

Subject: Woodward's Squat needs supportive witnesses  
Date: Tue, 29 Oct 2002 17:16:04 -0800  
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References: <200210161737.aa20156@medinet.medi.net>

To subscribers to the Email list of Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery

Friends

The persons inhabiting the tent city around the Woodward's building are very appreciative of the food and financial help that has made sanitary facilities available.

At a squatters meeting I attended today, they expressed concern that the public would believe the media reports of threatening comments of a few persons, mostly not squatters themselves. This was certainly not the tone of the meeting I attended, which focussed on the original purpose of the squat, to call public and governments attention to the plight of the homeless. They want a non-violent solution, and realize they may have to move elsewhere - and not into privately owned buildings. But there is simply not enough housing available except some shelter in some pretty noisy, squalid places.

Whether the injunction is granted to clear the Woodward's Squat tomorrow, they are seeking some sign that the home-dwelling public has some understanding and concern for them.

They are asking that some of "my type of folks" drop by the squat at noon tomorrow - to speak a word of support if you wish, or just to stand across the street and be silent but supportive witnesses. You are not being asked to intervene if anything "untoward" happens - WHICH THE LEADERS HOPE TO AVOID - but to be observant, to make notes if that seems appropriate. If you wear a white band on your arm, one of them may contact you, but that's certainly not necessary.

What was necessary today was food, and thanks to recent donations, 2 of the residents and I were able to bring in \$200 worth of food, plates and cups. That will last a day or two.

I am out of town until Nov 6th and am concerned that the United Church presence - which is recognized and appreciated - continue during this very tense time.

VAN-BURRARD, THIS IS YOUR BACK YARD - THESE ARE YOUR NEIGHBOURS. I am confident that some of you will be able to be faithful public witnesses tomorrow. Bless you.

Susan Lindenberger

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