



*"Brothers and sisters, crying out is a form of dreaming. And your dreams are heard far away. We echo them, all who struggle echo them, because, throughout the world, everyone shares them." . . .*  
*Subcomandante Marcos*

# RESIST! AN ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO THE RNC IN TAMPA

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“To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance.  
To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar  
disparity of life around you. To see joy in the saddest places. To  
pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated  
or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power.  
Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away.  
And never, never, to forget.”  
~ Arundhati Roy

our inequitable society and spread an alternative understanding of anti-authoritarianism and anti-capitalism. We will be working on local projects, such as repairing and weathering houses or environmental cleanup. We choose to arm ourselves, not with bricks or bombs, but with the only tools necessary to truly build: the desire, courage, and commitment to turn our dreams into reality... and maybe a few hammers, nails, and recycle bins!

2pm -- Women Are Watching March Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, 1001 North Boulevard, Tampa | | Women are Watching is Planned Parenthood's campaign to educate women across the country about the unprecedented attacks on women's health and where candidates stand on pivotal health care issues, empower women to hold anti-women's health candidates of either party accountable, and work to elect pro-women's health candidates.

6pm -- Welcome to Mitt Romney's America Downtown Tampa Official Parade Route. Tampa | | This event will look a lot like a carnival but will showcase what will happen to America if Mitt Romney is elected President in November.

## Thursday, August 30

Shut Down Bain Capital (details TBA) | | Bain Capital was co-founded by Mitt Romney. It has taken part in many "hostile takeovers" which included laying off workers and selling companies for spare parts.

The Crowning of the Moonchild: A Puppet Tribute to Mitt Romney TBA, Tampa

## Friday, August 31

6:30 – 8 pm -- Democracy Now's Amy Goodman Fundraiser for WMNF 88.5 FM The Palladium. 253 5th Street N. St Petersburg

Caravan to the Democratic National Convention. TBA.

For complete list of events, go to <http://resistrnc.org/events/>

concerned citizens. Members of the 99% will testify and give witness to the pain that ordinary Americans have suffered in this recession caused and prolonged by the reckless greed of the 1%.

### **Monday, August 27**

10am -- March On The RNC Perry Harvey Snr Park 1200 N. Orange Ave. Tampa || The Coalition to March On The RNC cordially invites you to March On The RNC! Join groups such as GetEQUAL, Students for a Democratic Society, Veterans For Peace, and CODE PINK as WE DEMAND: Good Jobs, Healthcare, Affordable Education, Equality and Peace. Say NO to the Republican Agenda! Money for human needs, not for corporate greed!

3pm -- March for Our Lives Romneyville 1213 N. Tampa St. Tampa || This is a March of the Homeless, the Poor, the Unemployed and Supporters to call for a stop to all foreclosures, stop the criminalization of the poor and homeless, housing and food are human rights!!

8pm -- Celebration of Resistance at the RNC New World Brewery. 1313 E 8th Ave, Tampa || Join us as we celebrate the struggle for diversity, tolerance, peace, social and economic justice (and of course the right to RAISE A LITTLE HELL) with: David Rovics, Freedom Hall, Vermin Supreme, Ritt Momney, and VJ Flux.

11pm -- Roving Radical Dance Party Centennial Park. 1800 E. 8th ave. Tampa || Let's dance like this world is ending and another one is being born. We are radical anarchists asking republicans to dance "cause what's the chance of anybody moving from right to left if the only moves they see are NBC and CBS?" and bring your mp3 player, ipod, etc. with your own music, so if the beats get shut down, the dancing won't be. ;)

### **Tuesday, August 28**

12pm -- Really Really Free Market Voice of Freedom Park. 2101 W. Main St, Tampa || Experience an alternative to capitalism: SHARING! FREE books, toys, games, seeds, household items, food, massage, skillshare, music, fun, and anything else YOU feel like giving!

5pm -- Rally and March Against Voter Suppression @ the RNC Centennial Park, 1800 E. 8th Ave, Tampa || Florida's march at the RNC to push back against the republican efforts to criminalize and disenfranchise communities of color.

