BECAUSE THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH

By Paula Escobar

This November 6th is election day and Proposition 10 is a historic opportunity to take on the biggest barrier to winning real housing justice in California. Prop 10, or the Affordable Housing Act, would restore the right for cities to protect their tenants by repealing the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995. Right now, LA is one of only four cities in LA County with rent control laws, which ensures that landlords do not force unfair rent increases on tenants. But LA’s rent control law is not enough, since it is limited to tenants living in buildings built before 1978. Every year we are seeing an unprecedented number of individuals and families losing their homes due to gentrifying communities and greedy landlords. More and more families are forced to pay over 50% of their income toward rent! This is not ok. We at LA CAN are fighting for Prop 10 because we believe that housing is a human right and the rent is too damn high.

In late September, over 240 housing organizers, advocates and renters came together to launch the Yes on 10 Campaign at SCOPE’s headquarters in South Central. They spent their Saturday getting trained to talk to people about Prop 10, and they hit the streets that same morning to start spreading the word on the importance of voting yes.

The opposition, led by billionaire corporate landlords, are playing an expensive and dirty game. Many voters are confused about how they should vote with all the lies and money the opposition has poured into tv ads. But keep in mind, no matter how much money they spend, we are on the ground, knocking on doors, connecting with voters, and building people power.

“I see families being forced into homelessness because the rent is too damn high,” said Wesley Walker, a Skid Row resident and LA CAN member. “This is the best chance we’re ever going to have to abolish the hold landlords and corporations have on struggling families.”

In early October, over 2,400 housing organizers, advocates and renters took to the streets of Los Angeles to spread the word about the importance of voting yes.

Continued p.3

¿PORQUE LA RENTA ESTÁ MUY ALTA!

Por Paula Escobar
Translation by Katherine Jara

Este 6 de noviembre es día de elecciones y la Proposición 10 es una oportunidad histórica para enfrentar la barrera más grande y ganar justicia verdadera en California. La Prop 10, o el Acta de Viviendas Económicas, busca restaurar el derecho a las comunidades locales para proteger a las familias del aumento descontrolado de las rentas al derogar el Acta Costa Hawkins de Viviendas de Renta de 1995. En este momento, Los Ángeles es una de sólo cuatro ciudades en el Condado con leyes de control de renta, lo cual asegura que los dueños no impongan aumentos injustos a sus inquilinos. Pero la ley de control de rentas de Los Ángeles no es suficiente, ya que está limitada a inquilinos viviendo en edificios construidos antes de 1978. Cada año vemos a demasiadas individuos y familias que pierden su hogar debido al desplazamiento y la avaricia corporativa. Cada día vemos un aumento en familias que están pagando más de 50% de sus ingresos hacia su renta. Esto no está bien. Nosotros en LA CAN estamos luchando para la Prop 10 porque creemos que tener vivienda es un derecho humano y la renta está muy alta.

A finales de septiembre, más de 240 organizadores, defensores, e inquilinos se juntaron para lanzar la Campaña Sí a la Prop 10 en la organización SCOPE en el Sur Centro. Después de un entrenamiento sobre cómo hablarle a la gente sobre la campaña, salieron a tocar puertas y a pasar la voz sobre la importancia de votar si.

La oposición, dirigida por los propietarios corporativos, es una campaína costosa y engañosa. Muchos votantes están confundidos sobre la manera en la que deben votar con tantas mentiras que están sacando en los anuncios de televisión. Pero mantenga en mente, no importa lo que gasten porque nosotros estamos en la comunidad, tocando puertas, hablando...

Continued p.3
Remember when we discovered that Trump boasted of sexual assault before the election (grabbing people by the pussy, is in fact, sexual assault)? The optimists among us thought, “His sexism will surely stop him, even if his racism did not.” Neither did, he is now the 45th president of The United States. Since that time, a White House staff secretary resigned after accusations that he had abused TWO former wives, and 45 himself has been outed as having had an affair with adult film performer, Stormy Daniels.... So, against that backdrop, the turn the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings have taken, should really come as no surprise.

