

Thanks for writing and wanting a dialogue.

R/ROS is aware SEND is a CDC and deals with housing. We can go on the SEND website for this info.

As was noted, some SEND board members and staff received a list of issues and recommendations. These issues and suggestions were made to specifically start a conversation. We have not received any response from you/SEND board regarding these topics and suggestions, responses which we see as needed to start such a discourse.

To start the interchange that reflects the SEND's policy: "We are always eager to talk with residents about their concerns and welcome collaborative conversations," here are the issues and more specific recommendations for the SEND board's response. Please let R/ROS know the SEND board's response to the "Yes? or No? questions, and comment if you like.

The following sentences and paragraphs in *italics* are from R/ROS's, "SEND and R/ROS in light of the global Black Lives Matter movement," an August 2020 communiqué to the SEND board with statements, opinions, and recommendations pertaining to SEND:
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SEND-and-RROS-in-light-of-the-global-Black-Lives-Matter-movement.pdf>

- **"We've been gentrified"**

With the July 27 Recorder story, "We've been gentrified," about the colonized so-called "Monon 16" neighborhood, we hear the complaint of original residents about being pushed out of their neighborhood where they always lived, "...[but]...don't tell Pearl Carter she lives in the Monon16 neighborhood. That's a ploy, she said, to attract new--mostly white--people and businesses."
http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/recorder_headlines/article_45ca559e-cced-11ea-9833-1f17f74c8b21.htm

1. Does the SEND board agree with what Pearl said about where she's lived a longtime now being called Monon16, *"That's a ploy, she said, to attract new--mostly white--people and businesses"?* Yes? or No?

Hey, someone better not try to tell Pearl Carter she no longer walks or drives on 16th Street. It's Tinker Street now—product Joanna Taft's "PreEnact" spiel and scheme that's gentrifying this near northeast historically Black American King/Park area north of 16th from Martindale/Dr. A. J. Brown Avenue east to Central. Especially, note the colonization of the Kountry Kitchen 19th/College area.

...but...don't tell long-time Norwood resident Kenneth Strader that he no longer lives in Norwood, a neighborhood where he owns a home and has lived for the past ?? years, that he now lives in "Norwood Place." So, when his family and friend ask him why, what will the SEND board tell him as well as all the local print and television media that has assembled to cover when he says this about the name change: *"That's a ploy to attract new--mostly white--people and businesses."*

- **What is to happen to Barrington and Norwood?**

Remember R/ROS argues that Norwood is the last historically Black neighborhood in Indianapolis that has not been gentrified by urban pioneers and other settlers who will enable the displacement of Norwood's many original and current residents and making them, of all things, urban refugees in their very own city.

In the story we also read about what's happening to Riverside. This is all in line with the erasure of west-Indianapolis Black American history and culture with the previous gentrification of Ransom Place and the demolishing of the Fall Creek Y, a center of Indianapolis Black culture and resistance.

The Recorder article illustrates what's going on around so-called "Tinker Street" --the recently colonized East 16th St area up to and through the old Kountry Kitchen neighborhoods.

With the erasing of Black families, Black culture, and decades of history around Hosbrook St., and other long-time Black Southside neighborhoods like Concord and Babe Denny, the concern is what is to happen with Barrington/Norwood?

2. Is the SEND board canvassing Norwood seeking families, individual who rent? Yes? or No?
3. Is the SEND board planning on enabling the gentrification of Norwood? Yes? or No?
4. Does the SEND board have a positive response to: "*The Hyper-gentrification of Fountain Square: Erasing a working-class community and their network of mechanisms for survival.*" <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/The-Hyper-gentrification-of-Fountain-SquareErasing-a-working-class-community-and-their-network-of-mechanisms-for-survival-by-AngieCalvert.pdf>. Yes? or No?

- **When put in the context of the BLM movement, a unique circumstance has occurred**

It's not that R/ROS has no history being critical friends of SEND, but that the two have not been involved under the challenges and demands of the global era of the Black Lives Matter movement.

5. Does the SEND board agree with this statement? Yes? or No?

The point here is an R/ROS organization of Black men being presently evolved in Barrington /Norwood is now new on many levels.

