

City Council's Role in Unhoused Crisis

Membership Secretary



At a Bloomington city emergency winter shelter I was banned from volunteering after putting in many late night hours and being consistently misgendered by other volunteers in the midst of the fascist executive order to further reduce the rights of trans people. This ban was due to my explicit criticisms of city council members volunteering at an emergency shelter that they facilitated the conditions for creating. To criticize oppressors in front of the people who are forced to take shelter and watch as their oppressors work 3 hours to serve them and 50 hours to oppress them is necessary. City council is the reason why we need emergency shelters in the winter during lethal temperatures instead of seeing our community members safe indoors. When met with this criticism in front of the people City Council tried to say it was not their fault for the houselessness crisis in Bloomington, IN. This was puzzling as City Council and the Mayor appoint positions found in the local Housing Authority and vote on policies that will impact housing opportunities and programs. To forgo all responsibility in policy making and the impacts it has on the community is both poor leadership and shows how policy makers do not know what their jobs actually do. It is an insult to the people who are victimized by city council policies and those who city council put in power over resources the people are deprived of.

It is a hypocrisy to let pig council members who are responsible for the oppression of the people in all legal and practical senses to volunteer as a show of community because they actively work against the community. This is because, by the very nature of their jobs and the power they hold, they are against the community and it shows by the necessity of survival shelters. City council members should be ashamed of their role in oppressing the people and neglecting responsibility in the human suffering they cause. If the city who sets policies and enforces national and state decrees for housing is not responsible for houselessness and the suffering that comes with it who is? Oppression always requires an oppressor and those with political power in an oppressed community are the oppressors as they have authority and pigs (cops) to carry it out and enforce it on the people. If we continue to view those in government as not responsible when they clearly are and focus purely on sheltering people without examining the reasons why this is necessary to keep community members safe for the time being in crowded shelters we will need to continue having emergency shelters instead of working towards humane living quarters where all people are safe from the elements. The blood is on the city's and all of its staff and pigs' hands and anything to stop this whether it be mutual aid or arms is self-defense!!!