

Memo

Date: September 24, 2020

To: Board of Directors Renew Indy, nhunot@renewindy.org

From: Redevelopment/Revitalization of the Southside, CDC, Inc.

About: SEND, R/ROS, and Renew Indy in light of the global Black Lives Matter movement

A review of past situations regarding the Barrington and Norwood areas of Indianapolis revealed a history of neglect.

The current situation is characterized by the actions of R/ROS, through a slow but sure process, as to its neighborhood responsibilities and the assertion of its demands regarding Barrington and Norwood.

Monon 16 “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

Norwood Place: What is happening to Norwood? “We’ve been gentrified”

In the *Recorder* 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 colonial settler mentality of changing names of Native American towns/villages and replacing them with European names and the subsequent erasure of Native culture is reproduced in Indy by giving Norwood a new name (Norwood Place) as a necessary erasing of a past culture in order to attract the gentry professional “urban settler” class in proximity to a jail complex where they’ll work.

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?

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.

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

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.

A review of SEND’s past as a part of the local matrix of systemic racism

From its early 1990's birth, SEND was existing in a system of racism, but like in the majority of

situations, the racism was hidden, quiet, or disguised.

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 folk, but not to the SEND and the Southeast white establishment.

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's 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>

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?

Racism in Indiana, Indianapolis, and the Southside

Finding racism in the predominately white Southside Indianapolis where you natural in today's Indiana where in 1907, we Hoosiers created and passed the world's first Eugenics Law. Also known as "racial hygiene" and "scientific racism," the law legalized white supremacy, normalizing it for the world. Whiteness is also inherent in the DNA of Indianapolis which:

- created a Jim Crow public school system (IPS) in the 1920's (remember Attucks?) in an Indy already growing more segregated—hospitals, parks, theaters, restaurants, toilets...which
 - attracted the racism of the KKK (<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Klans-involvement-with-public-education-was-not-about-segregated-schools-The-real-story-about-the-KKK-and-IPS.pdf>);
- had an IPS so racially discriminatory it was sued by the government in the early 1970s and forced to integrate; and while at the same time:
- had a hegemonic UNIGOV matrix also created in the early 1970s to limit the political power of Marion County Black American voters and insure Indy would not have a Black mayor.

All of this history is magnified in the characteristics, history, and present conditions around race on the Indianapolis Southside where you are the MNA:

- Look at 2010 census where Indy is 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/>.

Here you'll see Indy is not only segregated by race, but by class. And, below Indy's Mason-Dixon Line (US 40), are few Blacks and so mostly white folks (red dots) who are mostly working class.

- 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->

Again: SEND and Hosbrook Street

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.

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.

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 disenfranchise 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.

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.

Three recommendations

1) Don't have SEND and Renew Indy, 2 majority white organization, be known as the entities that gentrified colonized, and erased and replaced the history and culture of the last remaining long-time African American neighborhood in Indianapolis.

2) R/ROS recommends the SEND organization decolonize in order to reverse their efforts to enable the gentrification of Norwood as it plans to fix up purchased home at the \$227,000+ rate for the purpose of attracting the gentry class—just as SEND did with the Black Hosbrook St. neighborhood.

3) R/ROS recommends R/ROS receives its Barrington Ho. T. I. F. monies so we can remodel taxpaying home owner's houses.

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