6. Does the SEND board agree with this statement? Yes? or No?

This has produced a situation that has not been experienced by...the SEND staff and board who in the past dealt mainly with Black women.

7. Does the SEND board agree with this statement? Yes? or No?

- **A review of the SEND board's past in local systemic racism**

The Early SEND board

From its early 1990's birth, SEND was existing in a system of Indianapolis racism, but like in the majority of situations, the racism was hidden, quiet, or disguised.

8. Does the SEND board agree with the above paragraphs? Yes? or No?

SEND's creation, development, and policy and procedures, like most before and since 2000 did not necessarily or specifically have the welfare of southeast side Blacks in mind. This was the norm with many other community organizations around Indy. Even so, southeast Indy's racism was everywhere and obvious to Black folks, but not to SEND and the Southeast white establishment.

9. Does the SEND board agree with the Does the SEND board agree with the 2 above paragraphs? Yes? or No?

- **Examples**

We won't go into the obvious displacement of residents and the erasure of long-time Black Hosbrook St., and the moving in of white urban settlers, making domestic refuge of the Hosbrook residents. This fact alone is enough to convince objective observers of the intent of SEND policy toward Hosbrook St. where we now see homes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars--even Two Chicks and a Hammer live on this now exclusive street! See: "The Hyper-gentrification of Fountain Square: Erasing a working-class community and their network of mechanisms for survival."

<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>

10. Does the SEND board think "The Hyper-gentrification of Fountain Square: Erasing a working-class community and their network of mechanisms for survival" is a concern Norwood residents should have? Yes? or No?

Racism has always been here on the Southside. Indy, south of US 40, the city's Mason-Dixon line, has not been welcoming to Blacks...and north side Blacks know this. The city knows this. Everyone knows this (again) except the southeast's white mainstream. They evidently don't see race. They are not racist because racists are bad people and the SEND organization and the new white gentrified south eastside establishment are good people. Right?

11. Does the SEND board agree with this opinion? Yes? or No?

See the story of our Southside legacy of racism: "Rich local (Southside Indy) heritage lives on in forgotten areas" at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Rich-local-Southside-Indy-heritage-lives-on-in-forgotten-areas.pdf>.

Look at 2010 census where Indy was 1 of the 21 most segregated US cities. View <http://www.businessinsider.com/most-segregated-cities-census-maps-2013-4>. Next analyze: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/walkingsf/5560477952/in/album-72157626354149574/>.

12. Does the SEND board agree with the implications of the *Southside Times* news story and commentary ("Rich local [Southside Indy] heritage lives on in forgotten areas" at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Rich-local-Southside-Indyheritage-lives-on-in-forgotten-areas.pdf>, that the Southside has a reputation of not welcoming Black Americans? Yes? or No?

- ***A better more subtle form of systemic racism: A Southside charter***

The SENSE School

We can only conclude the systemic racism was part and parcel of the Southeast social-political-economic climate. Thus, this pervasive racism also touched the neo-colonial SENSE school.

13. Does the SEND board agree with the above opinion? Yes? or No?

Of course the current staff at SENSE and board members were not there when SENSE was formed. Even those who were there when discussions happened, like John Loflin of R/ROS, did not experience race as an issue. He doesn't remember it being mentioned. In fact, why would race be brought up? Racism was invisible even though it was rife throughout the city and thus in every southeast neighborhood. Yet, white Southeasters were like fish in water—they did not see that which was obvious to people of color standing on shore.

14. Does the SEND board agree with the above commentary? Yes? or No?

[Like the SEND,] SENSE was not formed in a bubble

The SENSE school opened in 2004. It opened in the part of Indy that is historically predominantly white. Manual, the Southside's high school, was majority white.

The effort to start SENSE came out of 2002 actions by southeast side area residents. It was around the first part of the 21st century that Manual's student body became more diverse, Manual also had a history of very low graduation rates for males. According to the Schott Foundation, IPS was the only district in the nation where its 2001/2002 grad rates for white males (23%) were lower than Black males (25%). See p. 10 of "Public education and the Black male student":

<file:///C:/Users/13179/Downloads/schott-bbr-2004.pdf>.