The spectacle of Senate hearings to examine claims of sexual assault leveled against Brett Kavanagh is an example of the intertwined mission of the two horsemen of racism and patriarchy. What does race have to do with it? In fact the appearance that race has NOTHING to do with this case involving a white man and woman, when it had everything to do with an earlier case involving Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill....suggests the power of race/white supremacy to define what is accepted as reality. Misogyny and sexual assault are deeply embedded in the cultural, political and social psyche of the United States. Add the white supremacist historical claim over bodies of people of color, especially Black bodies, and we can see this as a continuation of centuries-old, bloodletting sport, a pattern of conduct that gives those in power the right to pillage and rape. THAT was what was on display in these hearings, the presumption of innocence NO MATTER WHAT because ‘boys will be boys’ and if nobody catches you ‘crime-ing while white, then you are presumed to be home free.’

The Kavanagh hearings revive a deep reservoir of multi-layered injuries and trauma. The “sorry-not-sorry,” ostensibly, gentle manner in which Christine Blasey Ford, a white woman, was publicly malign and is an example of the difficult intersections of race and gender. The good ole boys decided NOT to question Dr. Ford directly to avoid the spectacle of a lone woman being attacked by an angry mob by replacing it with the optics of the angry-eleven hiding behind the skirts of a woman. The withheld anger was later unleashed by the candidate for the judiciary himself, with the angry-eleven getting in hits from sideline. That they literally hid behind a white woman until she was inconvenient is surreal. When we first heard that the republican caucus would have an experienced woman prosecutor of sex crimes, we were a tiny bit hopeful. When we saw that she was ONLY allowed to question Christine Blasey Ford, and NOT the man accused of sexual assault, it was like “Oh HELL NO!”---why would anyone believe that would deflect criticism? We wonder how Rachel Mitchell, a woman who has devoted her professional life to prosecuting those who have sexually harmed others, feels about being used as a pawn. Recalling, however, that 53% of white women voters, voted for Trump, despite his pussy grabbing, simply highlights how imperative it is to simultaneously battle all forms of oppression.
I ask because apparently it doesn’t mean much to the Los Angeles City Council. They just passed a new rule to further limit and restrict the people’s ability to address their grievances to the council, about city government policies. They have loosely defined any language and/or actions they don’t like as disruptive and use it as an excuse to shut up, remove and ban people from council and subcommittee meetings. And when I say any action that includes clapping, raising your hand or fist, laughing too loudly at their corrupt nonsense, holding up unapproved signs, standing up, etc. etc. etc. A City Council majority calls this maintaining decorum, but I and my comrades at the Los Angeles Community Action Network call this speech suppression and a violation of the Brown Act (protecting speech rights at public meetings of governmental bodies). This City Council that fancies itself to be progressive, in fact has a Trump-like and Nixon-like appetite for thought policing and speech policing. They think they can do this by hiding behind well-acted out rage over the rudeness and vulgarities of two or three gadflies who go to meetings at City Hall and buzz around the piles of manure these city politicians drop on an almost daily basis! But we in the activist community know that speech and protest suppression is aimed at those of us who advocate for permanent supportive housing for the homeless, transparency in city government, and for stopping LAPD’s brutality and murder! Not to mention a dozen other good causes. Stand up against this change to the City Council rules by calling and emailing your council person’s office and council president Herb Wesson’s office and attending city council sessions and making public comments to object to this change. Also, join LA CAN at 838 E. 6th Street (213-228-0024) to get involved. All power to the people!

WHAT DOES THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH MEAN?

BY CRAIG ROBERTS

Prop 10 continued…
abolish the hold landlords and corporations have on struggling renters and their families,” he said “We have to go to the polls on November 6th and vote Yes on Prop 10 to stop the land-grab by the rich.” Back in the spring, Wesley and other LA CAN members collected over 1,000 signatures to put Prop 10 on the ballot. Now that it’s on there, it’s time to make sure people get out the vote.

If you believe housing is a human right, if you believe the rent is too damn high, if you believe everyone deserves the chance to stay in their community, then stand with LA CAN and vote YES on 10 this November.

