

## **SEND: The ethnic cleansing of Fountain Square/Hosbrook St. and Norwood**

Mr. Hartley:

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My dad and mom (Ed and Gin) and my three sisters moved to the Fountain Square in 1953 when I was 9. We had a two-bedroom house at 1117 Woodlawn just down the street from Shelby and Woodlawn and catty-cornered across from the 1000 block of the two-block long Black Hosbrook St.

I went to school No. 8 at Lexington and Virginia Ave. and then on to Harry E. Wood HS with my Black school mates who lived on Hosbrook.

Throughout the 50s and 60s when I lived there, I hardly saw any Black folks shopping in the Fountain Square stores. Of course the Hosbrook Blacks were not welcomed in Peppy's Grill—although the alley from Hosbrook to Virginia and the bus stop were right there.

I left the Fountain in the mid-1960s and came back in the early 1980s...leaving again in the late 1980s. I moved back in '94 to Garfield Park. I moved from that Shelby St. address to my current Barrington neighborhood address in April of 2019. So, I am a Southsider.

A few years after SEND formed in the early 80s, I saw it was not the grandchild of the United Southside Community Organization. USCO is SEND's predecessor;. Instead, SEND was a neo-colonial scheme of gentrification, fueled by neo-liberalism, and all in the guise of affordable housing issues such as fixing-up homes and neighborhoods supposedly to make them more stable by keeping long-time homeowners and renters there.

Just think, SEND has come a long way since its early 1980s inception. Yet, what's ironic for this community minded non-profit, is that as of 2019, with \$316,837 in revenue and \$5.8 million in assets (<https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/southeast-neighborhood-development,351557200/>), SEND, with all that power and prestige, still has issues regarding their legitimacy due to, of all things, its ethnic cleansing of low-income neighborhoods.

### **The coloniality of SEND is exemplified in the case of Hosbrook St.**

There was no major and popular effort by SEND to go to the long-time majority Black Hosbrook residents and say, "We are SEND. We are fixing up homes and neighborhoods to stabilize the Fountain Square area. What can we do to help you preserve your homes and consequently sustain the history and culture of Hosbrook St. for the good of Fountain Square and Black Indianapolis?"

### **The SEND/Hosbrook St. relationship: Transactional not liberatory**

The hidden racism within the SEND organization did not appreciate such liberatory politics because we can only assume they wanted a relationship with the Hosbrook people that was "transactional" so as to take advantage of the closeness of the 2 blocks of Hosbrook to the heart of Ft. Sq.

As well, a historically Black Hosbrook St did not fit into the SEND colonial vision. Once Hosbrook residents saw the writing on the wall and then when the church was sold, the beginning of the urban refugee process—the dis-location/relocation of original residence—took place. It was followed with the colonization/colonialization of Hosbrook by the settler class. Note, 2 Chicks and a Hammer live on Hosbrook St. just behind the Mathew's used appliance store that's located at 1012 Virginia Ave. SEND's gentrification scenario soon would colonize the Fountain Square: first the artists, then the hipsters, then the first generation of gentry—displacing poor whites. Read "Gentrification: A community and personal account" by Angie Calvert: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Gentrification-A-community-and-personal-account-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>.

This was followed by the second and third generation of hyper-gentrifiers of Ft Sq:  
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-Hyper-gentrification-of-Fountain-Square-Erasing-a-working-class-community-and-their-network-of-mechanisms-for-survival-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>.

This scenario is repeated and illustrated in the so-called 2018, “Norwood Neighborhood: Market Analysis and Redevelopment Strategy” report which rationalized the colonization/colonialization of Norwood by intentionally situating the analyses through the white gaze. In this case, the lens is that of the white middle-class professional Dani Smith and Smith Solutions (<https://smithsolved.com/>), which is currently partnering with Monon 16 to also colonize that traditionally Black area. Here’s her report: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2018-Norwood-study-Market-Analysis-and-Redevelopment-Strategy.pdf>.

Like early 1800s European explorers getting ready to take over an Indian village, we see the Smith report’s colonial intentionality via its topics: Existing Market Conditions, Site Control, Financial Tools, and Marketing Strategy--all to make it OK to bring in the white settlers.

Please imagine a similarly funded study by the socially-politically conscious “Blacks gaze” of the Black experience say from the Kheprw Institute or that of Mr. “Wildstyle” Paschall, or even that of R/ROS. How different would it look? This is why today’s gentrification of Black (Dorman/Highland Sts) and poor white (Stringtown) areas is rightly suspected of coloniality.