### **Wednesday, August 29**

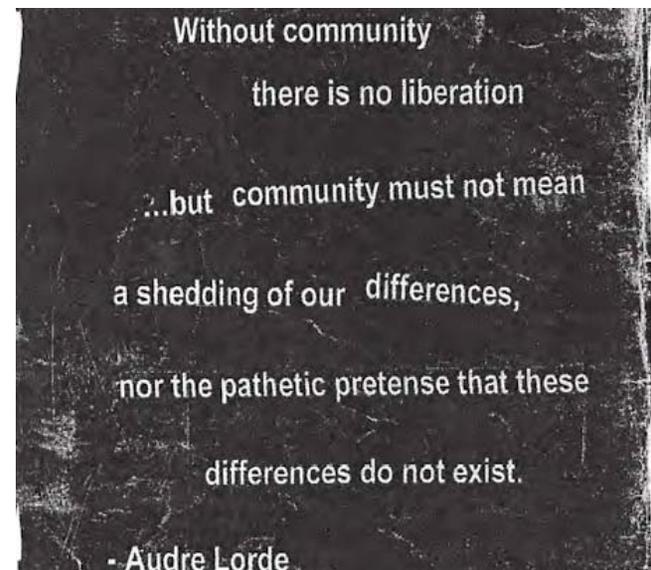
10am-5pm -- Fix Shit Up!!! Voice of Freedom Park, 2101 W. Main St. Tampa || Fix Shit Up aims to rebuild and restructure

## **WELCOME TO VOICE OF FREEDOM**

During the RNC many events will be held at Voice of Freedom Park located in Old West Tampa. Even though those of us who are writing this welcome pamphlet are local activists, we are guests in this community. As Tampa Bay locals working to develop, and keep strong, positive relationships in this community, we ask that you please respect the members of this community, and their personal property, and if at all possible support locally owned and operated businesses. We also ask that if you do have race and/or class privilege, you make an effort to be conscious of that privilege here.

We say this out of recognition that the ability to come to a convergence such as this is oftentimes a risk many cannot take due to institutional racism within the police department and "justice" systems, or other reasons such as immigration status and/or economic situations. The residents in this community understand, probably better than most, the effects and injustices of our current political, economic, and social systems.

We challenge you to think past "protest to protest", adopt a real anti-oppression analysis with regard to mass mobilizations, and support those who will suffer direct effects of the incoming police state – before, during and after the Republican National Convention.



## TAMPA PRINCIPLES

Our solidarity will be based on respect for a political diversity within the struggle for social, economic and environmental justice. As individuals and groups, we may choose to engage in different tactics and plans of action but are committed to treating each other with respect.

We reject all attempts to create divisions among our movements. We agree to not publicly criticize other parts of our movement or cooperate with state or media efforts to portray good protester/bad protester.

The actions and tactics used will be organized to maintain appropriate separations of time and space between divergent tactics. We will commit to respecting each others organizing space and the tone and tactics they wish to utilize in that space.

We oppose any state repression of dissent, including surveillance, infiltration, disruption, police brutality, and limiting our actions to “free speech zones”. We agree not to assist law enforcement actions against fellow activists.

We will work to promote a sense of respect for our shared community, our neighbors, and particularly poor and working class people in our community and their personal property.

We remember that, when all is said and done, our greatest victory will be an activist community with a renewed sense of strength and unity.

## ANTI-OPPRESSION POLICY

1. Respect people’s physical and emotional boundaries.
2. Always get explicit verbal consent before touching someone.
3. Take responsibility for your actions. Remember that your actions affect people, despite your intentions. Remain aware of how your language and behavior might influence others.
4. Put simply: don’t speak or behave in ways that perpetuate oppression.

To resist, we must heal; to heal, we must resist.

We are resisting capitalism and militarism in large part because it acts without accountability to or consent from the people it fucks over. Let’s not replicate the same domination and abuse that we’re claiming to oppose. We recognize that sexual assault\*, racist behavior and so on are rooted in broader systems of oppression—such as patriarchy, white supremacy, capitalism, homophobia, and colonialism—and is not separable from them. Thus, our efforts must also include transforming the political conditions that

## EVENT SCHEDULE

### Saturday, August 25

1pm -- CODEPINK Convergence & Activist Training Camp Sacred Grounds Coffee House. 4819 E. Busch Blvd. Tampa  
Bring your vagina to the RNC! Out of town & local CODEPINK activists will gather, greet, & share in training to make the week effective, fun, & coordinated. We will go over our schedule of actions, & facilitate trainings on topics such as: nonviolent creative direct action, talking with the press & social media tools, & understanding the issues.