La Prop 10 continuado…
con la gente, y levantando el poder del pueblo. “Yo veo a familias siendo forzadas hacia la indigencia porque la renta está demasiado alta,” dijo Wesley Walker, un residente de Skid Row y miembro de LA CAN. “Esta es la mejor oportunidad que vamos a tener para desafiar el dominio que los propietarios y las corporaciones tienen sobre los inquilinos que están luchando,” él dijo. “Tenemos que ir a los centros de votación el 6 de noviembre y votar a la 10 para detener el apropiación de tierras por los ricos.” En la primavera, Wesley y otros miembros de LA CAN colectaron más de 1,000 firmas para poner la Prop 10 en la boleta. Ya que está, es hora de asegurarnos que la gente vote. Si usted cree que tener vivienda es un derecho humano, si cree que la renta está demasiado alta, si cree que todos merecen la oportunidad de quedarse en sus comunidades, únase a LA CAN y vote SI A LA 10 en noviembre.
On August 25th, the Bay Area witnessed an outpouring of more than 300 people mobilized for a call to action at an entrance point of the San Quentin State Prison. The call for the mobilization was in response to the demand for a Nationwide Prison Strike by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak (JLS), a network of self-trained incarcerated legal scholars and organizers. Bay Area community organizations stood united with prisoners participating in coordinated strike activity that included work stoppages, sit-ins, commissary boycotts, and hunger strikes between the dates of August 21 and September 9.

Prisoners across the country are demanding: “humane living conditions, access to rehabilitation, sentencing reform, and the end of “modern day slavery” and have called on outside ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE…ALL POWER TO THOSE PEOPLE wrought by mass incarceration, and a call to action at an entrance point of the San

Palestine: imprisoned Palestinians of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Israeli jails issued a statement in solidarity.

The Bay Area National Prison Strike Solidarity Committee was formed to further these prisoners’ goals and demands. There was significant media coverage of the mobilization action, and of the National Prison Strike itself.

Men and women incarcerated in prisons across the nation declared a nationwide prison strike in response to the riot in Lee Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in South Carolina. Seven people lost their lives during an instigated melee that could have been avoided had the prison not been so overcrowded from the greed wrought by mass incarceration, and a lack of respect for human life that is embedded in our nation’s penal ideology.

The 19 day strike commenced on August 21, the 47th anniversary of the death of George Jackson, a prominent Black prison organizer and Black Panther Party member, who was killed at San Quentin by prison guards – and extended through September 9 - the 47th anniversary of the Attica Prison Rebellion, the largest prison uprising of the 1970s prison movement. As the current prisoner resistance spread, prisoners in 35 states joined. In addition to these states, there have been reports of solidarity actions overseas. Nova Scotia, Canada; at Burnside County Jail in Halifax prisoners went on strike and issued a protest statement in solidarity with the strike and naming local demands. Larissa Prison, Greece: 127 prisoners of the A Wing issued a statement in solidarity. Palestinian imprisoned Palestinians of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine held in Israeli jails issued a statement in solidarity.

Additionally, 200 immigrants being held in U.S. detention facilities have joined the strike. As anticipated by the prisoners, officials have denied the prisoner strike is even happening while taking retaliatory measures to punish and isolate leaders and participants. Threats of retaliation are real and continue to persist beyond the strike dates. Incarcerated leaders like Jason Walker continue to suffer from abusive treatment and staff harassment, Imam Hasan has been placed on a one year ban from outside communications and Kevin Rashid Johnson just went up for another transfer trial and is being sent for another out-of-state transfer. They are shipping organizers like cargo, and JLS members are being hunted like animals as officials try to pluck them out of general population and tear them down due to the amazing work that they were able to complete these past few weeks. As of this writing, Hurricane Florence is on its way toward South Carolina, where officials are refusing to evacuate prisoners.

