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Day 2 of Sweeps-Free Sanctuary Communities After Threats of Arrest & Removal still remain Houseless artists, housed allies and spiritual leaders faced all night harassment by poLice , Clty Administrators and Park Rangers and still remain in SF Clty Hall - and Oakland Greyhound Parking Lot

“You can’t stay here,” City Administrator of occupied Huchiu aka Oakland told us houseless, formerly houseless and housed allies gathered peacefully at Oakland City Hall at Day 1 of our Bay Area launch of Sweeps Free Sanctuary Communities.

“You are violating Park Code - you can’t have tents here, you can’t sleep here,” at approximately 11:50pm at SF City Hall site of Sweeps-Free Sanctuary Communities 8 park rangers arrived with guns and mace on their holsters and told us we needed to leave - that our work, although important wasn’t legal in the park,”

“This is important work but you can’t stay in the park with these tents, you are welcome to move to the perimeter of the park,” he said pointing to the green bike lane that surrounded the city hall plaza in San Francisco.

“You mean we can move to the bike lane- how is that safe? We as houseless people are never safe, we are constantly , violently swept and removed, but we are safe here together in this sanctuary and if you force us to leave you will be making us Unsafe again,” said tiny gray-garcia, formerly houseless, sweeps survivor and co-founder of POOR Magazine and Homefulness.

On Tuesday, December 17th in response to increasingly violent and relentless sweeps of houseless residents of California, houseless and formerly houseless sweeps

survivors along with housed allies and spiritual leaders will launch “sweeps-free sanctuary communities” at City Halls and other public land sites in Yelamu (San Francisco), Huchiun (Oakland), Yocut (Fresno), Tovaangar (Los Angeles) and Sogorea Te (Vallejo) and Chief Sia’hl (Seattle).

In both Huchiun and Yelamu (Oakland & San Francisco) houseless warriors are committed to the beautiful healing sanctuary ComeUnities we have built ,

“In Huchiun we have relocated to the parking lot of the Greyhound Bus station and are holding space “ said John Janasko, formerly houseless resident leader of Wood street commons

In San Francisco we remain in the city hall plaza -pls support us

Updates from other locations who launched sweeps-free communities across so-called California

From Tovaangar/Los Angeles: Yesterday we gathered at the site of a former city-run shelter that has since been abandoned and locked up by barbed wire fences where a year ago, our community on Aetna Street was violently displaced. On these vacant, so-called “public” lands we rebuilt our sanctuary community on Aetna Street with our announcement of the San Fernando Valley Homeless Union led and founded by warrior women who lived on Aetna Street. We are fighting for Aetna Street to once again be a sanctuary for houseless people in the San Fernando Valley where community can power free laundry, free showers and provide free clothing and hot meals to everyone in our community. That evening, we held a community dinner where 200 people came throughout the night to support local street vendors and receive free medical care powered by All Power Free Clinic to build the sanctuary we need to defend our communities from sweeps, raids, displacement and deportation. 6 unhoused people dying on the streets of LA every day. We are committed to the call of houseless action across CA to reverse the tide and stand with poor and houseless peoples fighting for land liberation everywhere. We are a landless peoples movement! We have the solutions. We are the solutions!

Updates from occupied Duwamish land Seattle : our noon rally was beautiful and we had 30-40 houseless warriors and housed allies on the steps of "Seattle" Shitty Hall.

There was music, food, hot drinks, safer drug use kits, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags. We had speakers from Nickelsville, International League of Peoples Struggle, vehicle residents and WHEELS Women in Black held a moment of silence for our stolen relatives.

From Yocut lands aka so-called Fresno “ Yesterday we met at City Hall lawn. We had prayer then we had four speakers one regarding the housing elements and lack of units we had the attorney speak on the data of the arrest the criminalization and also the current trials that are in the courts due to the arrest for being unhoused. We had a previous unhoused individual speak about the difficulties of surviving the streets the stress and disrespect that they went through in the shelters and the length of time it took for them to get into permanent Supportive Housing. Of course I said My Words which were basically covering the county and City responsible for using the funding for more than just admin fees telling them about the dream camp safe camp that I had here in Fresno for a year and a half that had never had an issue or a problem and ask them to model another safe area just like that that's governed by us I also spoke on the criminalization the amount it cost us how Mental Health is affected by homelessness I also spoke on the lifespan of people that are evicted and lifespan on individuals that are suffering homelessness and trying to survive. We then went over to March over to the county building which is about two blocks away from the city hall and when we got there we were met with a whole bunch of police LOL but we chanted did our chance outside then we went to go walk in they took our posters from us we still went upstairs where we were met by another group of officers and then we went inside the chambers where we met by another group of officers it was ridiculous to have that many amount of police merely for community members wanting to speak up at Board of Supervisors County meeting. We had a few interviews from media. I brought up where do we go and pour magazine and also with Street Commons of how we join forces with solidarity Liberation day. Of course I addressed my rights being violated at the County public building many of us spoke up about multiple issues with homelessness housing criminalization and fighting for more places like homefulness., “ said Dez Martinez formerly houseless founder of Homeless in Fresno and We are not invisible

In addition to providing crucial resources for fellow houseless relatives in the cold, wet winter, we will be presenting solutions to homelessness created by us houseless people. Solutions that are healing housing models like [Homefulness](#) and [Wood Street Commons Community](#). As well as looking at the example of Tent city 3 - created by [SHARE/WHEEL in Seattle](#), Washington - which could be replicated by cities and counties across the US

“Public land should be for the public, instead we face violent sweeps,” said La Monte Ford, Wood Street Commons Sweeps survivor.