According to R/ROS board member John Loflin, who was there and also helped write the charter proposal, SENSE creators wanted to invest in an option to the southeast side's traditional pathway to graduation. Though well meaning, and implicit, founders wanted a neighborhood school where they would have more say over the school's demographics and curriculum. The SENSE curriculum and its epistemology, and the school's pedagogies, like most Hoosier schools, were Euro-centric. All this added up to, whether SENSE school founders were conscious of it or not, the continuation of the legacy of racism on the Southside.

So of course there's no reason for SENSE to admit systemic racism was a part of the school's history. But, on the other hand, we have to assume, looking back, that like everything else in town, it was.

15. Does the SEND board agree with the commentary of the above paragraph? Yes? or No?

SENSE was formed on the more racist part of Indy: the Southside. To believe SENSE was formed free of racism is naive and serves the interests of the White establishments of the Southside and the city. SENSE was conceived and birthed in the racism that was systemic. SENSE was not an exception. SENSE was not formed in a bubble.

16. Does the SEND board agree with the commentary of the above paragraph? Yes? or No?

Consequently, it's not that the SENSE was anti-Black. This was not necessarily the case. What is certain is the general "whiteness" of the school, which was subtly enabled and validated.

17. Does the SEND board agree with the commentary of the above paragraph? Yes? or No?

With a history of majority white boards, we can only assume this is intentional; yet, the present SENSE board (<https://www.senseindy.org/board-members--167>) might rationalize that some sort of "invisible hand" of systemic racism continues to control school policy, and thus the school or board is not a fault.

18. Does the SEND board agree with this opinion of the above paragraph? Yes? or No?

Anti-racism at a SEND area school

19. Due to SENSE being in its area, does SEND have a responsibility around SENSE? Yes? or No?

20. Has the SENSE board, administration, teachers, and staff explored its whiteness/white fragility? Yes? or No?

21. Has SENSE board, administration, teachers, and staff had anti-racist/racial equity training? Yes? or No?

22. Does SENSE have a written anti-racist policy? Yes? or No?

23. Has SENSE decolonized its curriculum, epistemology, pedagogy, and school climate? Yes? or No?

• SEND and Black women...and Black men...and Black neighborhoods

"Historically, on the Southeast side, most interactions between Black Americans and organizations like SEND have been with Black women. Dealing with assertive, culturally aware, astute in Black history, equity-minded, and politically savvy family men with a strong Black identity who are self-organized is not the norm for SEND.

24. Does the SEND board agree with the above commentary? Yes? or No?

In fact, for the majority of its existence, the majority white SEND area, staff, and board (<https://www.THESENDboardcdc.org/team>) offered no reason to conclude SEND had/has the interests of Black people in mind."

25. Does the SEND board agree with the above commentary? Yes? or No?

Just think what could have happened to Hosbrook St. if SEND helped home owners and renters to self-organize and turn the 2 blocks into something they envisioned—where their Black working-class history and culture was validated and their homes were restored.

26. Does the SEND board agree with the above commentary regarding Hosbrook St.? Yes? or No?

Hosbrook St. could have enhanced Fountain Square. It could have been an example to the world of the rich diversity of Indianapolis neighborhoods. Unfortunately, Black Hosbrook St. has been erased and decades from now no one will know any better.

27. Does the SEND board agree with the above commentary regarding Hosbrook St.? Yes? or No?

- ***The SEND Plantation***

To be sure, there has been Black representation on the SEND board, at SEND events, and in conversations such as Twin Aire/2020 plan.

From the R/ROS perspective, we see this token representation of Black Americans works for SEND or what we call the “SEND Plantation” because these Black representatives know their role: don’t scare white people.

28. Does the SEND board agree with the R/ROS perspective and our labeling Yes? or No?

- ***Is SEND racist? Yes, of course.***

“Finding racism in predominately white organizations like SEND is natural in today’s Indiana where in 1907, we Hoosiers created and passed the world’s first Eugenic law. It is also inherent in the DNA of Indianapolis which created 1) a Jim Crow public school system in the 1920’s atmosphere of the KKK, 2) a hegemonic UNIGOV system, and 3) a current neo-liberal, neo-colonial school district that disenfranchises Black parents/Black constituents who can’t vote in or out members of their charter school board, while that same privatized board spends their taxes. Taxation without representation is tyranny.”