Indeed, prisons are a hostile environment; prison policies and actions on the part of prison staff maintain this hostile climate. The prison system is an example of how a society run by white racists maintains its control. Inmates in states across the nation are on strike against the world’s largest and most racist prison system. At root, striking prisoners demand that they be treated as human beings; the rest of their demands flow logically from recognition of prisoners’ humanity. The prison strike is a means of bringing attention to a system that is rotten and must be abolished. Prisoners on strike are proving that this country can be complete until every single demand has been fulfilled in this country. Striking prisoner’s are no longer asking for light reforms, they are demanding a transformative change led by the incarcerated individuals whose lives depend on those changes. Jailhouse Lawyers Speak has confirmed that they will be hosting another National Prison Strike in 2019 to continue to push for any of the demands that have yet to be fulfilled by that time.

Where there is oppression the result will be resistance. Prisoner’s Movements and Resistance gives credence to this dialectic. These are the NATIONAL DEMANDS of the men and women in federal, immigration, and state prisons:

1. Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisoners and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
4. The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
9. Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
10. The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called “ex-felons” must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count!

All Power To The People…All Power To These People Who Are Ready and Willing To Seize The Power!!!

By Bilal Ali

PUBLIC COMMENT

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE...ALL POWER TO THOSE PEOPLE

WHO ARE READY AND WILLING TO SEIZE THE POWER!!!

© Bilah

© Gan Khoon Lay, Noun Project

© Bilah

© Bilah
Recently, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released guidance on “Principles and Practices for Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness.” According to LAHSA, their principles are based on “Los Angeles’ unique local context, as well as research into promising practices.” The four principles given were as follows:

1. Delivery of municipal services must respect the needs of all residents, with special consideration for serving its most vulnerable.
2. All people need safe and accessible places to be, both at night and during the day, and places to securely store belongings, until permanent housing is found.
3. No Person should suffer or be subject to discrimination or arbitrary treatment based on housing status.
4. Support the health and safety of all community residents, including unsheltered residents.

It is important to note that LAHSA’s proposed “principles and practices” are a reflection of more than a decade of LA CANs organizing, public policy, and legal campaigns aimed at bringing the city and county of Los Angeles in alignment with human rights standards held in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our body of work and that of our partners has always been geared towards divestment from those things that cause irreparable harm, like criminalization and policing and investing into the one thing that ends houselessness—housing. We are therefore pleased with the development of LAHSA’s principles and have written the following to support, deepen and clarify the principles they have put forth.

A. We strongly support these principles and LAHSA’s acknowledgment that unhoused people demand and deserve support and resources, rather than criminalization and banishment. The acknowledgement that unhoused people will continue to live on the streets in Los Angeles County is timely and extremely important and long overdue, as is the focus on public health infrastructure and decriminalization. The principles highlight many approaches that advocates have long supported and are critical to ending this crisis, but have rarely, if ever, gotten official support (i.e., need for unhoused people to have autonomy, etc.).

B. Principles should explicitly acknowledge that the affordable housing crisis is at the root of homelessness in Los Angeles. The Background section should explicitly state this. It is not controversial, and it is critical that agencies like LAHSA and others affirmatively state that municipalities have an obligation to accommodate those disabilities. This obligation extends to every facet of engagement with unhoused individuals, from conducting outreach and street cleanings, to providing public health infrastructure and storage facilities, to enforcing quality of life offenses.

D. The focus on decriminalization in Principle 3 is critically important, but it could go further to discourage criminalization. Principle 3 appropriately focuses on the harm of criminalization and other strategies that rely on law enforcement for implementation, but it could more clearly stress the illegality of many of these practices and highlight the potential legal liability for cities that engage in these practices. Policies also need to explicitly discourage the coupling of outreach and law enforcement, and this should be highlighted in Principle 2.

E. Principles highlight the need for public health infrastructure to address this crisis, but could more clearly articulate the serious public health needs to justify this investment. Principle 4 mentions the need for key infrastructure to address the public health needs of unhoused individuals, including water, hygiene and sanitation, but provides little justification or explanation why communities should provide these resources. Ample evidence supports the need for this infrastructure, and the Principles could and should more forcefully call for investment in these approaches.

F. LAHSA should identify ways to go beyond simply outlining principles and work towards implementing these policies throughout Los Angeles County. For example, LAHSA could require or encourage agencies receiving funding within the Continuum of Care to support these policies at the local level. In addition, LAHSA must examine its own strategies for addressing homelessness, including its unfairly significant outreach efforts, and ensure that these practices are consistent with these principles.