And, this is also why the local white middle-professional class colonizers are “settlers” who just don’t see any racism or class/cultural/ethnic cleansing in their gentrificational actions: “I’m a good person. If racism were there, I’d do something about it. But, me and my friends...we just do see it!”

**Therefore, this is why there was no intentionality and thus plans around a liberated Norwood**  
Presently, urban majority-white groups like SEND have no idea of “Black neighborhoods for Black liberation” as an end in itself. SEND has only a racist and transactional relationship with Norwood, one which SEND is blind to since SEND folks are “good people” and “good people aren’t racist.” Yet, what is obvious to neo-indigenous Black people is that what is happening in Norwood, “[I]s] a ploy...to attract new--mostly white--people and businesses.” Of course, this is not obvious to SEND.  
[http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder\\_headlines/article\\_45ca559e-cced-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.htm](http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder_headlines/article_45ca559e-cced-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.htm)

Also, fortunately, this “development” of Norwood is outlined in the SEND time-line around the SEND/Brenda McAtee version of Norwood. See APPENDIX A and B.

**You will see in APPENDIX B that SEND has provided us the exact timeline and steps involved in the gradual conditioning and pacification process used by SEND leaders to colonize the minds of those Norwood residents who were involved with SEND over the years.**

### **SEND’s past**

R/ROS knows the history of the Southside and its inherent “whiteness” aka “anti-blackness,” making SEND’s work, regarding Norwood and especially Brenda McAtee, motivated by transactional racism. This is not to say that the cause of every issue was race, but that unfortunately for the south side of Indy, that has been the case.

Again, this may be disputed by past and present SEND supporters, boards, and staff, but Indy’s prejudice Southside (Read p. 3 of <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Rich-local-Southside-Indy-heritage-lives-on-in-forgotten-areas.pdf>) is clear to Black Indianapolis.

The decades of disguised Southside racism became especially invisible as the Bill Taft version of SEND’s colonialism was followed by the leadership of the city’s smoothest gentrifier, Mr. Jeff Sparks of Great Places 2020.

## **SEND's problem with ethnic cleansing: class, gender, and race**

SEND's role in the ethnic cleansing of Appalachian poor and working poor white persons and families, displacing them and their culture on the southeast side, must be deconstructed.

### **SEND and working-class whites: Angie Calvert's stories and research**

To iterate, a review of Angie Calvert's analyses will help you critique SEND's continued ethnic cleansing of poor white folks: "Gentrification: A community and personal account" by Angie Calvert: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Gentrification-A-community-and-personal-account-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>. Follow this by reading: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-Hyper-gentrification-of-Fountain-Square-Erasing-a-working-class-community-and-their-network-of-mechanisms-for-survival-by-Angie-Calvert.pdf>.

### **SEND and Black men**

Also, I can't think of even one Black male with progressive cultural/political conscious politics who has been involved with SEND over the years. R/ROS knows its current board president, Mr. Khalilullah Almuhaymin, was involved in late 80s-early 90s SEND activities. Otherwise, Black males are missing from SEND's past. I'll apologize if I'm mistaken. Again, this specific demographic was absent in the discussions on the future of Norwood.

### **Four recent articles and newspaper stories have highlighted the gentrification in Indy**

- "Ethnic cleansing of Black Indy"  
<https://www.newamerica.org/indianapolis/blog/indiana-avenue-ethnic-cleansing-black-indianapolis/>
- "We've been gentrified"  
[http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder\\_headlines/article\\_45ca559e-ccd-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.html](http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder_headlines/article_45ca559e-ccd-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.html)
- "How urban renewal erased Indiana Avenue jazz history"  
<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/history/2020/10/21/indianapolis-history-how-urban-renewal-erased-indiana-avenue-jazz-history/5701941002/>
- "Modest profits social impact fuel more downtown Indy homes"  
<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2020/10/15/op-ed-modest-profits-social-impact-fuel-plan-more-downtown-indy-homes/5976922002/>

### **A concise summary of SEND's attempts to gentrify Norwood**

**Just think, Norwood's located on the south side of "up south" Indianapolis. You can't get a more colonial and racist environment than that**

"Many Black folk thought of Indianapolis as urban, 'up South.' It was better than being 'down South,' but it retained many of the negative propositions of the deep South and was not yet enlightened and 'progressive' as their West or East Coast counterparts. Conservatism and racism were alive and compatible."

