

Minnesota Strong — Shoreview Strong: Community in a Time of Uncertainty

Greetings from Shoreview, Minnesota — a city of over 27,000 residents located just north of Saint Paul in the Twin Cities metropolitan region. Shoreview is known as a welcoming, educated, and civically engaged community where neighbors look out for one another. Today, I write to you during a challenging and emotional moment for our state and region, one that is testing both our resilience and our commitment to democratic values.

In recent months, Minnesota — particularly the Twin Cities metropolitan area — has experienced a significant surge in federal immigration enforcement activity. Thousands of federal agents were deployed across the region as part of a large-scale enforcement effort, with many operating in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and surrounding suburban communities, including Shoreview.

The impact of this enforcement activity has been felt across daily life. For many residents — both citizens and non-citizens — the atmosphere is one of fear and uncertainty. Parents worry about their children's safety. Employees worry about traveling to their jobs. Businesses worry about being able to stay open. Community members question whether constitutional protections and due-process rights are being consistently applied. These concerns have intensified following several serious incidents involving federal enforcement actions in the area that remain under investigation.

Local law enforcement agencies have also faced challenges, as federal enforcement operations often occur without coordination or communication with city and county officials. This lack of coordination has created confusion for residents and placed additional responsibility on local public safety agencies to maintain calm and trust within communities.

Despite tension and uncertainty, something remarkable has emerged across our communities: unity.

Shoreview residents have responded not with division, but with compassion and collective responsibility. Our community has demonstrated that strength is measured not by conflict, but by care for one another.

Across Shoreview and the larger area, peaceful protests have become an important expression of civic engagement. In Shoreview, residents gather weekly to protest, support affected families, and affirm the importance of public safety, constitutional rights, and human dignity. In other parts of the area, some demonstrations are occurring daily as communities respond to rapidly changing circumstances. These gatherings have remained overwhelmingly peaceful and grounded in democratic tradition — reflecting a shared commitment to being heard while maintaining respect for neighbors and public safety.

Equally powerful has been the quiet, daily work of neighbors helping neighbors.

Parents and volunteers are present at school bus stops and drop-off locations to ensure children arrive safely. Neighbors are driving one another to medical appointments. Community members are watching out for households whose members are afraid to leave home. These small acts of solidarity form the foundation of community resilience.

Our schools have responded with creativity and compassion. Educators have expanded virtual learning options and provided technology and internet access so students can

continue their education safely from home when necessary. School staff and parent organizations have organized food deliveries to families in need.

Faith communities throughout Shoreview have become centers of support and stability. Churches and other congregations are collecting food, raising funds to help families pay rent and utilities, livestreaming services, and organizing outreach to isolated members. These efforts reflect a shared moral commitment that transcends politics: caring for those who are vulnerable.

Local government is also working closely with community partners and regional leaders. City councils across the metropolitan area, including Shoreview's, have spoken publicly about the importance of safety, transparency, and the rule of law. Coalitions of mayors are collaborating to advocate for policies that protect both public safety and civil rights.

For Shoreview, this moment is not about politics. It is about people — families, children, workers, and neighbors — and about maintaining trust in institutions that serve the public. Communities function best when residents feel safe, respected, and protected by the rule of law.

One mother recently shared a story that captures the emotional weight of this moment. Her child, seeing armed agents in the neighborhood, asked whether there might be a school shooting. That question reflects the confusion and anxiety many children are experiencing — and reminds us why community reassurance matters so deeply.

We know that the effects of this period will not disappear immediately. Even after enforcement operations end, communities will continue working to rebuild trust, restore economic stability, and help families regain a sense of security.

Yet there is also reason for hope.

If this experience has revealed anything, it is the strength of community bonds in Minnesota. Shoreview residents have shown generosity, courage, and empathy under pressure. They have chosen cooperation over fear, service over division, and peace over anger.

These values are not unique to Shoreview. They are shared across Minnesota and with our friends around the world — including our sister city of Einhausen, Germany. International partnerships remind us that democracy, human dignity, and community responsibility are universal ideals.

Please know that Shoreview remains a safe and welcoming city. Our commitment to friendship, exchange, and cooperation with Einhausen and the SESCA partnership remains strong and unchanged. We look forward to continuing our shared programs, visits, and cultural exchanges in the years ahead.

Difficult moments test communities. They also reveal who we are.

Shoreview stands strong. Minnesota stands strong. And together, we continue moving forward — guided by compassion, resilience, and the enduring principles of democracy.