

DIVEST DISARM



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The Olympia Police Department is holding a community forum on their public safety levy to pat themselves on the back for what they have been doing, but we know that they deserve no congratulations for the brutality and abuse they inflict on Olympia. The police do not keep our communities safe. They did not keep Vaneesa Hopson safe when she needed help, and then she was killed. They did not keep Andre or Bryson safe by shooting them. They do not keep un-housed people safe when they evict them from their camps in the middle of the night.

“Community policing” efforts like this forum often claim to be progressive gestures at a kinder type of policing, but these attempts have often been a smoke screen to hide an increasingly militaristic and brutal reality.

Many people view blue lives as a protective force, while many others who they oppress view them as an occupying force.

The police claim that they want to hear our feedback about their programs, but what could we say to them? We don't want police to exist!

The feedback we have instead is aimed at our neighbors and friends.

- Don't call the police
- Make police feel unwelcome in our neighborhoods
- Push to take guns away from the police and defund police departments so they stop shooting people

To make this possible we must

- Build alternatives to the police to help keep people in our community safe
- Address the causes of crime such as poverty and trauma through mutual aid and health care
- Build customs and practices of mediation and restorative justice autonomously so that harm and conflict can be addressed rather than perpetuated.

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