



**STATEMENT FROM COUNCILMEMBER ANIKA BOWIE
IN RESPONSE TO THE ICE RAIDS AND COMMUNITY PRESS CONFERENCE**

I stand with our immigrant families, our community activists, our faith leaders, and every person who raised their voice to demand justice, safety, and accountability. Peaceful protestors made one message unmistakably clear. The behavior of Saint Paul Police officers during the ICE and HSI raid on November 25 was unacceptable and has caused significant distrust among residents who place great weight on the integrity of Saint Paul's separation ordinance.

No resident in our city should ever fear being taken by any official or unofficial law enforcement agents. Watching our city become the backdrop for an ICE and HSI operation brought forward a painful truth and history. The Trump administration's legacy continues to treat human beings as criminals simply for not being born on United States soil. That cannot be and will not be the legacy of Saint Paul.

Therefore, I am in full support of passing a responsive resolution and continuing to use our full authority as city legislators to ensure the city takes action. Today the City Council will vote to authorize a third-party independent investigation of the peace officers' actions on November 25th and direct the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission to review the body footage and make disciplinary recommendations. This is only the beginning of the accountability process.

As Chair of the Public Safety and Community Wellness Committee, I will seek to review the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board misconduct policy and explore adopting the PCIARC Minnesota state statute at our January meeting. If we want real accountability, we must modernize our investigative powers and ensure that city and state systems are fully responsive to police misconduct.

I also want to reaffirm that Saint Paul Police are capable of responding to peaceful protestors, community members, and journalists who are exercising their First Amendment rights without the use of violent force. Our city has a long tradition of civic engagement and public dialogue. It is our responsibility to ensure these rights are protected at every level of government.

I am calling on the Chief of Police and our Mayor to reaffirm publicly, through a written report, that our police department does not cooperate, coordinate, or enforce federal immigration policy. The hundreds of residents who showed up in protest deserve that clarity.

Our community deserves a public safety system that defends the dignity of every person, no matter their status, their birthplace, or their story. We must govern with courage and constitutional grounding.

For any resident who witnessed or experienced police misconduct, please file a complaint with PCIARC. Questions about the complaint process can be directed to: CivilianReview@stpaul.gov or 651-266-8970

Saint Paul's values are rooted in love, dignity, and the belief that every person belongs. I intend to move forward with that truth and work beside our community to ensure that what happened on November 25th never happens again.

Anika Bowie

City Councilmember, Ward 1