

From: Jonathan Tule [mailto:jonathan.tule@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 11:06 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4;
#CI-StPaul_Ward2
Subject: Regarding Resolution 2233 (2015)

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing in regards to Resolution 2233 (2015), introduced and sponsored by Dai Thao, which is up for vote today by the City Council.

Council Member Dai Thao has made GOP-frontrunner Donald Trump a target of the Saint Paul City Council by introducing the aforementioned resolution to not welcome Mr. Trump in the City of Saint Paul. What may have been missed is that the City is indirectly taking a stand against free speech and against an open and free exchange of opinions. The council is taking a negative non-binding action based on the affirmative exercise of a freedom protected by the US Constitution: the Freedom of Speech. Mr. Trump's so-called misconduct was to exercise that freedom and state his opinion on a subject. That is not wrong. Mr. Dai Thao, however, is engaging in wrongdoing. Mr. Thao is using his public position and platform as a council-member to not only exercise his speech, but to speak on behalf of the population and members in his ward.

Respectfully Mr. Thao should be handed a box of tissues for his overwhelming sensitivities on the subject of immigration and immigrants and explained that he is not in his position to advocate for any particular cause or group, such as immigrants, but to advocate for all members of Ward 1 and the broader area of St. Paul. I understand that Ward 1 is home to a large Somali, Hmong, Oromo, and other immigrant communities. Does this mean however that Ward 1, Mr. Thao, and the rest of the City Council should be held captive by *one* community?

I hope the council members understand that they represent both political parties and within those parties the various subsets that exist on the ideological spectrum. This resolution is divisive, which is ironic considering Mr. Thao's quote to the Star Tribune, "We won't stand by to let him [Donald Trump] try to divide our community".

As an immigrant, a dual citizen, and an admirer of the freedoms allotted to and granted by the Constitution, I ask the Council member Brendmoen, Thune, Stark, Tolbert, Bostrom, and Council President Finney to either abstain or vote against this resolution. Let's unite across party lines in support of the freedoms we have and vote against this non-binding resolution while setting the tone that the positions of authority each of you hold as council members should not be a microphone for personal beliefs.

Respectfully
Jonathan Tule