Prepared by:
Pete White, Executive Director, Los Angeles Community Action Network
Carol Sobel, civil rights lawyer
Gary Blasi, UCLA law professor emeritus and public interest lawyer
Shayla Myers, lawyer, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Can you sell me the air that passes through your fingers and hits your face and undoes your hair? Maybe you could sell me five dollars’ worth of wind, or more, perhaps sell me a cyclone? Maybe you would sell me the thin air, the air (not all of it) that sweeps into your garden blossom on blossom into your garden for the birds, ten dollars of pure air. The air it turns and passes with butterfly-like spins. No one owns it, no one.

Can you sell me some sky, the sky that’s blue at times, or gray again at times, a small part of your sky, the one you bought – you think – with all the trees of your orchard, as one who buys the ceiling with the house? Can you sell me a dollar’s worth of sky, two miles of sky, a fragment of your sky, whatever piece you can? The sky is in the clouds. The clouds are high, they pass. No one owns them, no one.

Can you sell me some rain, the water that has given you your tears and wets your tongue? Can you sell me a dollar’s worth of water from the spring, a pregnant cloud, as soft and graceful as a lamb, or even water fallen on the mountain, or water gathered in the ponds abandoned to the dogs, or one league of the sea, a lake perhaps, a hundred dollars’ worth of lake? The water falls, it runs. The water runs, it passes. No one holds it, no one.

Can you sell me some land, the deep night of the roots, the teeth of dinosaurs and the scattered lime of distant skeletons? Can you sell me long since buried jungles, birds now extinct, fish fossilized, the sulphur of volcanoes, a thousand million years rising in spiral? Can you sell me some land, can you sell me some land, can you? The land that’s yours is mine. The feet of all walk on it. No one owns it, no one.

¿Puedes venderme el aire que pasa entre tus dedos y te golpea la cara y te despeina? ¿Tal vez podrías venderme cinco pesos de viento, o más, quizás venderme una tormenta? ¿Acaso el aire fino Me vendieras, el aire (No todo) que recorre En tu jardín corolas y corolas, En tu jardín para los pájaros, Diez pesos de aire fino?

El aire gira y pasa En una mariposa. Nadie lo tiene, nadie. ¿Puedes venderme cielo, El cielo azul a veces, O gris también a veces, Una parcela de tu cielo, El que compra prees tu, con los árboles De tu huerto, como quien compra el techo con la casa? ¿Puedes venderme un dólar De cielo, dos kilómetros De cielo, un trozo, el que tú puedas, De tu cielo?

El cielo está en las nubes. Altas las nubes pasan. Nadie las tiene, nadie. ¿Puedes venderme lluvia, el agua Que te ha dado tus lágrimas y te moja la lengua? ¿Puedes venderme un dólar de agua De manantial, una nube preñada, Crespa y suave como una cordera, O bien agua llovida en la montaña, O el agua de los charcos Abandonados a los perros, O una legua de mar, tal vez un lago, Cien dólares de lago?

El agua cae, rueda. El agua rueda, pasa. Nadie la tiene, nadie. ¿Puedes venderme tierra, la profunda Noche de las raíces; dientes De dinosaurios y la cal Dispersa de lejanos esqueletos? ¿Puedes venderme selvas ya sepultadas, aves muertas, Peces de piedra, azufre De los volcanes, mil millones de años En espiral subiendo? ¿Puedes Venderme tierra, puedes Venderme tierra, puedes?

La tierra tuya es mía. Todos los pies la pisán. Nadie la tiene, nadie.
Franc passed away so suddenly in March 2018 that none of us had any chance to prepare. His Christlike Fellowship Church band and Franc’s Melting Pot band were thrown into turmoil. Both bands are carrying on, but for Franc’s former fellow band members, things are still tough. There is light at the end of the tunnel. We honored Franc at informal gatherings at Gladys Park, Lamp Village Studio 526, Christlike Fellowship Church, and Skid Row Museum.

