

February 12, 2026

Dear Community,

You may have seen this morning's news that the Trump administration has stated it is planning to draw down the ICE surge in Minnesota over the coming days. **The announcement that Operation Metro Surge will end soon is a huge concession won by the working class residents of Minneapolis who showed incredible compassion, courage, discipline, and strength in the face of state-sanctioned terror.** The way residents stood alongside each other has shown the nation how to combat a fascist federal government. Ordinary people armed with whistles and cellphones made it untenable for the Trump administration to continue the occupation. While it is important to celebrate wins, the reality is that today's announcement does not mean that our communities are safe from ICE yet. **Please keep doing what you are doing to protect your neighbors: grocery runs, school patrols, and all forms of mutual aid are just as crucial as ever. We also must continue to organize to demand that every single DHS agent is withdrawn from Minnesota and ICE is abolished.** All communities in cities across the country deserve to live safe from the fear of being abducted or killed by federal agents.

Operation Metro Surge has left our city with huge amounts of trauma and hundreds of millions of dollars of economic damage. City leaders and experts in the community are talking about this in terms of generational impacts on our city. There are also comparisons to impacts at the scale of the covid pandemic, but unlike the pandemic, we won't be receiving \$300 million in federal aid.

In the coming days and months, Minneapolis will be faced with hard choices about the economic recovery from Operation Metro Surge. **The status quo approach will be to absorb the costs of the occupation by massively raising property taxes while cutting programs and services that vulnerable people rely on. Working class people cannot afford this approach.**

**Instead, I and some of my colleagues are dedicated to advancing an equitable recovery— one that invests in marginalized communities and doesn't make working class people foot the bill for this campaign of terror.** Residents have already given everything to protect their neighbors— their money, their time, and in some cases even their lives.

**The City of Minneapolis must invest in an equitable recovery for all residents.**

Inaction will result in devastating long-term damage to the liveability of our city and push the burden of the cost of recovery to working residents' property taxes.

More specifically, robust recovery efforts will most immediately be needed to stabilize housing for impacted residents, and to support our small businesses.

Last week, Council approved [my proposal to invest \\$1 million into rental assistance to prevent evictions for families who have been impacted by Operation Metro Surge](#). Next week, Council will vote on the [ordinance I'm authoring to slow down the eviction](#)

[process to give families more time to gather resources and prevent eviction](#). These are both crucial for an equitable recovery because they help prevent a wave of evictions that will have long-term impacts on thousands of vulnerable families and housing equity in our city.

Next week, Council will also have the opportunity to [invest \\$5 million into small business resiliency](#). Small businesses are the backbone of our communities and are critical to vibrant and safe neighborhood corridors. This is an absolutely crucial way to protect our small businesses and support an equitable recovery in our cultural corridors and citywide.

An equitable recovery will require us to explore new sources of progressive revenue for the City. I look forward to leading that work in partnership with leaders at the state legislature, the City's Board of Estimates and Taxation, my colleagues on the City Council, and of course, with the community. I am eager to share more specific proposals around this in the upcoming weeks.

**Choosing an equitable recovery instead of making working class people foot the bill is part of resisting the Trump administration's cruelty.** If ICE agents leave Minneapolis, but thousands of vulnerable families get evicted and hundreds of immigrant-owned small businesses close, then we failed to protect our communities from Operation Metro Surge. On the other hand, if City leaders choose to invest in an equitable recovery, we have the opportunity to heal from the traumas and economic damages of the occupation by creating a more equitable, vibrant, and diverse city. This is the work that lies before us for the coming weeks, months and years.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RWonsley'.

Council Member Robin Wonsley