

Kelli,

October 2, 2020

Good afternoon.

Thanks for responding and taking our letter and its questions seriously. We hope SEND will discuss the following comments and ideas about our vision for Norwood during this weekend's retreat.

Our demands:

- Norwood will not be gentrified
- Norwood's name will be kept as Norwood
- A meeting among R/ROS, SEND, and Renew Indy will be made the purpose of which to disqualify the present SEND and other proposals passed by Renew Indy, and reconstruct how Norwood will be upgraded, restored, and revitalized.
- SEND will create and publish an anti-racists policy

Here is part of our vision:

- Norwood residents will not be treated by SEND the way SEND treated Hosbrook Street residents. Their former neighborhood and historical home was gentrified instead of being upgraded and restored

What we want

- We don't want its history destroyed, so keep Norwood's historical context
- We don't want SEND to takeover our neighborhood
- We want to keep Norwood the way it is—with homes there to be upgraded
- No 2 story homes
- Homes repainted outside and in
- New roofs
- New porches/ and walks to porches
- New windows and doors
- Sidewalks
- Yards fixed up with shrubbery
- Streets repaired when needed
- Pocket Parks
- Community gardens
- We want the basic revitalization of Norwood so when people drive thru they will say "This is a nice neighborhood!"
- We want to self-organize and take over the upgrading of Norwood, not SEND/Great Places 2020
- We want to know who we talk to locate funds to build up Norwood and to locate ways to bring in revenue
- We want to find and develop community entrepreneurs to enable business, i.e. create a store
- The intent of the review and "yes" or "no" questions we sent was to inform SEND's heart so SEND will do the right thing. We hope that the review of the racist history of

the Southside, besides informing your heart, will inform your conscience. To do so, SEND must be open to input from critically conscious Black males—this is in order to expand SEND’s knowledge of the Black Southside experience which now is mainly from Black Southside and/or Norwood women.

-- Please realize the current racism that pervades the Southeast side and of which the gentrification (the erasing of the history and culture of Norwood) is an example.

--We also want to take this opportunity to encourage SEND (along with Renew Indy) not to have the stigma of being a majority-white organization that represents a majority white south side Indianapolis area (an area with a history of segregation and anti-Blackness) and that this organization has already ethnically cleansed Hosbrook St. and is now poised to ethnically cleanse one of Indy’s last historically Black neighborhoods. This not only labels SEND, but perpetuates the negative stereotypes of Southside whites and the racist history of our Southside.

--Remember, this discussion on the gentrification of Norwood is taking place under the watchful eyes of those Hoosiers of all races, genders, and ages who support the global Black Lives Matter Movement.

--We know from a current informal survey that Indy residents are waking up to past and current attempts to gentrify of historically Black neighborhoods—erasing history and culture as residents are displaced

http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder_headlines/article_45ca559e-cced-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.htm

--Note this early 2020 blog “Indiana Avenue: The ethnic cleansing of Black Indianapolis.”

<https://www.newamerica.org/indianapolis/blog/indiana-avenue-ethnic-cleansing-black-indianapolis/>

--Consequently, we plan on letting the city know what SEND (and Renew Indy) are doing. We will inform Mayor Hogsett, *Indianapolis Recorder*, the *Indianapolis Star*, the *Indianapolis Business Journal*, the daily afternoon WTLC 1310 AM Community Connections radio show, the Harambe Show, the Concerned Clergy and the Concerned Clergy radio show, the Baptist Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP, the Indianapolis Urban League, the Indianapolis Working-Class Task Force, the Kheprw Institute, AFL-CIO, Flanner House, Community Action Against Poverty, the Race and Cultural Leadership Network, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, ACLU, Indianapolis Workers Justice Center, INRC, IUPUI, and allies in the Indianapolis City-County Council and Indiana State Legislature.

--We will also inform the consciences of any other Indianapolis group/person who realizes that the ethnic cleansing of historically black neighborhoods such as Indiana Avenue and the 10th Street YMCA, Ransom Place, Hosbrook Street, Babe

Denny/Concord neighborhood, East 16th Street/Kennedy King and Kountry Kitchen/College east to Roosevelt, Riverside, the Haughville/Great Places 2020/River West scheme is misguided and insults the purpose of the global Black Lives Matter Movement.

--Finally, we will take SEND/Renew Indy to court if necessary.

R/ROS

Reggie Jones, Executive Director
Khalilullah Almuhammad, Board President
Kenneth Strader, Board Vice President
John Harris Loflin, Board Secretary
2618 Bethel Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317.822.1481