We finally honored Franc Foster with a proper Christian Memorial Service on Friday evening, August 31, 2018. Franc’s Church Family and his Skid Row Family came together at the Church of the Nazarene. The first hour was music performed by members of the Church of the Nazarene Praise and Worship Choir, Christlike Fellowship Church Band, and Franc’s Melting Pot. Following was a service led by Minister Devon from Franc’s Church praising his spirit and urging people to be Christ-like as much as possible. Then we testified how Franc had touched our lives individually.

Franc’s Melting Pot continues to keep his musical legacy alive and resumed rehearsals of the band in June 2018. Franc’s physical presence is not there, but his Spirit is with us.

Franc’s Melting Pot performances there is no distinction between performers and audience. Everyone sings, dances, and plays music together. We continue Franc’s tradition of welcoming all to join us.
Many of us drink coffee to be awakened, but do you ever drink coffee to get ‘woke’? In this edition of Spots in the Hood, we highlight Skid Row Coffee, a coffee pop-up shop rooted in social justice that has found its permanent home at the Los Angeles Central Public Library.

Founders Danny Park and Andrew Kang started out with a vision of creating a community space that would be an important part of the movement to change the perception of Skid Row. In 2016, the duo brought their unique business to a 3-on-3 basketball game at Gladys Park. At that community event they offered coffee and tea on a sliding scale. From there, they became the popular pop-up coffee shop there, they became the popular pop-up coffee shop. Skid Row Coffee’s dedication to connecting with the local community was initially noted when they vended at Tyler the Creator’s 2017 Camp Flog Gnaw Carnival in Exposition Park -- it’s the same warm connection one experiences today when they are vending at LA CAN’s Farmers Market on Thursdays.

“Run by the people for the people,” says Andrew Kang, “is a key principle for how we envisioned this shop to function.” Skid Row Coffee has built a jobs training program so people in the community can sharpen their customer service and barista skills, which enables them to find permanent employment. “On top of being a jobs organization, Skid Row Coffee finds inspiration in educating and building awareness that counters the negative narrative of Skid Row,” Andrew said. Inspired by the work of organizations like The Los Angeles Community Action Network and the Los Angeles Poverty Department, Skid Row Coffee prides itself in being a space that highlights the resilience and culture of the Skid Row community, and being a space where people feel at home.

Along with feeling at home, we can enjoy more than just a cup of coffee or tea. Skid Row Coffee is now offering a variety of food options! Joining the team is executive chef, Jessica Nizar, who is putting a creative twist to classic treats like egg salad sandwiches as well as a variety of salads.

Skid Row Coffee is set to open at the food court of the Los Angeles Central Public Library at the beginning of November. The library was an ideal location because it is one of the last remaining public spaces on the west side of the Dirty Divide and probably one of the only public spaces in the Financial District of Downtown Los Angeles. The library offers lots of programming and resources that many in our community access, so it is fitting for our friends at Skid Row Coffee to plant themselves there. We wish them much success.

**MUTUAL AID:**

In organization theory, mutual aid is a voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. Mutual aid, as opposed to charity, does not connote moral superiority of the giver over the receiver.

---

The historically Black community of Leimert Park/Baldwin Hills aka “Afrika Town” is under serious threat from the agents of gentrification. With the extension of the Metro Line down Crenshaw Boulevard, developers, landlords, and real estate speculators are rapidly buying up property with the intention of enticing more “affluent” (and non-Black) residents into the neighborhood. As a result, swarms of gentrifying-hipsters are descending upon Leimert Park looking to scoop up one of the newly renovated artist studios, “market-rate” condos and apartments, or restored Spanish-style homes in close proximity to the impending subway line. In addition, law enforcement agencies are enabling the entire process by serving as the enforcers of gentrification with their use of gang injunctions, nuisance abatement, predictive policing, and state-sanctioned violence, all to make the community “safer” for newcomers.

