

From: Patti Schwanz [<mailto:schwanzpatti@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 1:16 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council

Subject: Resolution Condemning anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant speech from presidential candidate Donald Trump

Dai Thao as an individual can say whatever he wants about Donald Trump or immigration policy. So can any member of the Council. Just as Donald Trump can say whatever he wants. Here's the thing - Trump holds no elected office. You do.

It would be repulsive of you as The St. Paul City Council, a government entity, to condemn an individual's speech, or declare that individual "not welcome" in our city. If our government starts down this road, where does it end? How long until you're the one that says something that makes you the unwelcome one? How much of a majority that disagrees with you does it take to have your speech condemned by the government and told you're not welcome here? What might I say to be deemed "not welcome" by the city of St. Paul? To what extent am I allowed to disagree with the majority? Can I state a view that opposes the majority in any public forum? It's chilling.

I hope this resolution will be withdrawn and an apology offered to the citizens of this city for this ill-considered attempt at policing free speech. Failing that, I hope the rest of the council will vote a resounding "NO." Feel free, when you make that vote, to express your personal disgust with Donald Trump and his platform, if that's how you feel. Please leave the rest of us feeling just as free to express our opinions when you're done.

Thanks for your consideration,

Patti Schwanz

A proud resident of the Hamline Midway neighborhood of St. Paul