

The Woodwards 54

by Friends of the Woodwards Squat • Sunday September 22, 2002 at 12:54 AM  
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Summary Report from the Courthouse: 21 September 2002

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The 54 residents of the Woodwards Squat who were arrested this morning were brought before a judge in twelve groups of three, four and five, between 11:15am and 1:50pm. The exceptions to this procedure were the four people treated as minors. These four appeared individually after 1:50pm. The conditions for their release were negotiated in closed chambers with a representative from Social Services. The prisoners were not permitted to speak with legal council prior to their appearance in the courtroom and were prohibited from speaking with council as a group.

Several of the native leaders had their shoes confiscated while being held in cells then forced to appear in the courtroom without them.

Given the choice between remaining in captivity until November 7th, the date of their hearing, and agreeing to four conditions of release, 53 of the 54 adult residents chose the latter. These include four "promises."

"I promise that I will strictly comply with the terms of the attached order and will otherwise keep the peace."

"I promise that I will not enter onto the Lands ... or any structure or building on the Lands, or encourage or counsel others to enter onto the Lands, without the express authorization of the Plaintiff."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the operations of the Plaintiff, or its agents or employees, on the Lands or in any structure or building on the Lands."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the access to, or egress from, the Lands or any building or structure on the Lands, by the Plaintiff or its agents or employees."

The one resident who declined these conditions was taken to the North Fraser Remand Centre and will appear in court again on Monday morning. In reply to demands for the return of clothing, medication, blankets, and other personal objects, the Vancouver Police offered to prepare an inventory to be ready next week. Many of these items, however, are required immediately.

Detailed accounts and documentation of police actions during their violent eviction are in preparation.

Supporters are invited to attend a community picnic tomorrow (Sunday September 22nd) between 1 & 3pm. Bring food, instruments, clothing, blankets, water and an appetite for social housing!

Friends of the Woodwards Squat

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Photographs, video, audio, updates: <http://vancouver.indymedia.org>  
A History of Vancouver Squatting: <http://www.geocities.com/emithsilas>  
International Squatting News: <http://www.squat.net>