

22 Protestors Arrested in Front of City Hall for Participation in November 24th Housing Justice Village Speak Out Against City's Treatment of Unsheltered
Thousands of Dollars Used By Mayor & Encampment Management Team to Silence Protestors & Violate Constitutional Protections

PRESS CONFERENCE

Monday, December 2, 2019

9:00 am

14th & Broadway

(If raining: Pro Arts Gallery & Commons, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza)

Oakland, CA - In the early hours on the morning of November 25th, 2019, Mayor Libby Schaaf ordered 60 police and a dozen Department of Public Works employees to arrest 22 housed and unhoused protestors, and destroy their protest camp created in front of Oakland City Hall. The protest camp was set up to demonstrate against The City's inhumane and cruel treatment of Oakland's unsheltered communities. The activists agreed to leave once their 9 demands were implemented into City policy and enforced.

Protestors both housed and unhoused were given citations for camping in a public park past 10 pm. In addition, they were arrested on various criminal charges including resisting arrest, obstructing an officer and obstructing justice. Bystanders who were not part of the direct action protest camp were also swept up in the arrests and spent the night in Santa Rita Jail.

Over the past two years, the City of Oakland has spent millions of dollars on so-called solutions to homelessness. But during that time Oakland's unhoused population has more than doubled, and hundreds of curbside residents who have been through Tuff Sheds and Bay Area Community Services Rapid Rehousing efforts are back on the streets.

Since the October 19th, 2018 United Nations report from the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing who visited Oakland homeless encampments in Fall 2017 and described the conditions as "cruel and inhuman," Mayor Libby Schaaf's Encampment Management Team has increased its inhumane treatment of its most vulnerable residents. As stated in the new UN report,

*The Oakland conditions of discrimination and harassment of encampment residents and punitive denials of access to basic services constitute "cruel and inhuman treatment and is a violation of multiple human rights...Such punitive policies must be prohibited in law and immediately ceased."*¹

Since that report, there has been a massive increase in the already inhumane practices described in the UN report. There have also been new tactics the Encampment Management Team deploys including demolishing entire communities of self-built homes and taking vehicles

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context.

<<http://www.unhousingrapp.org/user/pages/04.resources/A-73-301-Rev1p.pdf>>.

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people live in. Despite their assertions, The City does not offer any alternative shelter to the communities it destroys - not even a tent or one night in a homeless shelter - but leaves people vulnerable and traumatized on the side of the road where their homes and RVs once stood.

The Housing Justice Village is organized by unhoused residents who have been traumatized, harmed, set-back and left to freeze to death on the streets after their emergency homes were destroyed or towed. Together with housed allies and non-profit supporters who have witnessed The City's horrific practices and devastating consequences, Oaklanders are standing up to counter The City's lies and demand an end to the cruel and inhumane anti-homeless practices.

Arrestees will speak on:

- ⇒ **The City's post-arrest press release**
- ⇒ **The City's inhumane practices against its unhoused residents**
- ⇒ **Constitutional Violations & Supreme Court decisions violations**
- ⇒ **Treatment of arrestees by OPD and Santa Rita Officers**
- ⇒ **The treatment of LGBTQ arrestees in jail & uplifting the voices of unhoused LGBTQ folks**

Community Advocates will speak on:

- ⇒ **The Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute recent report to the United Nation Human Rights Council on Oakland's institutionalized criminalization of its unhoused residents**
- ⇒ **The circular pipeline from prisoner to unsheltered The City of Oakland upholds**

Question & Answer period will follow statements made by arrestees.

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