

Statement to the Salem City Council in support of Tom Andersen's resolution

My name is Thomas Ellis; I am a resident of Salem and an American citizen. I am speaking in enthusiastic support of Tom Andersen's resolution condemning the Trump regime's heinous "Zero Tolerance" policy and affirming our support for immigrants...especially since nearly all of us here tonight are descended from immigrants.

We just celebrated the Fourth of July, which commemorates another resolution—the Declaration of Independence—which articulates the shared values that define us as Americans. So in support of Councilor Andersen's resolution, I would like to read a brief excerpt from that iconic document:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Note that he said "all men"—not simply "all Americans." But let's cut to the quick:

"...when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right—it is their duty—to throw off such government, and to establish new guards for their future security."

Such has been the patient sufferance of immigrants and minorities since January, 2017—and such is now the necessity that constrains us, as a community, to register our shared rejection of these profoundly unamerican policies of cruelty and intolerance.

Thank you.