



Des Moines Mutual Aid Monthly

MAY 2025 — ISSUE #27



City Starts 3-Day Evictions; DMMA Resists Effectively

BY COMRADE PATRICK

Two months ago, the City began enforcing the sweeping anti-homeless ordinance it passed last September. This ordinance made sleeping outside a crime and reduced the notice time for camp evictions from 10 days to 3. Des Moines Mutual Aid pledged

to help campers resist the new ordinance, and set up a warm line to help campers who aren't on our propane routes appeal their evictions.

Our resistance has been effective. Appealing an eviction within the 3-day notice period pauses the eviction until a hearing can be held and a legal ruling issued.

So far this year, we have helped campers appeal three eviction notices. These appeals have each taken six weeks to process—turning what would have been a 3-day eviction into a 44-day delay. If the City intended to speed up evictions with its new ordinance, it has failed.

The City is still making the most of its increasingly oppressive policies, and we have heard dozens of stories from campers who have been threatened with arrest because they are homeless. In early April, campers on the Des Moines River levee were held back from retrieving their belongings by police as city workers threw all of their belongings into a dumpster truck and drove away.

You can help us resist the City's war on the poor by not snitching on campsites - and by referring campers or letting us know about appealable evictions at 515.519.2226 or DMMA.campers@gmail.com. ■

A Thank You and A Promise

BY COMRADE PATRICK AND SUBCOMADANTE RONNIE

Your support made it possible for us to continue our Winter Survival Program for another season, helping our houseless relatives stay safe in a city that is increasing its war on the poor.

You all donated \$34,000 towards this survival program that allowed us to distribute between October and April:

- 130 heaters*
- 250 propane tanks*
- 1,500 propane tank refills*
- Countless amounts of food and water*
- 1.4 million batteries*

This is a huge increase from the year prior. Some of this increase represents more people in tents, but a lot of our new expenses are a result of the city's cruel camp eviction practices. These past few months have been particularly terrible. The City will send eviction crews with little or no notice and destroy everything our neighbors have. Workers throw personal documents, work clothes, medications, and tents into dumpsters. They also destroy campers' heaters and propane tanks, which we then replace. It's war out here.

We would like everyone to know that Des Moines Mutual Aid does not take money from the government or from foundations. We are a revolutionary organization and find our support completely in the community. We have no paid staff and less than 1% overhead, which means that your donations go entirely towards the material goods needed to carry out our programs.

We thank you for your support last year and we promise to continue to help our community survive this year - pending revolution. ■

♥ **Des Moines Mutual Aid**

Abolition Through Mutual Aid

BY SUBCOMADANTE JADE

Waves of large protests are crashing through every city, but those in power will not bother to look out their windows. They make life hell on earth without a second thought. Protests allow participants to feel like they are doing "something." We must realize that rather than shouting about what democracy looks like, other acts exist which actually create a positive material effect on people's lives. Many of these actions involve mutual aid.

Take some local abolition projects from DMMA and the DSM Abolition Coalition: reach out to people who are incarcerated. Not only will this aid in subverting the state's goal of isolating those they deem unfit for participation in capitalist society, but you will learn the in's and out's of the system from those with firsthand experience fighting it, while building great friendships and making connections

along the way. Another materially beneficial action is expunging criminal records that act as roadblocks to pursuing one's means of survival. Currently, we are able to help people with record expungements for most dismissed cases.

Abolition of oppressive systems is a lofty goal, but it will only be achieved by taking strategic steps. The left in this country is historically weak and needs to cultivate a constituency and increase its capacity for action. Building relationships is the foundation for any larger collective action, and these relatively easy actions facilitate this process.

While big flashy protests make for a good photo op, acts of mutual aid are what actually create change in one's day to day experience and allow for sustainable resistance and militancy. Make an effort to grow the web of mutual aid projects in your vicinity now! ■

"I can't stress enough, you can save someone's life with mail. You can build a relationship that changes your entire existence in a good way through letters. So please write prisoners." -Eric King

For more information on the Des Moines Abolition Coalition projects, visit <https://iowamutualaid.org/dsm-abolition-coalition>

Pathetic Deputies, Desperate Fantasies



BY COMRADE CRIXUS

My jobs put me in contact with different groups of people; rural and urban, conservative and liberal (leftists included). Common to all is a terminal naivety and a petty desire for conformity to bourgeois American norms. Given the greedy and genocidal nature of American values, this pedantry paired with a childish worldview provokes volcanic rage in anyone who sees politics for what it is: a struggle for power.

