

From: [Nina Turner](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Nina Turner](#)
Subject: Request for Immediate Passage of a Separation Ordinance in Saint Paul
Date: Friday, January 23, 2026 2:33:09 PM

You don't often get email from bnzturner7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Saint Paul City Council / Governor Walz:

My name is Nina Turner. I am a Saint Paul native, a property owner, and a longtime small business owner who has invested my life, my work, and my resources into this city. Saint Paul is not just where I do business — it is my home, and it is where my family and community live.

I am writing because what I am seeing and hearing in our neighborhoods right now is deeply concerning. Families are afraid to leave their homes. Parents are afraid to take their children to daycare. People are avoiding hospitals, grocery stores, and public spaces out of fear. This level of anxiety is destabilizing our community and eroding trust in basic civic life.

I understand that policymaking carries legal risk. As a property and business owner, I deal with regulations, compliance, and liability regularly. I understand that any meaningful action may be challenged and may require revision. But leadership requires acting even when the legal terrain is complicated.

Waiting for a perfect ordinance is not a neutral choice. Every day of inaction has real consequences for real people.

I am asking you to pass a Separation Ordinance immediately that establishes clear boundaries between local institutions and federal enforcement actions, including:

- Requiring federal agents to be clearly identifiable and unmasked
- Requiring visible name and badge identification
- Prohibiting federal enforcement activity in hospitals, schools, daycares, grocery stores, and other locations essential to daily life

These measures are about safety, accountability, and basic human dignity. They are not about obstructing the law — they are about protecting the people who make this city function.

I recognize the importance of the recent eviction moratorium in Saint Paul. That was a meaningful step. But it does not address the immediate fear and instability spreading through our neighborhoods. Our city needs additional protections now.

If this ordinance must be amended later, then amend it later. If it is challenged in court, then defend it. If it evolves over time, that is the normal course of governance.

But please do not delay action while families continue to live in fear.

Saint Paul has always prided itself on being a city that values fairness, community, and care for the most vulnerable. This is a moment to live up to those values.

Respectfully,

Nina Turner
Saint Paul Native
Property Owner & Business Owner
611 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

From: [Mattie DeHaven](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Subject: ICE in our community
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 5:41:14 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mattiedehaven@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the presence of Immigration Customs and Enforcement and Border Control agents in our community.

As an educator on the West side of Saint Paul, I fear every day for my students and their families. I watch as community members come together in the cold, dark of morning to help students get into school safely, and as they return in the afternoons to watch over our dismissal. I see the faces of my students participating in virtual learning over an iPad when I should be seeing their faces in person at our school. I feel the anxiety radiating off of my coworkers and friends as we attempt to protect our community, but know that it is a very real possibility that we will be gunned down for doing so.

I am asking you, city council, to use the power that you have to put a stop to the violence and terror that has taken over our community. Allow our kids to come back to school, allow our businesses to flourish, and protect the sacred right to stand up for what you believe in without fearing for your life.

This is not right.

Sincerely,

Mattie DeHaven
she/her/hers

From: [Olive Weston](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Comment: support for Ord 26-5
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:53:31 AM

You don't often get email from oliveweston@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a Ward 4 resident writing in support of Ord 26-5.

We must make St. Paul a welcoming and safe space. City owned spaces allowing federal immigration enforcement activity will only make everyone feel unsafe.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Olive Weston

From: [Wendy Larson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: City council meeting 1/28
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:34:45 AM

You don't often get email from w.treder.designs@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members,

I am a resident of Como. I am writing to urge you to support a strong eviction moratorium and policies that prohibit ICE activity on city-owned properties, including parks.

Housing stability is essential for our vulnerable neighbors and their families. Evictions destabilize families, increase homelessness, and disproportionately harm low-income residents and communities of color. A robust eviction moratorium is a necessary step to keep our neighbors housed and our city stable through this crisis!

Additionally, city properties should be safe and accessible for ALL residents. Allowing ICE enforcement on city land—including parks—creates fear, discourages people from accessing public spaces and services, and undermines trust in local government. Our city should not be complicit in federal immigration enforcement that harms families of minority groups and divides our community.

