TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION
3-4

FIVE STEPS TO GET GOING
4-5

DIFFERENT GROUP ROLES
6-7

PHONE TREES, CELLY NETWORKS
AND SOCIAL MEDIA
7-8

NEIGHBORHOOD MAPS
8-9

OBSERVATION SKILLS
10

NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS
10-11

COPWATCH/ICE WATCH
11-14

RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK
15

COMMUNITY SELF DEFENSE TRAININGS
16

NEIGHBORHOOD BUDDY SYSTEM
16

TOOL KIT/MATERIALS
16-31
Since the rise of the Trump regime to power there has been a dramatic rise in bigoted violence in cities across the United States. Dangerous hate groups and white supremacist gangs have been emboldened to organize in more public and intimidating ways than ever before. In the 1990’s in cities such as Portland Oregon white supremacist gangs spread terror throughout the city with ruthless tactics and reckless abandon. This was only stopped by communities and neighbors coming together to get each others backs. Furthermore, ICE raids, police violence targeting communities of color and harassment and violence against women, LGBTQIA+ communities have exploded in the month since the rise of the Trump regime.

Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch Quick Start Manual is an initiative created by the Portland Assembly and the Pacific Northwest Antifascist Workers Collective as a way to generalize and broaden anti racist work in our communities in Portland and across the country. It is the hope that this packet can be used as an entrance way to start addressing these issues by new commers to the movement and veterans alike. Imagine ARNW chapters in neighborhoods, cities and towns across the country, getting each others backs and taking a proactive stand against bigoted activity at every level. In order to stop the rise of the extreme right we must come together as neighbors as never before. As opposed to relying on empty rhetoric of politicians looking to win political points, building real community and neighborhood power is essential in creating actual sanctuary cities were targeted communities are safe and can seek refuge from both state sponsored and grassroots rightwing violence.

This packet is not just intended for people in Portland. The tools offered here can be utilized for individuals looking to make a difference in their communities wherever they are. While this packet emphasizes building strong relationships with local established antifa chapters and other community groups, we recognize that this might not always be the case where you are at. If so hopefully the tools offered here will give you the ideas and motivation to begin taking a risk and developing this much needed conflict infrastructure our communities across the country so direly need; however, it is suggested to those interested in creating an ARNW chapter that they do research on friendly community groups or already established activist organizations that may be interested in assisting with your efforts.

Wherever you are if you are interested in starting a chapter. Please contact:

**The Portland Assembly** at portlandassembly@protonmail.com
Or
**The Pacific Northwest Antifascist Workers Collective** at pnwantifascist@protonmail.com

**What is an Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch?**

An Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch (ARNW) program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer, to reduce hate violence directed at communities of color, LGBTQIA++, immigrant communities, religious minorities and other groups targeted by bigots and far right extremists. Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch (ARNW) groups can be formed and have regular meetings to plan how they will accomplish their specific goals and assign responsibilities to group members.

Some groups may mobilize to patrol neighborhoods, others can distribute anti-racist/sexist harassment
literature. In neighborhoods where there is a high houseless population, groups may survey their houseless neighbors and see if they are being targeted by businesses in the area or by bigoted community members.

An Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch group is easy to start. Have a meeting with your neighbors and don’t forget to invite a local antifa chapter if there is one around to see if they are interested in helping out. ARNW programs can gain a lot from working with local Antifa Chapters. If there is one in your area consider reaching out and talking about the idea of working together. It is your responsibility to maintain interest and keep the group running smoothly.

Begin to talk to your neighbors to gauge interest. If they don’t understand what ARNW is, use the flyer at the end of this manual “Reasons for Anti Racist Neighborhood Watch” to explain the benefits.

BEGINNERS TIPS

• Contact an Antifa chapter in your area. Many Antifa Chapters have established information hotlines to report hate related activity and include members well versed in collecting information and providing security against organized and dangerous racist organizations and groups. Get in touch and tell someone you are interested in starting an ARNW group. They may have ideas or suggestions for starting a successful group. If your local antifa chapter is not familiar with Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch invite them to attend your first meeting and see if you can learn together.

• Don’t be discouraged by low attendance or lack of interest at your first meeting. Not everyone will be interested in joining your Watch group right away or understand the need for the group. Continue to invite everyone and update neighbors who aren’t involved. As the group grows, more will want to join!

