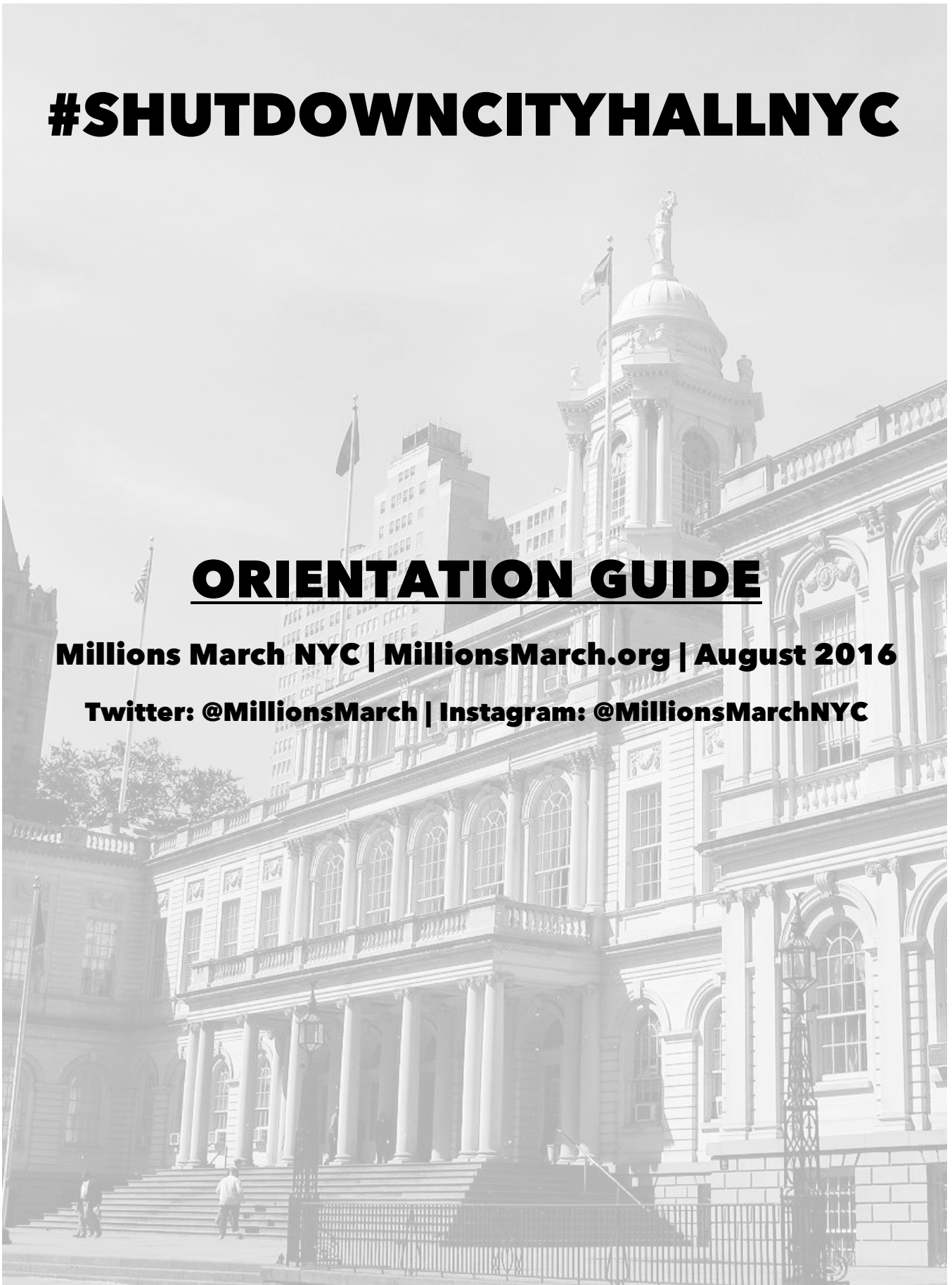


#SHUTDOWNCITYHALLNYC

ORIENTATION GUIDE

Millions March NYC | MillionsMarch.org | August 2016

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WHO WE ARE

We are a network of revolutionary political organizers dedicated to the abolition of the repressive apparatus of the U.S. state, which includes but is not limited to the police, judicial system, prison system, and major political parties. These institutions are the nation's domestic arm of the global capitalist system that continues to exploit, murder, and wreak havoc on the world's people and the planet itself. As the system and its oppressive institutions have proven time and again that they cannot and will not reform themselves, we demand their immediate abolition.