I respectfully ask you to support policies that protect tenants and ensure city spaces remain safe, welcoming, and free from ICE enforcement.

Please listen to what your community is telling you and give some peace of mind to all residents of St. Paul, no matter their income level or the color of their skin. We need you to stand with us in this fight against injustice.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Wendy Larson

From: [Elsie Porter](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Ord 26-5 hearing on 1/28
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:24:52 AM

You don't often get email from elsie.k.porter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing this email to ask you to please approve the proposed changes to city ordinance 26-5 that would prohibit law enforcement (including ICE) from staging on city property. What ICE is doing in our state is disgusting and the city of St Paul needs to do all it can to protect its citizens.

Thank you

From: [Rebecca Homard](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#)
Subject: Request for Urgent Passage of a Stronger Separation Ordinance in Saint Paul
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:46:44 AM

You don't often get email from rebeccahomard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Council President, Council Vice President, and Council Members:

My name is Rebecca Homard and I live at 1101 Beech St in Dayton's Bluff, Ward 7. I write to you today as a mom of a 7th month old who goes to daycare, a wife whose spouse works in public-facing retail, a friend of folks who are different races than I, and a neighbor in one of the most wonderfully diverse neighborhoods in our beautiful city.

I am firmly in support of a strong separation ordinance that helps protect our family, friends, neighbors, and children from the brutal violence inflicted upon our city by ICE. This ordinance **must** be enacted as quickly as possible.

With every passing day, more and more community members are being assaulted, harassed, traumatized, murdered, and abducted from their homes, from their families, and from our community.

I am enraged and heartbroken because of the way that our community members, regardless of race or citizenship, are being treated. In the last week in the Twin Cities metro area, multiple children ages 4 and older have been abducted, and another person (Alex Pretti, a VA ICU nurse) was murdered in cold blood by ICE agents.

We can't let that happen here.

Please pass a separation ordinance as quickly as due process will allow, with the following requirements:

- Requiring federal agents to be clearly identifiable and unmasked
- Requiring visible name and badge identification
- Prohibiting federal enforcement activity in or 500 ft around hospitals, schools, daycares, grocery stores, laundromats, and other locations essential to daily life

We need to pass a stronger separation ordinance with urgency, so our loved ones will be better protected from the ICE that has been freezing our city with fear.

Thank you,

Rebecca Homard

She/Her

Ward 7

From: [Ginny Bernhagen](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: 1/28 council meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:28:38 AM

You don't often get email from vbernhagen02@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning, I am writing today as a constituent living in Ward 5, Como Park, to express my support for ORD 26-5 to prohibit federal law enforcement staging on city owned property. I'm sure you're well aware of how this occupation is affecting residents, and anything we can do to stand up to this massive overreach is greatly appreciated. We do NOT want ICE using our beautiful parks to stage for their horrific actions. We have already seen peaceful observer neighbors abducted from a park parking lot where they are staging and want to prevent similar issues in the future.

Additionally, I want to express my support for a temporary eviction moratorium. A lot of our neighbors are too afraid to go to work, and while the community is putting together mutual aid to help, our government should be stepping in to do its part as well. The last thing any of these communities need is a surge in folks losing their homes because they are under siege.

Thank you,
Ginny Bernhagen, ward 5

From: christaandpaul@juno.com
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: abduction of mutual aid worker at Hallie Q Brown
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 9:08:48 AM

You don't often get email from christaandpaul@juno.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilmembers--

I appreciate the movement the Council has taken to strengthen a Separation Ordinance for St. Paul.

My understanding is that the S.O. will not be in effect until March. If this is true, I feel there must be a way to expedite under the circumstances.

While we allow delay, ICE used city property for the purpose of abduction yesterday. In this case, Thao Xiong--a volunteer food shelf and Mutual Aid worker--who is heard on video saying, "I showed them my papers already". As of this moment, I know nothing of his whereabouts.

My apologies in advance if there are aspects of this situation I am getting wrong or don't understand.

I am willing to speak out regardless of full understanding, because again & again I hear people say that no one is coming to save us, and it is a painful truth to swallow. As long as people are being detained/ deported illegally I must speak out. And I still hold that: those in elected positions have the duty--along with us common citizens--to do what is legally in our power to do. If you have the power to expedite a strengthened separation ordinance, then I respectfully urge you to do so.