FIVE STEPS TO BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL ANTI-RACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Building a strong Anti Racist Neighborhood Watch program is not an overnight process: it takes patience, planning and dedication. However, a successful program will keep a community strong and protected and when an emergency happens, they will be more ready. Keep these Five Steps in mind when starting your group.

STEP 1: RECRUIT AND ORGANIZE AS MANY NEIGHBORS AS POSSIBLE.

Talk with your fellow neighbors about their concerns regarding hate activity in the area. Discuss and create awareness among the neighbors or potential volunteers about a particular concern or general issue affecting the neighborhood. Community members may want to collect data from a variety of sources, including, personal observations, or media reports. In some cases, once the factual information on the issue is collected, other concerns may emerge and help to demonstrate the need for an active Anti Racist Neighborhood Watch.

One example of this might be a situation in which community members do not feel safe because racist graffiti has appeared in the neighborhood or because ICE raids have occurred recently in the area. Once information is collected about this problem, other concerns such as sightings of identifiable members of white supremacist gang members or street harassment of targeted populations may be revealed. The primary concern in the initial phase of forming a ARNW is to collect all of the information and develop a strategy to
raise the level of awareness about the identified concerns or issues.

Once the data is collected, the organizers can format the information in order to be able to disseminate it to their targeted group of residents or potential ARNW volunteers. Letters, flyers, emails or even billboards can be used to spread the message about the concern and to mobilize people to form a ARNW group. In some communities, depending on the issues, the local media may help to spotlight the concerns and help to mobilize the community. Get the word out about the identified problems and begin to recruit and select individuals who want to form the “core” group of the new ARNW effort. This core group will be responsible for recruiting others, meeting with antifa chapters, and building the Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch program.

**STEP 2: CONTACT AN ANTIFA CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA AND SCHEDULE A MEETING.**

Once the community concerns or neighborhood issues have been identified and the core group has been established, the community members should meet with representatives of their local Antifa chapter (if this chapter is interested in helping) in order to learn how the community and Antifa can work together to build a partnership, create and sustain an Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch group, and resolve the community issues. Antifa Chapters may be able to provide information, literature, training and a host of other important resources to help in building the new group.

**STEP 3: DISCUSS COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN.**

One of the first meetings should address and prioritize the concerns, issues or problems that have been identified. Community volunteers may take the initiative to address some of these concerns, while for others your local Antifa Chapter may be more fit to take the lead. Conduct a meeting on strategic planning and identify the concerns and resources available. All too often, new Watch groups do not have a defined mission or specific goal and find themselves with no clear guidance or direction. Numerous activities may occur, but due to a lack of focus, they may not resolve the real issues. After the community’s concerns have been identified and prioritized, the group will turn its attention to developing specific strategies to address these needs. Develop goals with specific objectives and realistic milestones. A plan of action should be adopted and implementation strategies should be designed that will not only guide the plan, but also provide a means to assess and evaluate its effectiveness.

**STEP 4: HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS AND HOLD TRAINING ON RELEVANT SKILLS.**

Once the new Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch group has been formed, and goals and objectives have been determined, the Watch leaders and community volunteers should schedule meetings where they can receive training and hone their skills. Antifa chapters may be able to provide a number of training programs that will help community members work together to protect themselves and their communities. Depending on the type of activities that the group will undertake (whether neighborhood patrols, cleanup days, self-defense workshops, educational workshops, or vulnerability studies), community members can offer a variety anti-racist services once they receive the proper training and instruction.

**STEP 5: IMPLEMENT A PHONE TREE AND TAKE ACTION STEPS.**

Take active steps in the community so everyone is aware about the ARNW. Have a kickoff event to encourage others to get involved, start a ARNW newsletter, continue training and emergency drills. Most importantly keep the group active and enthusiastic. Maintain communication between group members and your Antifa liaison.
There is no single right way to organize a ARNW group. No matter how your ARNW is set up, the organizational structure must take into account the needs of the community and your local Antifa chapter if it exists and is willing to help. A suggested ARNW group structure will include an Antifa liaison to the group, an area coordinator who lives in the community, block captains spread throughout the community, and watch members. One of the final steps in forming and organizing a Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch is the designation of point persons. These individuals will be responsible for the planning and coordinating activities. Watch point people may be formally appointed by the group or informal appointed as they are simply the first to volunteer!

It doesn’t matter how your Watch group is setup, as long as your community members are excited and effectively addressing the identified problems.

