

**From:** [Colin Anderson](#)  
**To:** [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** ICE Operations in St. Paul, my comment for the City Council meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 7th.  
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Greetings and thank you to the members of the St. Paul City Council,

First, thank you for your sacrifice, dedication, and service you have all demonstrated by accepting this role of Representative in our communities.

I write today with no requests or demands; only an invitation.

I invite all of you to join me, and many other neighbors, in radically divergent innovations in our perspectives, behaviors, values, and habits.

Innovations that move us beyond this present moment of attack and community destabilization being enacted upon us by the current, fraudulent, federal administration. An administration that used lies, fear, and the hateful promotion of "common enemies" to swindle Americans into supporting their ascension. After a decade-long campaign of slogans and catchphrases, we now see that they have no intention of putting the vast majority of American lives "first", nor do they have any intention to make life in America "great" for the vast majority of American families.

None of us are without a share of responsibility in bringing this administration to ascension, and all humanity to this present moment.

As Vaneigem reminds us in *"The Revolution of Everyday Life"*:

"How could a totalitarian regime not be the price immediately paid when the demand for total freedom is renounced once a handful of partial freedoms has been won?"

As Saint-Just warned us in January of 1793, "Those who make revolutions by halves do nothing but dig their own graves."

We have funded the insidious vines of end stage capitalism into dominance. Insidious vines upon which fascism fruits.

Submitting willingly to a bloated economy of cheap salves, potential terminating conveniences, and environment destroying industries of the unnecessary. Bloated to the point of obstruction. Obstructing our ability to perceive existence and survival. Obstructing our ability to move in authentic community, authentic nature, and authentic existence. Obstructing us and limiting the potential of our inherent interconnectedness with entertaining distractions, the isolating walls of hoarded possession, and the increasing toxicity of an environment which burdens a human before they even leave the womb.

All while robbing possibility and potential from the voiceless future.

Our neighbors drive around, chasing ghosts (ICE) and funding the racist, colonizing fascism of the oil industry. Not to protect their neighbors, nor to directly confront and neutralize the militarized deputies of fascism, but to only make themselves feel better without making any individual adjustment. All while fueling the engines of industry that inspire and donate to the creation of the very forces our neighbors claim to protest!

Refusing the possibility of individual destabilization that may come from more forceful and direct confrontation. Refusing to enact meaningful consequences against those who physically threaten our neighbors.

They gather to sit idly and talk, while refusing to be out doing the most basic of community support: clearing sidewalks.

Our neighbors scream for their elected representatives to enact their own brand of fascism. Enacting a legislated brand of totalitarianism which more closely aligns with their own desires for a bland singularity of beliefs and perspectives, united against the only consensus they can agree upon, which is a vague and amorphous common enemy of "others".

An "other" whose only insult appears to be that their motivations for fascism fueling, unnecessary consumption within a capitalist economy of genocide differ slightly from the motivations and toxic individualism of the pearl clutching liberals who place all blame, accountability, and responsibility for their own wellbeing and contentment and the complete reimagining of all existence at the feet of others.

Do not get me wrong, I do not wish to see or participate in the violence of physical confrontation. I wish only to invite those who claim abhorrence to these present threats to destabilize and defund them through what they can choose to no longer do.

No longer funding anything that isn't a basic necessity of existence. No longer funding the colonizing, publicly traded corporations who have robbed us of our unique, civic identities.

No longer hiding in their little panic rooms on wheels and funding the racist, colonizing oil industry.

No longer degrading our streets with the delivery trucks of online commerce. Forcing municipalities to maintain the cycle of fueling the endless pollution and unsustainable public cost of maintaining a car-centric, cold war era transportation infrastructure of isolation.

No longer funding the predatory commerce and State violence of intoxication. Wasting our dwindling agricultural resources on the cancer-causing tools of abuse and community destabilization offered as fleeting salves to the trauma and discontent of our survival sicknesses. Wasting these resources while families from South Sudan to the Midway are harmed by a legislated apartheid of food insecurity.

No longer accepting the status quo of not being 100% present and accountable at this potentially pivotal moment in humanity's history.