WHY WE CALLED THIS ACTION

As the global economic situation deteriorates, so it does locally. Rather than take steps to eliminate problems affecting Black, Brown, and working-class communities, New York City's elite—and the politicians that line their pockets—choose to enhance the power of the racist police, giving them free reign to prey on the city's most marginalized residents. Instead of investing in our communities, city government continues to pour money and other resources into bolstering an occupying army that relentlessly targets, harasses, brutalizes, and murders Black and Brown people with impunity—the racist, sexist, anti-queer NYPD.

Over the past 2 years, the movement for Black lives has consistently been in the streets of NYC, marching and protesting for justice for Black people executed by state-sanctioned police murder. We've seen some small wins, such as the conviction of former NYPD officer Peter Liang in the murder of Akai Gurley at East New York's Pink Houses—the first conviction of an NYPD officer in 10 years—but the conviction was quickly overturned by a Black District Attorney and an Asian judge, sentencing Peter Liang to zero jail time. At every step of Akai Gurley's case, people of color employed within the so-called “justice” system have enforced white supremacy—revealing how these oppressive apparatuses have only expanded through our assimilation.

It is clear that this system will never hold itself accountable, and inclusion into the amerikkkan empire will never lead to liberation. We are currently living under a Black president and here in NYC, a self-proclaimed progressive mayor who ran on a platform of police reform. Yet Mayor de Blasio and NY City Council chose to hire more than 1,300 new kkkops instead of invest in the actual safety of our communities through jobs with a \$15/hr minimum wage, education, healthcare, and alternatives to the police, such as mental health first responders.

Amerikkka was never great and never will be. It is a country founded on the genocide of Indigenous peoples and enslavement of Black people. A nation built on stolen land, stolen labor and stolen lives. We must build our own power in our communities, forming a mass, militant and integrated abolitionist movement separate from the state and two-party capitalist system. We have to stand against the pigs, who function as the enforcement arm of the white supremacist capitalist patriarchy. We ready, we've had enough.

OUR IMMEDIATE DEMANDS:

1. Fire NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton and end Broken Windows policing
2. Defund the NYPD and invest in Black, Brown, and working-class communities
3. Reparations for the victims' families and survivors of police terrorism from NYPD's budget

WHY ABOLITION AND NOT REFORM

Policing is a violent, anti-Black institution that originated as slave patrols and expanded into the domestic occupying force seen today in working-class communities and communities of color. Yesterday's plantation is today's penitentiary. On any given day there are 2.5 million people in amerikkka's cages, making up 25% of the world's incarcerated population, and over 7 million people under community surveillance and control of probation and parole entities. The prison-industrial complex has become one of the most profitable industries on the planet, enforcing a world of exploitation, white supremacy, repression and occupation from the boroughs of New York City to Palestine to the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond.

We often hear that we should push for gradual change and incremental progress, but this type of language only serves the politicians peddling it—giving them ample time to negotiate with parasitic elites and pacify our anger while finding other means to exercise control over us. Reforms to the social, political, and economic system typically involve providing conciliations to those making demands while keeping intact the relations between the exploiters and the exploited. This approach leaves the root of the problem untouched: at its core, the system sold to us by politicians and brutally enforced by repressive organs of the state—the police, courts, and prisons—is not broken and thus cannot be fixed. This system is working exactly as intended.

This is why we fight for the abolition of policing and prisons and will not be fooled or derailed by fake reforms like body cameras and so-called community policing, which further increase the budget and power of the racist and brutal NYPD.

WHAT IS BROKEN WINDOWS POLICING?

For the second time in NYC history, Bill Bratton is NYPD commissioner—a decision made this time around by Mayor Bill de Blasio. Bratton first served as NYC police commissioner for notoriously racist Rudy Giuliani and is known as the architect of Broken Windows policing—a policing method that Frederick Douglass presciently summarized in 1845: “The slaveowner's plan was to whip for the smallest offenses, to prevent the commission of large ones.”

Broken Windows policing is a type of policing where people in urban environments are heavily monitored and targeted for so-called quality of life crimes. Generally, these are very small infractions ranging from subway-related behaviors—performing in subway cars, panhandling, asking for subway fare—to riding bikes through stop signs. The police use racist predictive policing algorithms to determine which neighborhoods should be targeted, and they are almost always communities of color. People are routinely harassed, fined, and arrested for harmless infractions. The revenue coming in from Broken Windows policing goes to city government, and those funds are then reinvested into the policing apparatus. The police then use the data it collects, designating areas as “high crime”, to justify its continued existence and presence in our neighborhoods.

