

COALITION AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT AND BRUTALITY

The following demands arise out of our organizing work in the Downtown Eastside and in East Vancouver. Eye witness reports and testimonials from residents indicate a persistent pattern of police harassment and violence—illegal body searches, routine verbal and physical assaults on residents, racist law enforcement, non-response to violence against women, and other enforcement strategies that seem to have no purpose other than driving people into other areas of the city. Police officers often don't wear visible badge numbers, making it even more difficult to file a complaint. And complaints that are filed are investigated by the police themselves.

Due to this gross violation of the basic civil liberties of residents, and the lack of police accountability, the Coalition Against Police Harassment and Brutality demand that the Vancouver Police Board act on the following:

Our Demands to the Vancouver Police Board

- 1. That the Vancouver Police Board ensure that officers of the Vancouver Police Department abide by the Code of Professional Conduct and the Police Act, and do not contravene the Criminal Code.** In particular:
 - (a) all officers must wear VISIBLE badge numbers at all times;
 - (b) there must be an immediate end to all unlawful and extra-judicial police violence;
 - (c) Vancouver police officers must treat ALL members of the public with respect.
- 2. That the Vancouver Police Department prioritize crimes against people over crimes against property.** In particular,
 - (a) the VPD must respond to all calls for service when crimes against the person are involved;
 - (b) the VPD must end its record of non-response to violence against women;
 - (c) the status of the investigation into the missing women of the Downtown Eastside must be fully and publicly disclosed by April 1, 2000.
- 3. That the Vancouver Police Board must take steps to ensure that the Vancouver Police Department is fully accountable to all residents of Vancouver.** In particular:
 - (a) There must be full public disclosure of the DEEPS report (Downtown Eastside Extraordinary Policing Strategy) no later than April 1, 2000.
 - (b) Full public disclosure of records of complaints made to the Vancouver Police Department Complaints Commissioner including: any disciplinary action taken against police officers found guilty of abuse or records of cash settlements paid by the city to victims of police abuse.
 - (c) Full disclosure of the Vancouver Police Department Budget.
 - (d) Full public disclosure of the Vancouver Police Board's Drug Policy by April 1, 2000.
- 4. That there be no private funding of Vancouver Police Department operations or infrastructure.**
- 5. That there be on-going, open, and direct dialogue between the Vancouver Police Board and the residents of Vancouver.** Specifically, that a method of communication with the Police Board and a means to follow up on the above demands be decided at the meeting today (*Tuesday, March 21, 2000*).

We recognize that these demands are limited in scope. The Coalition Against Police Harassment and Brutality will continue to organize and mobilize around these issues in our long-term campaign to stop police harassment and brutality and to fight for community control of police.

Join us! Come out to the monthly Coalition meeting. Call us for details.

Vancouver Coalition Against Police Harassment and Brutality phone for info: 683.7123

The Vancouver Coalition Against Police Harassment and Brutality is a loose coalition of groups and individuals united on the following goals:

- To expose police violence and abuse of power
- To deter police violence through the monitoring of police activities
- To mobilize the people directly affected by police violence and targeted policing
- To challenge discriminatory law enforcement and the non-response of police to violence against women
- To attain justice for victims of police brutality and targeted policing
- To stop the expansion of police force, powers, spending, and technology
- To fight the political isolation of targeted groups through wide-ranging acts of solidarity.

"Keep 6" teams, a project of the Coalition, observe and document cases of police violence and gather evidence on offending officers. For more info about the Coalition or if you wish to get involved in Keep 6 patrols, call: 683-7123.

Welcome to a Special Meeting of the Vancouver Police Board

Residents of the Downtown Eastside have demanded and won this "special meeting" with the Vancouver Police Board, the body that governs the Vancouver Police Department. In regular monthly Police Board meetings, residents are not allowed to speak. *Tonight, residents have the chance to talk about their experiences of police harassment and violence. Speak out!*

Agenda

- 4:30—4:45pm: Opening Comments (*Thia Walter, Downtown Eastside resident*)
- 4:45—5:45pm: Open Forum (*comments from the floor*)
- 5:45—6:00pm: Presentation by members of the resident team
- Ann Livingston, resident, Project Coordinator of Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)
 - Thia Walter, resident, Coalition Against Police Harassment and Brutality
- 6:00—6:30pm: Focused discussion between resident team and Vancouver Police Board