8pm -- POST! A Politically Charged Poster Show. Cafe Hey, 1540 N. Franklin St. Tampa. || Cafe Hey is located in Tampa just outside of the perimeter of the RNC "zone": right on the line dividing the convention's insiders from the larger public, aka outsiders. We are opening Cafe Hey as an avenue for people to express their views to RNC leaders, the media and others inside the RNC convention zone.

8pm -- FOOD NOT BOMBS! Awesomeness-Packed Variety Show Market on 7th, 1816 E. 7th Ave, Tampa || Food Not Bombs show including Brixton Paradox, Autonomous Playhouse, David Rovics, Dead Cat Lounge, Vermin Supreme, and Unchecked Aggression.

### Sunday, August 26th

4pm -- Know Your Rights Training, West Tampa Library 2312 W. Union St. Tampa || Learn from the National Lawyer’s Guild what your rights are in Tampa for the RNC. Learn how to (not) interact with the police and what you can do to protect yourself from police harassment and potential criminal charges.

4pm -- Patients Over Politics, St Pete Tropicana Field. St. Petersburg || It’s time to commit to a future where everyone can get health care when they need it. It’s time to mobilize health care providers and patients for the Affordable Care Act and beyond.

4:30pm -- Death of Democracy March, Mirror Lake Park. 2nd Avenue North and 5th Street. St. Petersburg || Join us in protesting the stranglehold being inflicted upon our First Amendment rights. We will march from Mirror Lake Park to Tropicana Field where the world’s largest cocktail party is being held at taxpayers’ expense. Please wear red!

5:30pm -- Community Vigil and March on the "RNC Kick-Off Party" at the Trop. Mirror Lake. St. Petersburg || Local faith leaders from the Tampa Bay area will convene a gathering of

### **During an Action:**

- Know the boundaries of arrest and non-arrest areas, if applicable. (ex. “Event Zone”)
- In a mass action, give emergency info about yourself to another support person.
- Bring paper and pen, and lots of food for yourself and people doing civil disobedience (CDers).
- Hold ID, money, keys and any other belongings for CDers.
- Keep in touch with CDers for as long as possible, noting any changes in arrest strategies, etc.
- If arrests begin, write down each individual's name, and the time and nature of the arrest, the activity of the person arrested, the treatment of the arresting officer (get the badge number, if possible), and who is non-cooperating.
- At least one support person from your affinity group should stay at the place of arrest until all members of your group have been detained, unless the threat of arrest is imminent; at least one should go to the location where members of your group are being taken into custody.

### **After the Action:**

- Call whoever needs to be informed about each person who was arrested.
- Go to trials or any other appearances of those arrested; help with rides.
- Help gather information for defendants.
- Contact the National Lawyers Guild about people in jail and where they are being held.
- Be prepared to bring medication to the jail site for whoever needs it, and follow up on whether or not it has been administered.
- Visit your group members in jail, and pass on any messages.
- Take care of plants, pets, cars, etc., for arrestees.
- Write letters to the people in jail; organize a support vigil in front of the jail.
- Be there to pick arrestees up when they are released from jail.
- Supporting other support people working together will ease the load.

... TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER...

reinforce oppression. We must dismantle these systems and work to prevent the causes of sexual violence and other oppressive behaviors if we hope to end them.

We do not welcome perpetrators of sexual violence or persons with histories of abusive and/or harassing behavior. These persons are not welcome at any events or spaces included in this information packet. If you have a history of violent, abusive or harassing behavior, have completed an accountability process and the survivor of your acts, joined by your community, feels you have sufficiently dealt with your shit, only then would you be invited to participate. If you are a survivor of violence, abuse or harassment, know that we have a policy against such acts and seek to foster an environment safe from this harm.

This policy intends to reject the status quo, the dominant rape culture and patriarchy which surrounds us and threatens our movement. By rape culture, we mean a culture that condones sexual violence, excuses it, and even encourages it. Most of the time, we ignore instances of oppression, violence, and rape. This originates from a broader culture of violence where we encourage people to inhabit different positions in hierarchical relationships, to commodify their fellow human beings, and to relate to each other through violence and coercion. The overall goal of this policy is to ensure a safe, non-oppressive atmosphere in which community involvement contributes to holding people accountable for their actions and helps eventually transform all involved towards a greater respect for gender, race, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other differences; and thus towards individual and collective liberation.

