

From: [Liz Opp](#)
To: [Payne, Elliott](#); [Osman, Jamal](#)
Cc: [Council Comment](#); [Ward 4](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns about DOJ NIBIN grant
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 3:37:58 PM

July 29, 2026

Dear Councilmembers,

I recently learned about the DOJ NIBIN grant discussed in yesterday's meeting of the Committee of the Whole. I understand that the grant would be in violation of the City's Separation Ordinance, or it at least points to a very slippery slope toward erosion of that ordinance.

Please pay attention of "offers" from this federal administration that seem too good to be true, or that seem to point to a closer relationship with federal agencies. I admit, though, I understand little about the NIBIN grant at this time. But the larger context of where we are as a city is seared in my body and memory:

Even before Operation Metro Surge, Minneapolis residents and many of your constituents have made it very clear we don't want our city to cooperate with ICE. That resolve recently was demonstrated by the turnout to encourage a No vote against the City's proposed contract with Skydio, given the company's growing history of contracts with ICE and third parties' ability to share collected data with the agency.

I continue to support the Separation Ordinance in order to protect our immigrant residents from the actions of a hostile government that targets them unjustly; I continue to support measures that reinforces the stance that the City will not cooperate with the federal government on immigration enforcement. We know firsthand how hostile the federal government is toward Minnesota in general and toward Minneapolis in particular.

As a neighbor recently shared with me, it appears that the NIBIN grant from the Department of Justice would allow local law enforcement such as MPD to get "cozier" with federal agents — too cozy for my comfort. Having looked at the information online about the NIBIN grant, it comes across as a bait-and-switch tactic: we'll give you updated equipment if you agree to work more closely with ICE.

Even the consideration of this grant should be questioned, in light of Operation Metro Surge and the Separation Ordinance. If we don't want ICE-connected drones flying across the city, why accept funds that invites closer collaboration with and possible commingling of equipment and resources with ICE and related federal agencies?

Blessings,
Liz Oppenheimer
Ward 4 resident

Every act of kindness is both an antidote for, and resistance to, the cruelty we

witness.

A single seed can fill a field with flowers.

When the law itself becomes the instrument of injustice, what do we owe to one another?

<https://historycanhide.substack.com/p/the-tactics-boston-used-against-slave>

You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming. - Pablo Neruda

"You are not obligated to complete the work but neither are you free to abandon it." - Pirkei Avot (2:21), attributed to Rabbi Tarfon

I am living on traditional homelands of the Dakota, and our household makes annual donations to indigenous-led organizations that are engaged in returning land to Native peoples and in preserving/renewing Native language and culture.

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the City of Minneapolis. Please exercise caution when opening links or attachments.