29. Does the SEND board agree with the above statement? Yes? or No?

For emphasis, it is necessary R/ROS point out to the SEND board and staff that they must realize that the present global Black Lives Matter movement compels an historic clear and candid discussion about the systemic racism that is and has been in the air of our state and city. Thus, from its inception, SEND breathed and is today breathing this air; there is no way around it: ***Is SEND racist? Yes, of course.***

30. Does the SEND board agree: ***Is SEND racist? Yes, of course.*** Yes? or No?

“The SEND board must not think racism is a system out in some dark waters of the past. If the board looks down, their feet are wet.” -- R/ROS

31. Does the SEND board agree with the above R/ROS quote? Yes? or No?

- ***SEND must begin the long journey of self-examination leading to self-renewal.***

“The book, White Fragility will help with any intra-organizational conflicts.

32. Has the SEND board evaluated its “whiteness” history/orientation? Yes? or No?

33. Has the SEND staff and board evaluated its white fragility? Yes? or No?

• ***It's not SEND per se, it's SEND's coloniality***

"If and when SEND starts this journey, it's inevitable they will discover--not so much any intentional racism, and intentional racist actions or policies--but the hidden or camouflaged 'whiteness' in the organization and its DNA. Hint: start with SEND's epistemologies."

34. Does the SEND board agree with the statement above? Yes? or No?

35. Does the SEND board have a plan to decolonize? Yes? or No?

36. Does the SEND board have Black male members? Yes? or No?

37. Why and how was the decision made to colonize the name of Norwood ?

38. To whom is the SEND board accountable?

Recommendations

SEND staff and board will deconstruct how systemic racism works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT1vsOJctMk>

39. Are SEND board and staff unpacking how systemic racism works? Yes? or No?

The Black men of R/ROS recommend Mr. McCoy and the SEND board and staff take antiracist/diversity-equity training. Those included will be John Loflin and Commissioner Mascari. Is the SEND board planning this training?

40. Does the SEND board agree with this recommendation? Yes? or No

If SEND the SEND board and/or staff have taken such training, please present proof and E-mail R/ROS the SEND board's current anti-racist policy.

41. Does the SEND board agree with this recommendation? Yes? or No?

R/ROS recommends the SEND organization decolonize

42. Does the SEND board agree with this recommendation? Yes? or No?

R/ROS also demands Mr. McCoy get an assistant who is a Black man. Our evaluation of Ike to date reveals he has plenty of experience with women of color but not men.

43. Does the SEND board agree that Ike needs a Black male assistant? Yes? or No?

The issues regarding the matter R/ROS has raised to the conscience of the SEND board and staff concerning the gentrification of historic Black neighborhoods of Indianapolis.

In light of the global and energized local Black Lives Matter Movement, the erasure of Black history and culture via the gentrification of the

- W. 10th St. Y
- Hosbrook St.
- Babe Denny/Concord
- Riverside
- Haughville
- Dorman St. north of Michigan St.
- East 16th St/Kennedy-King/A. J. Brown Ave, and what is now called
- Ransom Place,

situates both Norwood as our city's last un-gentrified neighborhood and SEND as the super majority white CDC that will be responsible for its gentrification and the resulting political erasure of its history and culture.

Consequently, the recent change of the authentic historic name of Norwood is called up for critique:

- What happened to Hosbrook Street will not happen to Norwood.
- To save its good name and reputation, R/ROS suggests SEND immediately discontinue the renaming of Norwood because, "*That's a ploy...to attract new--mostly white--people and businesses.*"
 - Consequently Norwood will not be gentrified.
- R/ROS is arranging protests Black Lives Matter organizations and individuals who also want our Black Norwood to stay Black.
- Finally, R/ROS suggest our 2 groups to work together to make Indianapolis history by redeveloping and revitalizing without displacement

Again, remember, R/ROS will not let Norwood be gentrified.

R/ROS

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