Following the Grants Pass Vs Johnson Supreme Court Ruling that deemed houseless residents of the US no longer protected by the 8th amendment of the constitution California Gov. Gavin Newsom enhanced his already violent "sweeps" policy of houseless people by directing state agencies to dismantle homeless encampments on state land. He also threatened cities across the state with drastic budget cuts if they didn't comply with his clearing orders. Hundreds of houseless elders and disabled adults lives have become gravely endangered and have died in increasing numbers due to this state sponsored violence over the last several months.

"Sweeping my mama and me caused us to lose multiple shelters, tents and cars we slept in and eventually each other. Sweeping, jailing and harassing us houseless people never gets us a home, or "solves" our homelessness, it just makes our homelessness more dangerous and more deadly, said Tiny Gray-Garcia, formerly houseless, incarcerated, co-founder of POOR Magazine, a poor and houseless people-led movement and Homefulness - a homeless peoples solution to homelessness that currently houses 22 formerly houseless youth, adults and elders.

All the government "Solutions" like Cabin Communities and shelters have failed to create the necessary foundation unhoused people need to be able to rebuild our lives, said John Janasko, houseless resident leader at Wood Street Commons, a community of houseless people working to organize and support fellow houseless people.

“There is no social justice in criminalizing our unhoused community there is no solution in solving homelessness by incarceration,” Junebug Keaoloha, formerly houseless Community health workers and poverty skola with POOR Magazine /San Francisco

“200 years ago, before colonization there wasn't even a concept of homelessness,” said Talking Chief/spokesperson of the confederated villages of Lisjan/Ohlone and co-founder of the Sogorea Te Land Trust and Family Elders Council member of Homefulness.

"We center the launching of these sweeps-free sanctuary communities in liberation of occupied and stolen indigenous land because we cannot talk about homelessness without talking about indigenous and Black Land theft, return and reparations, the

violent history of indigenous land theft and genocide of colonization, chattle slavery, false borders and mass incarceration of Black, Brown, Indigenous and Disabled houseless peoples have led to the collective trauma of so many of us on the street and then we are terrorized by hundreds of laws that criminalize our bodies for being poor, without a roof, sleeping in our car, in doorways, in parks, on streets and in tents on so-called public (read: stolen) land. " concluded tiny gray-garcia

"The city, the so-called service providers—they're not offering anybody anything. They're just leaving us destitute. What should we get instead? We should get treated like the human beings that we are. I should get treated like your brother or sister." - Giselle "Gelly" Harrell, Aetna Street Solidarity, Aetna Street Solidarity is an intergenerational community of housed & unhoused people organizing in Van Nuys against the criminalization of the poor currently working with POOR Magazine to create their own Homefulness Project..

[Homefulness](#) -is a homeless peoples solution to homelessness which just welcomed their 22nd houseless family into rent-free forever housing is one of the models we are presenting at the Sweeps-Free Sanctuary ComeUnities. We are currently working with houseless comeUnities in San Francisco, LA, Seattle to create their own Homefulness Projects and on a second site of Homefulness in Oakland

[Wood Street Sanctuary Community](#) - is a collaboration with affordable housing architect Mike Pyatok over the last year to envision a community-led solution to homelessness which houses teachers, working class families and the unhoused and includes an academy, a jobs program, dental care, health care and mental health care on site.

In addition to press conferences, free stores, art installations, prayer vigils and sanctuary communities, housed allies will be standing, working and speaking up with houseless leaders to show their support for actual solutions, not more violent sweeps.

See Testimonials from houseless and formerly Houseless residents of Wood Street Commons and Homefulness by [clicking here](#)

Solutions to homelessness presented by houseless people

- 1. Sanctuary Communities, Not Sweeps:** Stop sweeps, tows, and criminalizing poverty. Redirect encampment management funding towards positive solutions

like encampment upgrades, sweeps-free sanctuary communities, and permanent low to no-income housing.

2. **Land Back/Public Land for Public Good:** House hundreds of people in the vacant Hilton Hotel on Port of Oakland land, The Civic Center Inn in the tenderloin District of San Francisco and/or countless other vacant and hoarded lots and land across Oakland and San Francisco.. Unsell and return sacred sites, vacant land, buildings and homes to stewardship by 1st peoples of Turtle Island who suffered the brutal genocide of colonization. Use public and vacant land for poor people led solutions like rent-free forever healing housing like [Homefulness](#), communities and the Wood Street Commons [housing vision](#) designed with architect Mike Pyatok and [Share/Wheel](#) in Seattle.
3. **Prevent Homelessness:** Strengthen renter's rights and provide rent subsidies. Create a permanent moratorium on rental evictions and foreclosures for non-payment. Evictions and foreclosures are elder and child abuse* and cause homelessness. (Based on POOR Magazine poor & houseless people-led WeSearch study of 2014)
4. **Defund Coercive "Care Courts:"** reinvest in an accessible and non-carceral approach to mental health care and harm reduction rooted in a framework of interdependence, care, and love first. Stop 5150 holds, medical incarceration, and forced conservatorships through Gavin Newsom's care courts which threaten to circumvent due process and other constitutional protections.

*More Homeless peoples solutions available at this [link](#)

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