**Neighborhood Watch efforts in the community should:**

- Learn about the history of their neighborhood, and the anti-racist movement at large.
- Collect general information on the community or communities where he or she will be organizing. Are their mosques or synagogues who might be targeted? Who are the community members who might be most affected by racist violence or intimidation.
- Examine the geography of the area and any natural neighborhood boundaries.
- Examine the culture of the communities that are in your area.
- Collect data on racist attacks intimidation, police violence and ICE raids in your area.
- Ensure any sensitive information is safeguarded, from anyone who would use if improperly.

### Different Suggested Roles in an ARNW Chapter

#### Block Contacts

Block Contacts are recommended for every 10-15 houses, and they should be directly involved with their immediate neighbors. The block contact's responsibilities may include:

- Acting as liaison between block residents and the coordinator.
- Establishing a “telephone chain” by compiling and distributing a current list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of block participants or plugging them into a “celly network” rapid response hotline.
- Visiting and inviting new residents to join; notifying them of meetings and training sessions.
- Contacting each neighbor as often as possible to discuss possible issues, needs for assistance, and suggestions for program improvement.

#### The Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

The Coordinator’s job is crucial to the success of your program. This may be just the right job for a retiree or other individual who has extra time at home. This person’s responsibilities may include:

- Expanding the program and maintaining a current list of participants and neighborhood residents, including names, addresses, home and work telephone numbers, email addresses, and vehicle descriptions.
- Acting as liaison between Watch members, officers, civic groups, and block captains.
- Arranging neighborhood anti-racist training programs.
- Obtaining and distributing hate-crime prevention materials, such as stickers and signs.
• Involving others to develop specific anti-racist projects.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBERS**

In some neighborhoods, the need for a proactive Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch program will be evident because of the well-documented bigoted activity or state violence that occurs in the community. In these neighborhoods, residents may be ready and willing to mobilize and participate in the ARNW program. They often need little external motivation. The focus in these areas is usually more on taking initiative and organization. However, in other neighborhoods the incidents or offenses may be less well known and the level of awareness among the residents may need to be increased. Under these circumstances the responsibility for raising the level of awareness falls upon your group to get the word out. The responsibility for the recruitment of volunteers usually falls to the Block Captains or Area Coordinators, but they may also be a general imperative of your group at large. Once a core group of Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch volunteers has been identified, specific members may volunteer to take on leadership positions. In some instances, certain individuals may be reluctant to take on specialized roles within the group.

**PHONE TREES, CELLY NETWORKS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

**PHONE TREES**

Phone Trees are a great way to share information and build a sense of community in the neighborhood. Phone trees can expedite emergency information. Neighborhoods can be divided into small, workable areas using streets or natural boundaries. Each group prepares a chart (which is continuously updated) that includes the names and phone numbers of all members. A Block Captain or other person is designated to be contacted by the police or sheriff’s office. Each individual listed on the tree knows whom he or she is to contact should emergency or other important information need to be disseminated in a hurry.

**When do you use the phone tree?**

• Alert your neighbors to an emergency in progress or that one has just occurred such as an ICE sighting, hate related violence/attack, hate related graffiti, police violence/intimidation etc.

**Why should the Phone Tree be used?**

• When someone has urgent information to share (e.g. prowler in the area), they activate the telephone tree by calling the name at the top – the group representative.
• When you receive a call, call the next person listed under your name. If he or she is not home, call the next listed person down until you get an adult at home.
• The last neighbor to receive a call, calls the representative to confirm that they have received the message.
• It is best to practice the telephone tree on a periodic basis so that problems in the process can be fixed.

**Celly Network aka Text Based Phone Tree.**

You may also be interested in checking out the new app called “Celly”. Celly allows you to set up rapid response networks, text conversation loops and more. With a dedicated device you can simply have communi-
ty members text the designated phone number with the name of the rapid response network or text conversation loop and they will immediately be added to the list or can be added with admin approvals. It can be an easy to use way to set up a text (SMS) based alert system. More information on how to set up a cellly network can be found here https://cel.ly/.

**EMAIL LIST**

Email can be used for not-in-progress activities of interest, meeting announcements, and general information.

Nowadays email is one of the best ways to get in touch with your neighbors. Your group can organize an email list much like that of a phone tree. When an issue in the neighborhood comes up you can contact residents in a fast and efficient way with email. However, keep in mind that some people still do not have internet access at home.

Your group will have to decide who will maintain and update the email lists and what information should be included. Recommendations include: meeting reminders, information on hate activity in the neighborhood, business related directly to the group. Information that should not be shared includes: chain emails, personal information about a neighbor, or news articles unrelated to the group.