~ Mari Evans, internationally acclaimed Indianapolis poet and social

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**APPENDIX A**  
**The colonization and colonialization of Norwood residents 2007-2020**

Colonization: *noun; meaning to establish a colony*

Colonialization: *noun; meaning to bring into subjugation; implies the pacification of a people; the taking of a pre-populated land*

Don't make waves; don't be unpleasant; and if Truth is unpleasant, then avoid Truth.

~ Mari Evans on Indianapolis, *Clarity as Concept*

Until the story of the hunt is told by the lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.

~ African proverb

And so it is with Indianapolis. Looking back over the last 40 years, everything has changed and nothing has changed. This is a tale of 2 cities: "Locked in" to one city, "locked out" of the other. Being "locked out"...one has to experience the acid psychological locking out that depends on color as the referent—not money, not manners, not clothing, not caste. Color.

~ Mari Evans, *Clarity as Concept*

For a span of my memory this has been a city of opposing wills, two faces firmly set toward different directions—one covertly determined to maintain the status quo, to continually block any access to power, or to parity; the other advocating an active morality and its right to inclusion as an equal entity rather than a colonized one. This has been a city of perpetual confrontation, however cloaked, between the powerless and those who influence, control, and engineer the city's movement in the inexorable and often ruthless march toward "greatness"...

~ Mari Evans on Indy, *Clarity as Concept*

Indianapolis is truly dichotomous; a city in which contradictions is truly the norm. It is easy to be deluded here, especially when one prefers delusion to clarity.

~ Mari Evans, *Clarity as Concept*

Indianapolis, I tell friends in other places, is a city where the preservation of Euro-American cultural traditions and the enhancement of those traditions has been consistent. Not only consistent, but increasingly an economic factor too significant to be ignored or dismissed.

~ Mari Evans, *Clarity as Concept*

What is more acceptable [in Indianapolis], more comfortable, is a high level of acculturation. Acculturation being defined as to alter...through a process of conditioning.

~ Mari Evans, *Clarity as Concept*

**APPENDIX B**

Here SEND has given the public and R/ROS the exact timeline by which they began and finished the colonization of Black minds with the SEND ideology.

This coloniality is so visible in this 2017 WRTV story (<https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/twin-aire-neighborhood-soon-to-welcome-more-affordable-housing>) when viewed thru the lens of Black liberation. This is opposed to the lens of the cultural capital of Indy's super-majority white male power structure represented by Jeff Sparks and Indy's conservative Sagamore Institute.

**2007 – 2008**

--Norwood, SEND and Southeast neighbors are engaged through Study Circles and the Southeast Quality of Life planning efforts

**2012 – present**

- Norwood neighborhood becomes part of the Southeast Quality of Life plan and is included in SEND's catchment area
- Pride Park hosts one of the Southeast Quality of Life quarterly congresses
- Norwood is represented on the Southeast Quality of Life by Brenda McAtee on the Southeast Community Building Team

**2016**

- Norwood is actively involved in the Twin Aire Great Places planning
- Norwood joins the Twin Aire Neighborhood Coalition (TANC)
- SEND begins attending monthly meetings of the Norwood neighborhood association

**2018**

- SEND's consultant, Smith Solutions, engages with the Norwood neighborhood to complete the Norwood housing study (see attached)
- Rebuilding Together Indianapolis partners with SEND to provide repair assistance on 10-12 homes over two years

**2020**

- SEND serves as a food distribution site for Norwood neighbors
- Norwood neighbors participate in the SEND socially distanced block party event
- SEND and Brenda McAtee walk the neighborhood to talk with neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic

**SEND admits racism, plans on taking equity training**

So, finally on Oct. 5 after almost 4 decades (1983-2020), SEND its coloniality publically. The hidden and disguised racism (and cultural classism) of SEND's/LISC's ideology are now answering to the light of truth shined by the global BLM movement This past is now coming to the surface and can be discussed openly.

Although SEND's racism/cultural classism was not has "visible" to the majority white middle-class SEND supporters, boards, and staff, it was, and is now, blatantly obvious to people of color and socially/economically conscious activists and academics with poor white backgrounds like Angie and Victoria Calvert, and myself.

"As mentioned, SEND takes your recent communicate ons very seriously. Even before R/ROS emails to SEND in late July, the organization was already having conversations about how SEND can advance racial equity in its mission and programs. During SEND's retreat Saturday, the Board agreed to invest time and resources for staff and Board to embark upon a formal process to ensure equity is incorporated into all phases of our work. SEND has already reached out to CICF and KHEPRW Institute to initiate next steps for our organization in this process."