



DC JUSTICE & SOLIDARITY

STREET TEAM NOTES

Intro:

The info and resource material in this doc is intended to assist you in being the most effective advocate for activists on the street that you can be. Feel free to be more brilliant & have better ideas about how this should be done than those who wrote this info piece. If you're not from DC, Welcome. If you enjoy doing this stuff, start up a legal collective when you get home – we are everywhere. Have fun on the street, be safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other and don't take on anything that's at a higher risk level than you're comfortable with. We hope you don't get arrested, but if you do, folks will be tracking you & there'll be BIG HUGS when you get out. We Love you!

What to do:

Designate a landline number: Designate a landline number that folks who are arrested should call into. Depending on the size and nature of the actions planned, folks calling in street reports can call into the same number OR an alternative number (which can be a cell phone) can be designated for street reports. This leaves the landline open for arrestees cuz **you can't call a cell phone from a DC jail.**

Give out the phone number(s): Get the **ACTIVIST SUPPORT number(s)** out to as many activists as possible. If using one number for arrestees & another for street reporting → get both out with explanations of each. If only using one number get it out to everybody !!!!

Note: Whenever possible, supply people w/ a waterproof marker they can use to write the numbers on themselves (or do it for them & hold on to your marker). Encourage this because property will be confiscated if arrested.

Provide Know Your Rights information: Get the *Know Your Rights in DC* 1/2 pager out to as many activists as possible. The information it provides will empower folks on the street and supply them with info about their rights and choices if they do get arrested.

Also, be aware that many homeless people live downtown. Harassment of the homeless is on the rise in DC. Don't just help "activists." Please monitor police harassment and arrest of the homeless, and of other members of our community, as well.

April 2005

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Note: If you are familiar w/ DC Law you should feel free to provide on-the-spot training to those who ask for it and respond to general questions that you know the answers to.

BE ADVISED: The Collective does not provide legal advice, and would strongly encourage that others do not either, unless they are attorneys who are licensed to practice within the District of Columbia.

Call into the Support Number that has been designated for Street Reports on a regular basis: You are the eyes and ears on the street for those staffing the support office (or phone line absent an actual office space) & those folks (and we in the Collective who drafted this doc) LOVE you for it!!!

There are two types of Reports from to call in with from the street:

- 1) **Report Hot Spots** so that folks can get lawyers on the scene and relay the info to the Legal Observer coordinators (if they are being used for your action) so that Legal Observers will be dispatched as well.
- 2) **REPORT ARRESTS FOR TRACKING:** This is, in many ways, your most important role. The **primary function** of the Collective's support model being described here is to **track those** who are **arrested** or otherwise detained and **provide** them with **any subsequent jail and court support** that they might need.

When you see people being arrested, get as much information as you can about: people who were arrested, the location where the arrest took place, and the precinct or other holding facility to which they are being transported. You will often be able to get this last piece of information directly from the police on the scene.

It is often difficult to speak directly to the activist being arrested, therefore you should pay close attention to those who appear to be in her / his affinity group and approach them for information. You want to make sure that those individuals have the support number to call at a later time.

The info you want to report in on the arrested folks includes: name (if they'll be giving it – or what they will give/ how we should identify them for tracking), arrest intentions (do they want/need to get out right away), are they a non-citizen, are they a minor, are they queer, transgender, or otherwise high risk? None of the risk related questions should be asked within earshot of police. Police overhearing an activist's response to a question about risk would violate that activist's privacy and could make them vulnerable by making their risk info public.

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Time management issue: Remember, if time is limited find out how many were arrested & where they are being taken. Get the basic facts on everybody. At the very least, record the location of arrest, the number of people, find out where they're being taken and get the gender and risk make-up of the group. Then tell their support people to call us w/ the details.

Support Folks Tracking Arrests would rather have limited info on everyone (w/ more info to follow from friends), then have full detail on some while there are others in the system that we don't know about & can't track.

Be Observant and Take Good Pictures: You ARE NOT a Legal Observer because those who fill that role during an action are required to remain neutral. Also, they are covered by an attorney's privilege which protects collected evidence. YOU ARE NOT!!

You are an activist's advocate & can bear witness to their experience in ways that have the potential to help them in criminal or civil litigation that may arise. Also, cops might be less likely to hurt people if they know the misconduct is being photographed or otherwise recorded.