Sincerely,
Christa Ernst
St.Paul

From: [Joe Thornton](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Comments -
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 10:17:06 AM

Regarding this plan to artificially place requirements on federal agents. While I agree that Minnesota law enforcement agencies should (and do) follow a process to have identifying information on them while on duty, the city of St. Paul (or the state for that matter) legitimately has ZERO ability to enact policies for federal law enforcement agencies.

The theater that the St. Paul City Council is doing right now is for show only. The City Council has no legal basis on which to stand on this particular matter.

I do think they (federal law enforcement officers) should have some sort of identifier information on their uniforms, such as their official number. (local law enforcement can change to a numeric identifier when responding to certain things like riots). **But that is a congressional matter** - not one for the city of St. Paul.

Please focus your energy on City of St. Paul matters, such as reducing tax burdens, encouraging business investment in downtown, etc. We have enough problems to solve for in St. Paul. Stay in your lane and do good for the people and businesses of St. Paul.

Encourage Betty McCollum to take this issue up at the federal level where it belongs.

From: [Birch Hansen](#)
To: maichong.xiong@co.ramsey.mn.us; maryjo.mcquire@ramseycounty.us; rafael.e.ortega@ramseycounty.us; [Rena Moran](#); garrison.mcmurtrey@co.ramsey.mn.us; kelly.miller@co.ramsey.mn.us; tara.jebenssingh@co.ramsey.mn.us; sheriff@co.ramsey.mn.us; [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); angela.conley@hennepin.us; debbie.goettel@hennepin.us; heather.edelson@hennepin.us; jeffrey.lunde@hennepin.us; marion.greene@hennepin.us; kevin.anderson@hennepin.us; sheriff.witt@hennepin.us; Jacob.Frey@minneapolisismn.gov; Elliott.Payne@minneapolisismn.gov; Ward2@minneapolisismn.gov; Ward3@minneapolisismn.gov; ward4@minneapolisismn.gov; Jeremiah.Ellison@minneapolisismn.gov; Jamal.Osman@minneapolisismn.gov; Andrea.Jenkins@minneapolisismn.gov; ward9@minneapolisismn.gov; Aisha.Chughtai@minneapolisismn.gov; ward11@minneapolisismn.gov; Linea.Palmisano@minneapolisismn.gov; councilcomment@minneapolisismn.gov
Subject: Reject the Homan offer and protect our community trust
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026 6:34:35 PM

You don't often get email from birch.b.hansen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Local Officials and County Sheriffs of Minnesota

I am writing to you as someone who calls Minnesota home, a place we pride ourselves on being One Minnesota. This week, we heard Border Czar Tom Homan speak in Minneapolis, essentially offering a deal. If our county jails start doing the federal government's job for them, he will consider scaling back the thousands of federal agents currently on our streets.

I am writing to urge you to say **no**. The drawdown he is offering is not a peace treaty; it is a shakedown. Here is why we cannot afford to take this deal:

1. It Breaks the Bond of Public Safety

When our local police and jail staff start acting like ICE agents, our neighbors stop calling 911. If a victim of domestic violence or a witness to a robbery is afraid that a trip to the local precinct will end in a deportation flight, they stay silent. That makes **everyone** less safe. We need our local law enforcement to focus on solving local crimes, not checking papers.

2. We are a Sanctuary State for a Reason

Minnesota has stood firm on being a sanctuary state because we believe in clear boundaries. Our state and local resources, your budget and your staff, should be used for the priorities of Minnesotans, not to subsidize a federal surge that has already caused immense fear and trauma in our communities.

3. It is a Legal Minefield

Honoring detainers (requests to hold someone past their release date without a warrant) is a fast track to a lawsuit. Courts have repeatedly found that holding people without a judicial warrant violates the Fourth Amendment. When the lawsuits come, the federal government will not be the one paying the settlements, our local taxpayers will.

4. Coercion is Not Cooperation

Mr. Homan mentioned zero tolerance and suggested that federal presence depends on our compliance. True public safety is built on trust and the law, not on threats or political leverage. Trading the rights of our immigrant neighbors for a promise that

federal agents might leave is a bad deal that undermines our values.