No longer viewing sacrifice as a personal act, but as a devotional and life affirming ritual.

Offering in sacrificial tribute the Amazons, Exxons, Costcos, WalMarts, PepsiCos, and other tools of caste enforcing wealth hoarding onto the fires of time and history. Offered in tribute to all we know, have learned now, have lost to the stasis, and hope for tomorrow.

I know our neighbors have erected barriers of an unwarranted and unnecessary autonomy around all of you; around all of our elected representatives. You are not separate from us, and we are not separate from you. We all have our roles within the shared environment of authentic, interconnected existence and community.

I endeavor today to only articulate my willingness to continue assisting in the creation of a total liberation within an active movement of radical divergence toward permanent revolution.

So, as my neighbors, my friends, I invite you to join me at the Zion Community Commons to pack up nourishment to distribute to our neighbors who are avoiding being in public right now. I invite you to join me in abstaining from giving financial support to any publicly traded, colonizing corporation. I invite you to join me in an abstinence from the community and family destroying State violence of intoxication's cheap salves. The fascist would love nothing more than that we salve our discontent with inebriation instead of confront it with direct action.

I invite you to be in a position to witness the behaviors, perspectives, values, and habits of this community that we would hope to see represented in City Hall.

I invite all of you to encourage neighbors with under utilized living spaces in their homes to invite in a neighbor who is currently struggling to keep up with the bloated and inflated rents. To not let the existing potential of housing go unused, while neighbors sleep outside, or crowded into apartments because the financial rewards of

participating in this economy of fascist genocide no longer cover the costs of living under it.

I invite you to join me in denying, defunding, divesting, and discrediting anything that isn't an essential necessity of existence until all in our communities have the security and stability of unobstructed access to these necessities.

We can continue to make revolution by halves, digging our own graves, and fueling totalitarianism into existence in exchange for the false freedoms of consumer choice in satiating, manufactured comforts and conveniences, **or** we can say, "No more! This stops with us. Today. Right here!"

We can proclaim St. Paul a "leading community"!

One modelling and exemplifying a willingness to fearlessly and joyfully diverge radically with the breadth and magnitude required to neutralize the rapidly expanding threats ALL humanity faces today.

We can begin to comport ourselves in a demonstrated selflessness and solidarity in service and obligation to the most excluded in our communities today, to the very environment that sustains us, and to the voiceless future.

Comporting ourselves in solidarity with that neighbor born 100 generations from today, so that the threats and obstacles that our neighbors before us, and that we today, breathe financial life into will not appear so bloated, daunting, and threatening.

May that bloated monster of toxically individualist consumerism and progress terminating, manipulatively marketed commodities of comfort not even exist.

Comport ourselves in a manner that clearly demonstrates that we each understand our potential and ability to diminish and destabilize the threats we face today through the joy, contentment, and security that comes from embracing our place of contribution and solidarity within an authentic, interconnected community.

Authentic community that knows no borders, no boundaries, and no expiration date.

Certainly, this horizon of liberation and radical divergence may appear far off, but we can traverse that distance at the speed of thought.

Your response or reaction to this communication is welcome, but in no way changes what I will do today, tomorrow, or forever. I can only, and will continue, to write my own story. Today I am bagging up masa and pinto beans and purchasing more nourishment to stock the pantries here at the ZCC to make sure we are prepared to respond quickly and effectively to the requests that come to us.

I will pack up more Winter Shelter kits to help secure and care for our unsheltered neighbors.

I will live an authentic existence, without fealty to the dictatorship of possession, want, and fear.

Wherever it is that I stand in confrontation to the failures and mediocrity of our status quo, you are all welcome to stand with me.

Invited to stand with me, boots to the ground; rooted in.  
All hands; holding fast.

In community, solidarity, and commitment to the total liberation of a permanent revolution, I thank you for your time and hope you never forgot the offered invitation and my desire to assist as any of you see fit,

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**Now my feeling is that our hope lies in reality because the culture of empire - the capitalist, hedonistic patriarchal culture is driven by fantasy - an addiction to fantasy. To the extent that we can encourage and**

**promote facing reality, we have concrete reasons to hope.**

**-bell hooks**