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OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT

By Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT - WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICA IS WRONG!

DETROIT – The murders of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti mark once again a tragic disregard for the lives of American citizens. This is not just a Minneapolis problem. It's an American problem. This is not a Minneapolis tragedy. It's an American tragedy. It is not law and order. It is chaos and disorder. Constitutional rights are being violated under the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 10th amendments. Now the champions and extreme advocates for the 2nd amendment are seeking to ignore that very right based on their own selective enforcement. They declared a certified licensed carrier of a concealed weapon should not be allowed to attend protests or public assemblies. Where was this outrage on January 6 when thousands of insurrectionists stormed the nation's capital? They were not murdered, they were pardoned. Where was the outrage when the 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse fired on three men with a military style semi-automatic rifle, killing two, and seriously injuring a third? Where was the outrage when members of Unite the Right, a white supremacist rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, injuring 35 persons and deliberately killing Heather Heyer? President Trump declared, "*There were good people on both sides.*" Right and wrong are not equal. As my grandmother used to say, "*Two wrongs don't ever make a right.*"

The Minnesota Department of Criminal Investigation should be allowed to investigate the death of Mr. Pretti and Ms. Good directly. If not, it will not be fair, nor will it be complete. The President, Secretary of Homeland Security, Commander of U.S. Border Patrol, along with the current Director of the FBI have indicated that the murder in Minneapolis of Mr. Pretti was legitimate even accusing him of being a "domestic terrorist." The architect of these programs, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, even called him an assassin. He believes in, "*The iron law of the world where might makes right.*" Even Attorney General Pam Bondi got into this act by sending a letter of extortion demanding the voting records from citizens in Minnesota in order for ICE to leave or reduce its numbers. These attacks are intentionally designed to intimidate, subjugate, and eventually eliminate all those who do not believe in the ideology of Donald Trump. The FBI raid on the voting records in the state of Georgia where Trump lost by thousands of votes in the 2020 election, is more evidence of this fact. The recent arrests of former CNN anchor Don Lemon and independent journalist Georgia Fort are other examples of this intimidation. The attack upon Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, speaking at a public meeting, sprayed with a chemical, is a reflection of this current season of intolerance. President Trump, without any evidence, called this a "*Phony staged attack by the Congresswoman herself.*" These statements are designed to create a false narrative to cover the trails of the abuse and misuse of authority by these ICE marauders. ICE is masked, dressed in army fatigues, armed to the teeth, users of profane language, disregards of women and children, possessing a secret memo which would allow them to go into homes without a judicial warrant. The Trump regime openly and proudly supports the protestors in the homeland of Iran fighting to obtain democracy, while at the same time they support the killing of American citizens fighting in our own homeland to preserve our democracy. Transferring Border Czar Tom Homan, the leader of the program to separate over 5,000 children from their families at the southwest border during the first Trump regime as a deterrent to immigrant migration, also cited for accepting \$50,000 cash in a brown paper bag by an undercover FBI agent, means absolutely nothing. Changing personnel without changing policy still leaves the people in a perilous predicament. The current ICE policies, exercised in America remind us of 1939 Germany, today's Russia, China, North Korea, and the old southern America as they attacked, lynched, and kidnapped African Americans simply trying to register people to vote. This is America wrong! More lives will be lost unless the policies of ICE are melted.

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The SALT to melt ICE is Strength, Accountability, Legality, and Tenacity. We call upon the Michigan congressional delegation across party lines, Republican, Democratic, or Independent to stand firm for such a time as this. The push back on these extreme attacks by the people is why the Trump regime is changing its tone while still singing the same song, entitled “Retribution.” We must not allow a first suggested and now unsuggested relaxation of ICE policies by the President to deter the actions of the people to demand a new precedent for ICE operations. The power of the people can never be defeated. This is really what Democracy looks like. To paraphrase the words of President Ronald Reagan, “*Don't trust until you can verify.*” ICE must not be allowed to freeze the constitution or paralyze the very spirit of our Democracy. Michigan Republicans must speak up and out without ambiguity, particularly Representatives John James, Lisa McClain, Tom Barrett, Tim Walberg, Bill Huizenga, John Moolenaar, and Jack Bergman. Democratic Representatives Haley Stevens, Rashida Tlaib, Shri Thanedar, Debbie Dingell, Senators Elissa Slotkin and Gary Peters who have stood up on these issues must not falter but remain strong. Recent polls indicate that over 60% of Americans believe ICE has overstepped its boundaries. Its operations are completely out of control. We call upon the U.S. Congress to:

- Add no new funding for the Department of Homeland Security, particularly targeting ICE. They have already been given a \$10 billion base allocation per year, plus access to a \$75 billion supplemental over and up to four years, roughly \$28-\$29 billion per year if drawn evenly, based on the Big Bad Ugly Bill.
- Withhold funds that have already been allocated for ICE until there is a transformation of operational policies that can be measured.
- Provide independent investigations allowing local authorities to investigate these murders and abuses.
- End the attacks and terrorism on American cities by the federal government using ICE, National Guard, and federal troops, currently charged with enforcing the political whims and desires of the President of the United States
- ICE Agents must immediately be unmasked.
- A judicial warrant must be obtained before violating property, human and civil rights.
- Future immigration enforcement funding must be based on comprehensive civil rights, constitutional training, including the 4th and 5th amendments protection with current training programs and annual certification.
- Bodycams must be worn by all Immigration Enforcement agents to ensure accurate reporting of apprehension activities.
- And end to federal immunity for ICE agents.
- DHS Secretary Kristi Noem must be removed or impeached along with other minions mouthing, articulating, and enforcing these same tyrannical policies.

“The time is always right to do what is right. In the end, the ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people,” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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