Gentrification has already pushed numerous Black residents out of the area, as they have been enticed to sell, evicted, forced to relocate, imprisoned, or rendered homeless due to the steep increase in home and rental prices. Displacement is most visible with the proliferation of unhoused encampments in and around Dedon Kamathi Park (Leimert Park) and with the RVs parked on the surrounding streets. This, in turn, intensifies the police harassment, repression, and surveillance of the houseless when what’s actually needed are stronger community-based support networks. It’s evident that gentrification is able to flourish in communities that are criminalized, economically marginalized, and where people are oppressed based upon race, gender, class, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, and ability.

However, it will become harder for these forces to continue displacing and erasing our people if we organize community power and resistance through mutual aid and decentralized solidarity networks. Mutual aid is the direct, participatory, reciprocal, and voluntary distribution and exchange of resources, services, and skills among community members. Rather than relying upon charities, corporations, or the state, we can support each other in self-organized and autonomous solidarity networks that facilitate the sharing of resources to build cooperative, intersectional, and sustainable communities.

---

**SPOT IN THE HOOD:**

**SKID ROW COFFEE— FOR THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE**

**BY ARIANA ALCARAZ AND PANCAKE**
Jackie Lacey is the District Attorney (DA) for Los Angeles County including the cities of Los Angeles, Inglewood, Compton, Long Beach, Pasadena, Santa Monica and over 80 other cities in the county. Jackie Lacey is responsible for the prosecution of crimes committed in Los Angeles County. The position of DA is an elected office and she has been in that office since December, 2012. In that nearly six year span of time, she has never prosecuted a police officer or sheriff who was involved in an ‘Officer Involved Shooting’ (OIS). It is important to add here that the City of Los Angeles for most of the time that Lacey has been DA, has had the largest number of what we call ‘murder by cop.’ The number of murders or OIS exceeds 500, when you include those who have died in custody, jail or detainment.

Although Lacey is the first woman and the first African American District Attorney, it is very clear that she does not defend Black communities, nor does she stand up for people of color generally, or any other vulnerable population like: houseless people, poor people, or people with mental health issues. The murders of some of the most vulnerable community members very often occurred when the individuals were unarmed, or they were running away and therefore clearly not threatening the life of an officer.

In September, 2017, Black Lives Matter-LA (BLM-LA) delivered a petition of over 10,000 signatures to Lacey demanding that she prosecute the police who murder, beginning with the five officers who were dismissed by the Inglewood Police Department, after murdering Kisha Michael and Marquian Sandlin while they were sleeping in their car. Lacey ignored the petition, just as she ignores the communities in question. In fact, Jackie Lacey has consistently refused to have a community meeting explaining her lack of prosecution and has ignored all efforts to communicate with her constituents to explain her failure to hold law enforcement accountable.

Since October 2017, BLM-LA, White People for Black Lives, Central CSO, LA-CAN, American Indian Movement (AIM), March and Rally, SDA, Ground Game, SCLC, California for Progress, Youth Justice Coalition, and many others, including families of those murdered by law enforcement have rallied outside her office, at the Hall of Justice, 211 W. Temple St., downtown LA, every Wednesday from 4-6 pm. The call is for her to “Prosecute Killer Cops” or step down. Stand with us as we demand police accountability and to be rid of anyone that refuses to prosecute killer cops. Jackie Lacey must GO!
Labor Day is the celebration of the Labor Movement—a tribute to the contributions and achievements of workers. But for the people in Skid Row it is a day to honor the work of the people who continue to fight for freedom and human rights. It’s recognition of the work to secure our neighborhoods, to fight against police oppression and to build a more vibrant community. And for members of the Los Angeles Community Action Network, this year’s celebration marked the 19th year of resistance and was accented by a day of revelry, music, fellowship and organizing.

Approximately 300 Los Angeles residents from Skid Row and greater Los Angeles crowded the stretch of 6th Street from Gladys to Ceres to celebrate community labor and the victories that LA CAN championed over the past year. The folks in the neighborhood had the opportunity to enjoy a day of chess and dominos, free food, and “Apollo West” – a live show where local artists and performers showcased their talents. “I did my James Brown imitation of ‘Get Up Off That Thang’ and the audience was loving it” said Lee Maupin, a long-time member of LA CAN. Maupin was accompanied in his dance routine by the Skid Row Steppers – an energetic dance group made up of Skid Row women and men. Over 20 people found the courage to go on stage for an “Apollo West” exhibition of singing and dancing performances.