We see these vindictive, petty, American urges expressed regularly. Immediate calls to try teenagers as adults, post-9/11 bloodlust against predominantly Muslim nations, the default American attitude towards the homeless, the willingness to confront shoplifters by employees and bystanders at retailers, defenders of police murders, etc. Conservatives obviously hold these views, but liberals do as well. Democrat coworkers are enthusiastic while hunting shoplifters—and what is San Francisco now but a haven for hippies who seek to crucify the homeless?

Appeals to the goodwill of politicians get us nowhere and organizations which lobby the heartless to act with kindness are a detriment.

The maximum difficulty liberals desire for the Trump administration is consequences for breaking the law. As if even the most fantastical punishment could have any actual political consequence, as if even firing almost the entire administration somehow would be substantial. Childish concern for the law is characteristic of petty naivety. Americans lack desire for power because many Americans have their needs satisfied by global violence which sustains them and the system they task themselves with enforcing the details of. This is not politics.

Political action and theory must be as heartless as the political world itself. Appeals to the goodwill of politicians get us nowhere and organizations which lobby the heartless to act with kindness are a detriment. Authentic political understanding sees the law as a tool to be used or discarded depending on the moment. Politics is about power, nothing else. The task for whatever revolutionary elements exist in the US is the establishment of organizations which can seize power and exercise it mercilessly against our enemies. ■



An Introduction to Cop Watching

Why not?

BY SUBCOMANDANTE AMENAZA & SUBCOMADANTE RONNIE

Cop Watch is the tactic of monitoring the pigs as they interact with our people in the community, in an attempt to hold them more accountable than if they believed no one was watching them. This can include, but is not limited to, filming interactions, making your presence known, or advising—as appropriate.

This tactic was popularized by the Black Panthers and the American Indian Movement in the late 1960's to try to prevent the rampant police violence in their neighborhoods. They would follow and monitor pig activity, usually while armed, and saw a lot of success in preventing harm against their neighbors.

Modern cop-watchers follow the police for the same reasons. Today, the tools used are more technological: scanner apps to monitor the area and cell phones to film. Some strategies never change: advising the victim to not talk, having a basic knowledge of legal rights, not going alone. The boldest of us will verbally harass the pigs to take focus off the victim.

This author likes to listen to the scanner app as they drive around pig hotspots, this way they can arrive quickly to an interaction. Once arriving, keep a safe distance and start filming the pigs. Keep the detained out of the video as much as possible: you are focused on the pigs behavior.

If you encounter a violent situation, your personal level of skill will determine how you will intervene. Stopping violence is more important than filming, but your skills

and experience will determine what you can actually do.

For more information and to get started protecting your neighborhood, check out justicecommittee.org/cop-watch. ■



Remember the Martyrs, Celebrate May Day

BY SUBCOMADANTE JADE

The month of May is rung in with a celebration of International Workers Day, or May Day, on May first for many people around the world. However, in true amerikkkan fashion, this bit of radical history, which was initiated in Chicago, has been erased and replaced by a weak attempt at acknowledging workers on Labor Day in September. They are joined in this reactionary “celebration” by fellow settler colonies, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

The historical origin of May Day is the Haymarket Affair/Massacre in 1886. A general strike in support of the eight-hour workday commenced May first in Chicago's Haymarket Square with forty to sixty thousand participants. On May third, cops fired into the crowd, killing

six strikers and escalating the violence. A bomb was thrown, and the state used it as justification for sentencing seven anarchist union organizers to death (four were eventually killed, one committed suicide in jail) and launching a large scale campaign of raiding radical unions and other leftwing organizations across the nation.

The Haymarket Affair uplifted the eight hour workday to the forefront of political issues, and after decades of more radical union action, the labor movement eventually succeeded in winning workers weekend and overtime rights in the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act. Today, May Day is a day of remembrance, celebration, and appreciation for the martyrs of the class war, as well as current workers who share their dream of a world where labor is entitled to all it produces. ■



THE HAYMARKET MASSACRE, 1886

Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to form a word. Answer key upside down below:

SOLIDARITY MAY DAY RESISTANCE FUCK THE POLICE ABOLITION DIALECTICS

DSITYORLIA

LMAUUT ADI

YAM DYA

INRSEATCSE

KUCF TEH CELOIP

HGOYNEME

OIBONLAIT

LERVONOIUT

CADISELTIC

In Loving Memory of Comrades KT and Gary