledge once and for all the fraud, which is in fact being perpetuated upon the public by Commissioner Ortega and his plans for 'Riverview Corridor - Modern Streetcar' on West 7th St. It is in fact, another honor-system LIGHT RAIL line being planned that can only cause further safety and security harm to Saint Paul and its citizens.

I understand Council Members Brendmoen and Prince you are not seeking re-election. Good. You've done enough damage here and across this city already. Council Member Noecker, as you wait in the wings to replace feckless Mayor Carter who is only here still because President Biden would not hire him - to his credit no matter what side of the aisle people are on, you should resign as well. Being this mess and so many others have only grown under your watch and nurture.

Same goes with you Senator Pappas and Commissioner Ortega; smug with your re-elections last month. And further, thanks be, that you Commissioners Carter and McDonough will be leaving soon - for reasons mentioned in above paragraph.

Can there be another City so beleaguered with willful incompetence at so many political levels? No. And it is all largely because the local print editors and TV media program directors have INDEED protected you, often slyly, for a variety of reasons and at different levels.

All of you have the power to largely stop another person from being robbed, beaten, stabbed or shot again, or murdered, on light rail, its platforms, or within 'the stair tower', which I warned years ago as well (more on this tomorrow) would become a crime magnet being we have honor-system light rail. But will you now actually and at last do it? As always, I remain available to help you help this city

Sincerely,

Bill Hosko

'Perennial Candidate' per our propogandist Fred Melo at the PPress

651-222-4767

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