The day was also a day in which neighbors became acquainted with the work of LA CAN. Staff members signed up new members and invited residents to join committee meetings. “It’s important to offer the residents an opportunity to join the fight to defend and improve the civil, housing, and human rights of low-income residents of Los Angeles,” said Paula Escobar, LA CAN Housing Organizer. To get involved in LA CAN please contact us at 838 East 6th Street, 213-228-0024 or trudyb@cangress.org.
BLACK, BROWN, MUSLIM AND IMMIGRANT youth are currently being targeted as “violent extremists.” For the past few decades youth of color have been criminalized as “gang members,” which has justified police brutality and murder, deportation, incarceration and family separation. Now youth are facing the same state violence through new programs and policies labeling them as threats to national security. The following are programs that represent battleground sites in the war on youth:

**Countering Violent Extremism (CVE):** this racist and islamophobic program created by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) labels ordinary behaviors and actions as possible indicators of someone being “radicalized” and/or a “violent extremist.” Even though our people power forced the Mayor to reject a $430,000 grant to implement this in LA, we know CVE is still alive and well through mental health facilities and other social services, police, schools, universities and more.

—**Preventing Violent Extremism in Schools (PVE):** A set of FBI guidelines being implemented in K-12 throughout the country that were created in 2016 and declared various behaviors as possible indicators that a young person could become a “violent extremist.” These behaviors include questioning authority, being too much into your culture, being in poverty, being a migrant, expressing anger/frustration in your school work and more— it criminalizes qualities that are natural to young people! These programs are built off a program called PREVENT in England, which requires all people who work with youth (teachers, doctors, counselors, etc.) to be mandated reporters, actually punishing them if they don’t act as informants for these behaviors.

—**Black Identity Extremism (BIE):** this FBI report that was leaked in 2016 declares that Black youth who are questioning and fighting police brutality are also potentially violent extremists. This is a continuation of a long history of programs that has criminalized Black folks for community organizing and builds on CVE and PVE.

—**MS-13 Narrative:** this narrative has been used for years to criminalize Mexican and Central American youth. Now, according the US military, these youth should be labeled as potential “violent extremists.” The same words from CVE, PVE and BIE are used in this narrative to criminalize Latina/o/x youth.

Individuals and groups of teachers, students, parents and more have been coming together to do workshops, community outreach, creating surveys, art, fliers and building power, demanding information and exposing these programs within our various communities to build a youth-led fight against them.

**Join the fight!** We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at LACAN 838 E. 6th St. LA 90021. You can also reach us at (424) 209-7450 or email at stoplapdspying@gmail.com.

© Linus Shentu
Word In The Hood
By JoJo Smith

THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES RECENTLY ROLLED OUT THE MAYOR’S SHELTER PLAN (MUNICIPAL CODE 56.11)—AN ORDINANCE THAT PROHIBITS PEOPLE FROM STORING PROPERTY ON THE CITY’S SIDEWALKS AT ANY TIME. WE ASKED SEVERAL UNSHELTERED PEOPLE LIVING NEAR THE NEW SHELTER IN THE EL PUEBLO HISTORIC DISTRICT HOW THEY WILL HANDLE THE HEAVY HANDED ENFORCEMENT OF 56.11.

Where will you go when enforcement starts?

HARVEY
I will not be leaving the area! That’s my home!!

Do you know of any housing options?

Yes, but the options that are out there take too long to be processed and by then there’s no more housing. And I don’t qualify for any of the programs that are for drug addicts or alcoholics or people with mental health problems.

Have you tried to find housing? And what happened?

Yes, but the owners of the properties are doing background checks and if you have a record you don’t get housing!

TP
Where will you go when enforcement starts?
Not down to skid row.

Do you know of any housing options?
Yes and no. I lived in a SRO. I had a family emergency and lost my place.

Have you tried to find housing? And what happened?
I don’t know about options outside of skid row.