Note: A checklist of info is included at the end of this doc between the list of suggested items to bring and the important phone numbers to have on hand. The checklist is adapted from the materials used by Legal Observers, so it should assist you in getting the vital info on a particular situation or hotspot that would be most useful later.

Important note about note-taking

When you ARE working with an attorney who has agreed to support your action the notes that you take are considered Work Product. This means that they are considered a private part of the relationship between you and the attorney working with you. Work Product is privileged. Privilege, in this case, is a type of privacy that protects written material. This means that police can't require that it be turned over to them.

When you ARE NOT working with an attorney on your action the notes that you take are not protected by the Work Product Privilege described above (that many of us associate with NLG Legal Observers). This means that police CAN Claim that you are required to turn notes over to them. You may want to talk to an attorney about this and other issues.

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What to Bring:

- 1) Cell Phones
- 2) Cameras
- 3) Pad of paper
- 4) Pens (for note taking)
- 5) Markers (for writing the number on activists)
- 6) *Know Your Rights in DC* Double-sided 1/2 Pagers (as many as you can carry to pass out to activists)
- 7) Armband OR some other identifier that your action organizers have decided on (wear this so that you can be identified as Street Team)
- 8) THIS PACKET (you'll find the checklist and numbers at the back valuable on the street)
- 9) Any maps, schedules, or calendars of events that have been made in conjunction with your action

Vital Info Checklist: info worth getting & sharing with appropriate support folks on any incidents you observe (look at the info above on note-taking as you consider when &w best to supply this info)

- 1) Your Name & Contact Info
- 2) Date/Time of Incident
- 3) Location
- 4) Weather & Lighting Conditions
- 5) Brief Description
- 6) Any pictures or video?
- 7) Contact info for photographer
- 8) Police agencies & names & badge numbers of officers involved
- 9) Did police use force?
- 10) Was anyone injured?
- 11) Contact information for other witnesses
- 12) Additional information, observations

These steps provided by the D.C. Justice and Solidarity Collective.
We do not operate as lawyers. We do not give out legal advice. We do want to change the world.

Love and Solidarity, DC J&S, (202) 544-8611
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS and CONTACT INFO

Note: This list was last updated for 2005 INAUGURATION ACTIONS

DC Justice & Solidarity Collective:

202-544-8611

We love you!! We drafted this doc so that folks could do this work with or without us.

If you're reviewing this while planning: give us a call with questions, for support, for encouragement, or to suggest better ways to do this work if you have any.

If the day of an action and you're in the midst of doing street support: We love you & know you are doing a kick ass job!!! Call the number that was designated for your action!!!!

If you're in a crunch and want to reach us: Know that our number usually runs to a voice mail (which is checked regularly) EXCEPT when use of the number as a activist support hotline has been pre-arranged!!!

Police:

Police Information (non-emergency):		311
Public Information:		727-4383
Mayor:		727-2980
Chief of Staff:		727-2643
First District:	415 4 th Street, SW	727-4644
Substation:	500 E Street, SE	727-4660
Second District:	3320 Idaho Ave., NW	282-0070
Note:	off Wisconsin Avenue above Massachusetts, NW	
Third District:	1624 V Street, NW	673-6815 673-6930
Fourth District:	6001 Georgia Ave., NW	576-6745
Fifth District:	1805 Bladensburg Rd., NE	727-4510
Sixth District:	100 42 nd Street, NE	727-4520 727-4958
Substation:	2701 Pennsylvania Ave., SE	727-3622
Seventh District:	2455 Alabama Ave., SE	698-1500

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DC Police / Courts (Other):

Blue Plains	4665 Blue Plains Dr., SE	645-0055
Note: Training Academy sometimes used for mass arrest processing. Located off Pennsylvania Ave. SE		
Police Headquarters:	300 Indiana Ave, NW	727-2713
Central Cellblock:	300 Indiana Ave., NW	727-4222
(located at Police Headquarters)		
US Marshal:		616-8581
Central ROC	501 New York Ave., NW	727-2894
Special Operations Division		727-4641
Note: in-charge of permitted demos		
US Capitol Police		
Headquarters:	119 D Street, NE	228-2800
US Park Police	1100 Ohio Dr., SW	619-7105
Note: No holding facility		
DC Superior Court		879-1010
5 th & Indiana Avenue, NW		
Judiciary Square Metro Stop – red line.		
Note: Arraignments held in C-10		
Pre-Trial Services		585-7030

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