Minnesota has always been a place where we look out for one another, regardless of where we were born. Let us keep it that way. I ask you to stand by our sanctuary policies, protect our community trust, and reject any offer that turns our local jails into extensions of federal immigration enforcement.

Sincerely,

Birch Hansen

A Minnesota Resident

From: [Lucy Eggers](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: ICE Safety issues
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 9:14:54 AM

You don't often get email from leggers@kinf.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello I am writing to implore the council to act on a number of matters

1. Moratorium on rent, with businesses being impacted by ice and employees being scared to go to work I think this would be crucial to giving people a piece of mind and keeping citizens with a warm and safe place over there head. Until it is safe for work to resume as usual.
2. Please pass a separation ordinance preventing ice from staging/operating on public property/city lands. People should not have to fear getting kidnapped picking kids up from school or going to work/doing errands. This would help protect those people.
3. Remove liquor licenses from hotels housing ICE. A show of force that we do not tolerate these militant tactics from the federal government would go a long way.

Overall I urge the council to work quickly, boldly and bravely to protect its consituents from this ice occupations. We the citizens have disrupted our lives in ways to help close gaps and support each other. I hope y'all will do the same.

--



Lucy Eggers

Educator Associate

leggers@kinf.org

612.465.0135

www.KINF.org

200 S. Owasso Blvd. E • Little Canada, MN 55117



From: [Zev Radziwill](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Letter of Community Concern and Request for Continued City Action
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 11:33:43 PM
Attachments: [\[FINAL\] Letter of Community Concern and Request for Continued City Action.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Her and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

On behalf of the St. Anthony Park Community Council (District 12), I am writing to share the attached 'Letter of Community Concern and Request for Continued City Action'.

The letter reflects continued concerns we are hearing from neighbors related to housing stability and the impacts of increased federal immigration enforcement activity, and it expresses appreciation for the City's leadership to date while encouraging continued coordination and use of available tools to prevent avoidable displacement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information would be helpful.

Very best regards,
~Zev R.

Zev Radziwill *(he/him)*
Executive Director
St. Anthony Park Community Council
District 12 • Saint Paul
www.sapcc.org | zev@sapcc.org
c: 612-770-2872 | o: 651-649-5992
[Schedule a Meeting](#) →





February 4, 2026

Mayor Her
Members of the Saint Paul City Council
City of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Letter of Community Concern and Request for Continued City Action

Dear Mayor Her and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

On behalf of the St. Anthony Park Community Council (District 12), the City-recognized neighborhood organization for St. Anthony Park, we are writing to share neighborhood concerns regarding the impacts that increased federal immigration enforcement activity in the Twin Cities is having on residents in our community.

We are hearing from neighbors that fear and uncertainty related to enforcement activity are disrupting daily life. Residents' ability to commute to work, maintain steady income, and safely access essential services has been affected. These disruptions create heightened risk of housing instability and displacement, particularly for renters experiencing sudden income loss through no fault of their own.

Housing stability is foundational to neighborhood well-being and community safety. Preventing avoidable displacement during periods of extraordinary disruption helps protect families, reduces strain on emergency housing systems, and supports the overall stability of our city.

We recognize and appreciate the leadership the City has already shown in responding to these conditions, including actions taken by the City Council to call for state-level protections and to prevent further harm to residents affected by federal enforcement activity.

We also understand the limits of municipal authority in this area. At the same time, the impacts on residents are ongoing and immediate, and continued coordination and use of all available tools remains critical to preventing avoidable displacement.

We encourage the City to continue exploring all appropriate and lawful steps to help residents remain housed during this period, including, where feasible:

- Temporary rental assistance or emergency housing stabilization funds
- Eviction prevention measures and expanded access to mediation or legal support
- Flexibility within housing and court systems to prevent avoidable displacement
- Coordination with nonprofit and community-based organizations to deliver assistance quickly
- Consideration of temporary protections or enforcement pauses, where legally feasible
- Coordination with state partners, and encouragement of state-level action where City authority is limited

Our intent in writing is not to prescribe a single legal mechanism, but to underscore the urgency of the moment and the importance of using every available tool to support housing stability and prevent displacement during this period of disruption.