\* Sexual Assault – any non-consensual sexual interaction. Sexual assault happens, and it happens in activist and radical communities as much as anywhere else. Sexual assault is a tool of domination, of taking power, and can rob someone of their self respect, self worth, and autonomy. Silence, passivity, and coerced acquiescence do not qualify as consent, nor do body movements or non-verbal responses necessarily constitute consent. Further, if someone is intoxicated, they may not be in a position to give you consent. Consent includes asking, listening, and respecting; it does not include coercion, expectations, or assumptions.



**STAY HEALTHY!**



### What to Bring

- lots of water in a plastic bottle with squirt top, to drink and to wash off your skin or eyes, if needed
- energy snacks
- identification and/or emergency contact information only if you want to be cited out of jail in the event of arrest
- just enough money for pay-phone, food, transportation
- watch, paper, pen for accurate documentation of events, police brutality, injuries
- water- or alcohol-based sunscreen
- inhaler, epipen, insulin or other meds if applicable
- several days of prescription medication and doctor's note in case of arrest
- menstrual pads, if needed. Avoid using tampons - if you're arrested you may not have a chance to change it (tampons left in more than six hours increase your risk of developing toxic shock syndrome)

## JAIL SUPPORT

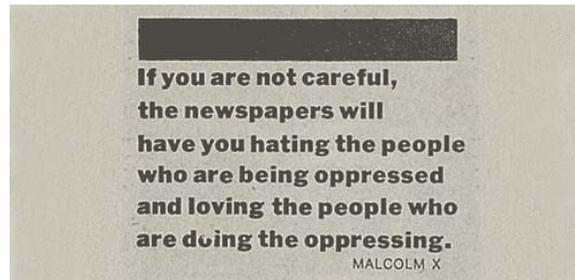


### Before an Action:

Help the affinity group decide upon and initiate their action, provide physical and moral support, and share in the excitement and sense of determination.

- Know the people in your affinity group by name and description.
- Know where people who are arrested are likely to be taken.
- Make a confidential list with the following information:
  - Name of arrestee/Name used for arrest
  - Whether or not individual wants to bail out, and when.
  - Who arrestee would like contacted and under what circumstances.
  - Special medical information or other special needs info.
  - Whether the individual plans to cooperate, and in what ways.
  - Whether the person is a minor.
  - Whether the person wants/needs a lawyer.
- Write down any phone numbers that may be important, on your arm (ex. friend, family, National Lawyers Guild). In case of arrest, they will confiscate your phone and you will not be able to communicate outside of jail otherwise.
- If you plan to be in an arrestable action, do not carry money with you. In the event you are arrested, you may not get it back.
- Have an outside contact who will not be participating in actions, who may help with information gathering, or other logistical support.

first time this happens, take such a person aside and gently educate them in private about why such talk is a danger. Be careful not to preach, injure the individual's pride, or raise defenses and prevent them from absorbing the advice. If an individual repeatedly engages in gossip, bragging and/or seeking unnecessary information about inappropriate topics after repeated educational talks, the person should be removed from any position of trust in the movement by being kicked out of meetings, organizations, base camps, etc. Such a person is a grave risk at best, and a police agent looking to provoke or entrap others at worst.



### **Infiltrators**

Infiltrators attempt to get information about organizations, disrupt them by creating splits and disorganization in meetings and in individual's lives, and entrap activists by urging insecure illegal activity. They often disrupt groups, ironically, by promoting destructive witch hunts for infiltrators! Carefully check out the authenticity of any disturbing letter, rumor, phone call etc. before acting on it. Ask the supposed source if she or he is responsible. Don't try to expose a suspected agent or informer without solid proof. It generally works better to criticize what a disruptive person says and does without speculating as to why. Avoid entrapment by only doing illegal direct action with people you know well and trust. Avoid government-sponsored splits in movement groups by dealing openly and honestly with differences within our movements in race, gender, class, sexual orientation, etc. before the FBI can exploit them.

