



December 5, 2023

Dear Friends, Community Members, Supporters, and Survivors,

This letter comes to you after much reflection within our agency on how, even whether, to respond to the disturbing allegations against Lowell City Council member Corey Robinson.

We opt to be transparent about our stance: Alternative House chooses to use this time as an opportunity to underscore its unwavering dedication to the well-being and empowerment of survivors of domestic violence, to remind the community of our services, and to assure survivors that there is help available. You are not alone.

Domestic violence is a public health crisis and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

Our commitment is first and foremost to the individuals and families affected by domestic and intimate partner violence. As advocates for survivors, we believe it is essential to prioritize the welfare of those impacted by domestic violence over political narratives.

We urge a collective shift in focus toward supporting survivors and fostering an environment where their voices are heard, believed, and respected. Along with our community-based partners, and our already established, supported work with the City of Lowell to re-invigorate the City Manager's Domestic Violence Task Force, we will continue to work towards this shift.

To that end:

- We call on all elected officials to reflect on the responsibility and trust bestowed on public figures. Those who hold elected office are rightly held to a high standard.
- We implore the City of Lowell to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and zero tolerance for domestic violence as we continue our work together to create positive change through prevention and education.

- We emphasize the critical need to protect survivors' identities. It is paramount not to disclose any information about survivors, thus respecting their privacy and ensuring their safety. Furthermore, when a survivor steps forward and asks for help, whether through legal processes or other forms of support, their strength should be supported and not discussed in the public realm without express consent. We ask all who are reading this to put yourself in their shoes.

Our agency remains committed to providing a sanctuary for survivors and promoting healing, resilience, and empowerment. Let us unite as a community to prioritize the well-being of survivors and collectively strive for a future free from all violence.

We are here for you, always.

With respect and on behalf of Alternative House,

Maria

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Alternative House is staffed 24/7, 365 and advocates can be reached at 1-888-291-6228 or **info@alternative-house.org**.