We are proud of our neighborhood and the ways residents have stepped up to look out for one another and support those most impacted. We appreciate the City's leadership and encourage continued collaboration among City and State partners to ensure neighbors can remain safe, housed, and supported.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to our community.

On behalf of the Board,



Zev Radziwill
Executive Director
(612) 770-2872
zev@sapcc.org



From: [heather c. lou](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Subject: lou, heather c.: public comment on grievances about federal immigration operations in minnesota
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 12:16:05 PM

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

hello council members:

my name is heather c. lou and i am a ward 6 resident and work in ward 4. i am submitting a public comment of my grievances regarding federal immigration operation metro surge.

every week, i write a poem, so im going to share that in lieu of a fully formed email. thanks!

we must protect

our children and elders

this complex trauma is epigenetic

and will be felt for generations

i am devastated when i think of how many children are alone in concentration slave camps right now

searching for their blue bunny hats

asking for their mothers

because their mothers are their home

and i am broken wide open and raw when i think of all the horrors against children that are happening right now

in this moment

when they are alone in unsanitary, measles ridden concentration slave camps with untrained and unvetted strangers who see them as nothing but objects

with no documentation or accountability for their violence

we must protect

our children and elders

this complex trauma is epigenetic

and will be felt for generations

our president is a pedophile

and i will never be silent about

children being abducted and trafficked by a government

that is complicit in sexual violence against black and brown and indigenous and immigrant
and refugee women and children

do not look away

we must protect

our children and elders

this complex trauma is epigenetic

and will be felt for generations

i am a survivor

i will never tell most of you any of the things i have survived

i will never tell most of you any of the things my mother and her mother and her mothers
mother have survived

it is almost lunar new year

and let me tell you this

my ancestors are about to unleash their fury on all confederate white supremacists as that
portal opens

i will enjoy watching them rip them to shreds in their righteous vengeance

we must protect

our children and elders

this complex trauma is epigenetic

and will be felt for generations

i do not even know

how i will write a poem

that can even make a dent in what has happened in the past week
maybe i will need to write another and another and another
because in this moment
i cannot stop thinking about the
children who are alone in concentration slave camps right now
asking for their mothers
because their mothers are their home
we must protect
our children and elders
this complex trauma is epigenetic
and will be felt for generations

in solidarity,

heather c. lou, m.ed. (she/her/hers)*
hclouART | queerly unique art
visual & multimedia creative
website: hclouart.com
facebook: facebook.com/hclouart
linked in: linkedin.com/in/heatherclou/
email: hclouart@gmail.com

“Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society.” –Yuri Kochiyama (1921-2014)

*self-expression and self-identification are some of my values. one way to practice these values includes the ability to share preferred gender pronouns. my name is heather and i use she/her/hers pronouns. what pronouns do you use?

From: [Wendy Crowell](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Grievance over federal immigration operations in Saint Paul
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 12:12:26 PM

You don't often get email from wencrowell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about the impact of federal immigration operations in Saint Paul.

It feels like I am living in a city under siege. People are being threatened and assaulted, they have had their houses broken into without warrant, and have been forcibly detained by ICE agents. Reasons for these actions include observing ICE activities, filming their activities, or simply looking like someone who might not have the legal right to be here. Two people, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, have been killed by ICE agents.

It is clear that any person, regardless of immigration status can and has been the victim of ICE actions. Their actions appear random and are extremely violent and make the city a more difficult place to live.

Many people in our city are scared and suffering. Businesses are closing, or keeping their doors locked for safety, children are staying home from school, people are staying away from work, they are not going to doctor's appointments for fear of these random assaults.

I appreciate any effort to stop these ICE activities.

Sincerely,
Wendy Crowell
Resident, City of Saint Paul
821 Iglehart Ave.



Virus-free www.avast.com

Agenda item #28 - PH 26-4 : Grievances about federal immigration operations.

my name is Ashley VanDusart (VAN-DOOZ-ARTZ) As a resident of St. Paul, Ward 3 and representative of the community affected by today's abduction and car crash caused by an ICE agent's pursuit of a resident on Western Selby by Nina's cafe...