### **What to Wear**

- comfortable, protective shoes that you can run in
- clothing covering all your skin to protect from sun and pepper spray exposure.
- shatter-resistant eye protection (i.e. sunglasses, swim goggles, or gas mask)\*
- bandana to cover nose and mouth soaked in water or vinegar, it can aid in breathing during chemical exposure\*
- weather-related gear (i.e. rain gear, sun hat, winter clothing)
- fresh clothes in plastic bag (in case yours get contaminated by chemical weapons)
- a cap or a hat to protect you from the sun and from chemical weapons

### **What NOT to Do**

- Don't put Vaseline, mineral oil, oil-based sunscreen or moisturizers on skin as they can trap chemicals
- Don't wear contact lenses, which can trap irritating chemicals underneath
- Don't wear things which can easily be grabbed (i.e. dangly earrings or other jewelry, ties, loose hair)
- Don't go to the demo alone, if you can help it - go with an affinity group or some friends who know you well

\*Items that may get you arrested under the new "Event Zone" Ordinance

### **Signs of Heat Exhaustion**

- Profuse sweating
- Weakness
- Muscle cramps
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting

Stay hydrated! Wear a hat/sunglasses! Take breaks in the shade! Tell your affinity group of any personal medical concerns you may have.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

1. If you are lawfully present in a public space, you have a right to photograph things in plain view, including the police. However, a Florida law makes it illegal to audio record a conversation without all parties' consent. This law could be used by police to order you to stop audio recording (this includes video recording with audio). We believe that you have a right to observe and document police activity in public spaces, but if a police officer orders you to stop audio recording and you don't, you may be risking arrest.

2. If you are stopped by the police: In Florida, police may stop and ask you for identification and to explain your presence if they have reasonable suspicion to stop you; in these circumstances, failure to identify yourself and what you are doing could result in arrest

- Ask if you are free to go. If you are not under arrest, you can walk away.
- Remember that cops are allowed to lie to you and they will. - --
- Talk to a lawyer before you sign anything or tell the police anything.
- If you are a non-citizen or a minor, see the important information below that can affect you.
- Memorize this sentence: I am going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer.

3. There may be police checkpoints set up around the protest areas, including the "public viewing area" to conduct searches. If a law enforcement officer demands to search your bag or person, ask first if you are suspected of criminal activity or under arrest and, if so, what is the criminal charge. If there is no suspected crime and no arrest, you may lawfully refuse to have your bags or person searched. Keep in mind, however, that the officer may still try to bar your entry into an area. This would not likely be lawful but, if you want to pass by the officer, you may have no choice but to give in to the unlawful demand. Be sure to state clearly "I do not consent to this search." If arrested, your bags can be searched.

4. Whether or not you're a citizen, you have rights under the United States Constitution. The Fifth Amendment gives every person the right to remain silent: not to answer questions asked by a police officer or government agent. The Fourth Amendment restricts the government's power to enter and search your home or workplace, although there are many exceptions and new laws have expanded the government's power to conduct surveillance. The First Amendment protects your right to speak freely and to advocate for social change. However, if you are a non-citizen, the Department of Homeland Security may target you based on your political activities. || [www.tampa.nlg.org](http://www.tampa.nlg.org) || 813-241-0101 ||

## SECURITY CULTURE BASICS

### Surveillance

Assume you are under surveillance, especially if you are involved in organizing at large scale mobilizations, engaged in direct actions, or doing anything illegal. Take precautions. Don't discuss sensitive matters on the telephone, through the mail, by email, or in your home, car or political office/center. Don't talk about anything illegal, even if you are just "joking." Keep written materials and lists of individuals secure and never bring address books to protests where arrest is possible - if you're arrested, the police may investigate all your friends.

### Never Discuss Illegal Activity

It is never okay to:

- o ask about someone else's illegal activities;
- o discuss your involvement or someone else's involvement with an underground group;
- o discuss someone else's desire to get involved with such a group;
- o talk about your participation or someone else's participation in any action that was illegal;
- o talk about someone else's advocacy for such actions or discuss your plans or someone else's plans for a future action.
- o The only time it's okay to speak about illegal actions is when you are planning them with the small group of trusted people who will be doing the action with you.

### Adopt a Security Culture

Activists organizing mass protests, direct action or anything illegal should make it as difficult as possible for police agencies by adopting a security culture. Activists who are part of a security culture know behaviors that compromise security and quickly educate anyone who acts in a way that violates or threatens security. When all members of a group understand security and correct mistakes, un-secure behavior becomes unacceptable and will stop. This frustrates police surveillance and infiltrators because they can't obtain information or plant it. People in the scene who gossip, brag or ask for unnecessary information about underground groups or illegal activities are a severe danger to the movement. The