In New York City, jumping a subway turnstile is among the top charges leading to incarceration. Of those arrested for jumping turnstiles last year, 92% were people of color. In 2015 alone, 26,678 Black, Latinx, and Asian people were arrested on the charge of theft of services vs. 2,291 white people. While killer kkkops continue to roam free on paid leave, tens of thousands of people in communities of color are locked up for not having a \$2.75 subway fare.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES

1. Absolutely no cooperation with or involvement of NYPD or any other law enforcement entity
2. No closed-door discussions with politicians regarding #ShutdownCityHallNYC
3. Inflict no physical or mental harm to others

*Breaking any of the community agreements is grounds for automatic removal from shutdown

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING HARASSMENT, WILL BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Security: Look for people with YELLOW fist flags, they will handle all emergency situations, including leading the crowd in case of immediate need for mobilization.

Medical: Look for people with RED fist flags.

Legal/Arrest Assistance: Look for NLG Legal Observers in bright green caps and our legal/jail support team with ORANGE flags.

LEGAL INFORMATION

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

by Bina Ahmad, Esq.

Best Practices for Action Prep:

- NLG NYC: 212-679-6018 - write this number on your arm. Call to report arrests, even yours!
- Do not carry anything that you would not wish to show the police.
- Lock your phone with a pin or passphrase so police can't look at your phone without a warrant.
- Carry medications in their original prescription bottles, to avoid drug possession charges. Know, however, police cannot allow arrestees to hold their meds, but will take them to a hospital to have medication administered. (It's a liability issue.)
- Always be mindful of your level of privilege, especially in relation to the people around you, many of whom might face much more serious/damaging consequences if arrested.
- Operate on a buddy system while at the protest. Make sure either that you and your buddy discuss the level of risk you each feel is acceptable, and agree upon the kinds of actions in which you feel comfortable participating.

INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING ARREST:

- Remember the 5 key phrases:
 - **Am I free to go?** (if the answer is yes, then go!)
 - **Am I being detained?** (if the answer is no, then go!)
 - **I Do Not Consent to This Search:** For maximum safety, assert *verbally* that you do not consent to searches of your bags or your person by saying this loud and clear! (If you are detained, police may pat down the outside of your clothes to check for weapons, but they may *not* look inside your bags or pockets at this point *without your consent*. If you are arrested, you *will* be searched. As long as you feel that it won't endanger you, it can be a good idea to invoke your right against unwanted searches, even if the search is legal.
 - **I AM GOING TO REMAIN SILENT, AND I WANT TO SPEAK TO A LAWYER!**
 - Once you're arrested, this is the one and only thing you should say to, or even in front of police. You must say it in those words, and you must then remain silent. Make the most of your time with comrades and others in the jail, but do not discuss the circumstances of your arrest to anyone other than your lawyer, especially over jail or precinct phones.
- Physically resisting an arrest will almost certainly lead to additional, and more serious charges. Say: **I AM NOT RESISTING!** Be aware of the consequences of your choices, for you and others.

* Do not sign anything, except your DAT slip if you are being released. Do not speak to anyone about the details of your case. DO give your basic biographical information, and, if you are

being held over, DO respond to the CJA interviewer, who is not law enforcement, and will ask only questions about your community ties.

* Under no circumstances reveal to anyone other than your attorney your citizenship status, your parole/probation status, or whether you have any open cases or warrants. Talking about any of those issues, or any of the circumstances leading up to your arrest, to friends or family, on social media, or to the press, can greatly compromise your lawyer's ability to fight your case!

IF YOU WITNESS ARRESTS OR MISCONDUCT:

- Please be aware that shouting often obscures efforts to document police misconduct and gather information critical to protecting the arrestee.
- Write down **time & location**; arrestee's **legal name & birthdate**; **cop's name & badge number**
- Give this information to a Legal Observer (LO), another legal/jail support team member, and/or call it into the NLG at 212-679-6018
- If you see cops who are arresting or assaulting people, or who are failing to prevent other officers from engaging in misconduct, write down their names and badge numbers.
- It is your right to film the police "within a reasonable distance."
- If police give you orders to move, repeat their words, and indicate your compliance verbally.
- It is up to you to balance your safety and desire to stay where you can film. Sometimes, leaving voluntarily with your footage intact can be the safest option for you and others.
- Get the consent of those you have recorded, and consult their attorney *before* posting any video/photos you take. This will prevent your video from being used *against* protesters!

Most of all, HAVE EACH OTHER'S BACKS, today and every day.

- The way we support each other makes our work more effective and sustainable
- Infighting works to dismantle our work and efficacy. Liberation is collective or it is not at all.
- Actively work to lift up the voices of those most directly affected.