We call on the St. Paul City Council to mandate immediate, comprehensive de-escalation training for all SPPD officers

- specifically tailored to scenarios involving federal immigration enforcement operations.
- must include clear protocols for communicating the department's role & intent at the scene
 - officers should emphasize their duty to maintain public safety (include how they are doing this)
 - officers must be trained to verbally & visibly clarify their presence to the public, prevent confusion & avoid complicity in federal actions that undermine community trust

Furthermore we demand that the SPPD establish a publicly accountable process to address harm caused by its actions during < these past events / such events > including medical, emotional and civil rights impacts - through transparent reporting, victim outreach, and policy reform. I want to acknowledge and extend gratitude to Council VP Kim for coming out to the scene today, as well as Commander Joshua Lefo, for being the only calm capable member of the SPPD for his dialog and spending time addressing this. This is not only a matter of accountability, but of upholding our city's values of safety, dignity, and justice for all residents.

We ~~at~~ urge the council to designate hospitals and ambulance as sanctuary sites, where ICE is prohibited from conducting enforcement actions.

Furthermore, that a social worker (or social justice partner) should be assigned to provide protection for residents targeted by ICE, which resulted in necessary medical care. Healthcare should be a safe space for all residents, regardless of immigration status. Allowing ICE access deters vulnerable communities from seeking emergency care, endangering public health.

Lastly, we'd

PRIORITY

concerns of the group

medical care

From: [Peter Centner](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#)
Subject: We Need Accurate and Real Saint Paul Rental Assistance Resources
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:18:18 PM
Attachments: [AD69AF77-9BE5-4911-9A18-8AA49678ECE4.png](#)

You don't often get email from peter.a.centner@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Council Members and Staff,

My name is Peter Centner and I am a Ward 2 resident and a member of the Saint Paul neighborhood organization Neighbors Protecting Neighbors. I am reaching out because I am very concerned about the state of housing and income insecurity in my neighborhood and our city. I appreciate your continued attention to this matter and the opportunity to speak to you directly as I have done at the last two city council meetings, however I feel that while the pain our city's residents are feeling is growing more acute, St. Paul under your and Mayor Her's leadership is still not providing sufficient information and tangible resources to meet these needs. Last month 1,365 families in the twin cities metro area had notices of eviction filed to them (up 44% from the Average baseline from previous years).

Recently on the call with my organization you communicated that rental assistance funding would be provided, however please note that the first 3 things you see on the Emergency Rental Assistance page for the city of Saint Paul are

1. Last Updated December 8, 2025 (72 days ago)
2. Not taking any more applications
3. Two dead links that are supposed to take you to the program guidelines and the program flier but actually just redirect you to the homepage. (Which ironically tells you to "find resources and know your rights")

See below for details:



The screenshot shows the Saint Paul Minnesota website's 'Emergency Rent Assistance' page. The page header includes navigation links for 'I Want To...', 'Parks & Rec', 'Residents', 'Businesses', and 'Departments'. The main content area features the title 'Emergency Rent Assistance' and a sub-header 'Applications Temporarily Closed'. A red circle highlights the text 'Last Edited: December 8, 2025'. Below this, a blue banner contains the text 'Emergency Rental Assistance/Eviction Prevention Program (ERA) Applications Temporarily Closed' and a message: 'Thank you for your interest in the Emergency Rental Assistance/Eviction Prevention Program. Due to high demand, we have reached our current capacity and are not accepting new applications currently. If additional funding becomes available, we will reopen the application and update this webpage with more information.' Two buttons, 'Program Guidelines' and 'Program Flyer', are visible at the bottom of the banner. A red arrow points to the 'Program Guidelines' button.

This does not feel like meeting the moment to me in terms of providing real assistance to our city. It also feels like we are way behind our sister city of Minneapolis that already passed \$1M of addition funding for housing support almost 2 weeks ago.

Please let me know when these rental assistance funds you told us would be available will actually be available, and how much money will be allocated for this. I would also like to know if this figure is any increase from last year or is it just the same assistance provided before despite us being in a drastically different political climate with remarkably more acute needs.

I look forward to hearing from you and I will see you today at the council meeting.

Sincerely,
Peter Centner