

## DES MOINES MUTUAL AID EVICTION INFO - SEPTEMBER 2024

The City Council has passed two ordinances which criminalize homelessness and make it easier for them to evict you from your camp. The council says this is part of an effort to help you. **This is a lie.** The government is helping capitalists in the real estate and land development business - their rich friends. Below is a brief summary of how these ordinances will affect you, and what our response is.

City Code 102-8 **shortens the eviction appeal window from 10 days to 3 days.** When you see an eviction notice at your camp, you must appeal it within 72 hours of the posting time or you will be evicted any time after the 3 day period.

City Code 102-4 makes it a **misdemeanor to camp or sleep on public property anywhere in Des Moines.** Cops can show up to your camp or where you are sleeping and demand you come with them to a shelter. If you refuse, you may be arrested. The charge carries a \$15 dollar fine and no jail time as punishment. You may still be taken to jail until you see a judge the next morning. **This ordinance also allows them to evict your camp with only 24 hours notice and no chance to appeal.** It may be more likely that a 24-hour eviction happens if you are sleeping on a city bench, sidewalk, or under a bridge.

There is still a lot we don't know about how the city will enforce these new laws. We will try our best to help you fight them.

We have set up a text line to respond to camp evictions. We will respond to messages as quickly as we can. If your camp receives a 3-day eviction notice, you should fill out and sign an appeal form and text or email the form, along with a photo of the eviction notice, to **515.519.2226** or **DMMA.campers@gmail.com.**

**Note that this line is ONLY for evictions and arrests. Do NOT message it about receiving other forms of aid.**

If you don't have an eviction appeal form, you can write your own appeal and send us a photo. You **must** include the date, location, your name, and signature, write neatly, and include a photo of the original eviction notice. We will submit the appeal to the city for you, which should buy you a few extra weeks.

If you are arrested for camping, let us know by leaving a message at 515.519.2226. **We do not yet know what the legal process for this will look like,** but we will do our best to help people charged under the new ordinance. According to the ordinance, you should be able to tell the court that you don't have money to pay their fines and not be forced to pay them.

**These are not complete solutions.** Hundreds of people protested the city's new laws, but the government passed them anyway, because this is a government of, by, and for the rich. The only solution to these laws and to homelessness in general is making housing freely available to all. This is not possible until the current ruling class is overthrown by force. This will not happen tomorrow, and so until the revolution is achieved, we will fight to help you survive today.