**FACEBOOK GROUPS/PAGES**

Facebook pages or groups can be created for your ARNW. These groups offer many of the same uses as an email list but plug you directly into this social media platform that has become almost ubiquitously used in today’s society. With a facebook page you can create separate “event pages” where you can invite and add community members to alert them about your events. Likewise you can invite friends and community members to like your page or group to stay up to date about your ARNW’s activities. It may be a good idea to invite individuals who have already liked your local neighborhood associations page to like your new ARNW’s page and to let them know about your new group. It can be a great way to connect with individuals in your area.

**NEIGHBORHOOD MAPS**

A neighborhood map is a powerful tool on a simple sheet of paper. Along with a Phone Tree or Cellly alert system, a map can give residents information on where everyone in the neighborhood lives and also put landmarks and distance from house to house into perspective. The map will familiarize ARNW members with families living in the neighborhood as well as address any potential dangers during an emergency.

- The map should indicate N, S, E, W.
- Label all streets inside and connecting the neighborhood.
- Draw squares for homes and list full names, address, phone, and email.
- Consider adding names, work numbers, and out of state emergency numbers.
- If a household won’t participate, list only their address on the map.
- Make note of the people who are block captains and co-captain(s).
- List any participating antifa chapters contact name and number.
- Give a copy of the map to everyone who participates and make sure participants consent to this.
- Create your map by hand, computer, etc. *Some free internet mapping programs or aerial photos might be helpful. To find them conduct an internet search for your street, town, and state.
Make maps simple, start with N at the top, draw lines for streets and squares for houses, and fill in the information. If there’s not enough room, just fill in the address then list names and numbers on the back. Or simply number the homes starting with “1” then list the address, name, and phone numbers on the back. Divide neighborhoods of 50 or more homes into “areas” because if a Watch group is too big, it can fall apart with only a few people to manage it. Each area could have a color or a name and its own area captain. This way, no one person has too much to handle. One area captain might serve as chair of all the area captains and be the one who is the contact for the antifa chapter. In large neighborhoods, everyone should get a master map as well as one of their own area.

When building your neighborhood map. It is a good idea to go door to door and solicit the consent of your neighbors to be involved in such a project. Bring along anti-racist literature and have a conversation with your neighbors about the issues of hate violence in your area. This is a great opportunity to see where various neighbors in your area stand on the issue. If neighbors express bigoted language, insignias on their house or are blatantly hostile to your work, take note and remember to mark them off as unsafe individuals on your map for future reference.
Observation Skills

Observation skills are essential in keeping a neighborhood safe from bigoted violence. These skills can be used to help identify hate groups or activity in the area so that threats can be identified and the community can be alerted. It is also always a good idea to consider passing on information when it’s relevant to your local Antifa chapter if you are working with them or if they have a tip hotline number.

- Physical setting – Specific location, time of day, day of week.
- People – What do they look like? (height, weight, ethnicity, gender, etc.) How many are there?
- Specific items – What is important?
- Routines – Did you notice any recurring patterns or routines? How often did they occur? Who was involved?

One of the keys to a successful Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch program is recognizing the importance of using good observation skills to keep your neighborhood safe. Practice looking at pictures of people to know how to describe them. Clothing is important, but look for things that cannot be changed, like skin or eye color, tattoos, scars, moles, height and weight. Properly observing vehicles is similar to observing individuals. You always begin with the basics, such as the make and model of the vehicle. Identify the vehicle as a Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge, Honda, Mercedes, Volvo, etc. Then identify the both the type of vehicle (such as an SUV, pickup truck, etc.), as well as the specific model if possible (such as Corolla, Accord, Expedition, etc.) To remember license plates: write it on paper, on your hand, or even scratch it in the dirt! License numbers are useful only if they are correct. Never hesitate to say, “I’m not sure.” With a vehicle description, even a partial license plate can be valuable.

Safe Houses for Targeted Communities

A safe location such as the McGruff House or Block House is identified by bright stickers on windows and doors which indicate that the occupants are block neighbors willing to help a frightened or pursued community members if needed. Ideally, the neighbors participating in a block house program are either retired or otherwise not employed out of the home and available for assistance during the day. After your group has conducted a background check on individuals in the home, there is a clear understanding about the types of assistance a block neighbor should and should not attempt to render to a person in distress. Signs and stickers should be displayed only when the block neighbor is in the house and within hearing distance of the doorbell.

Similarly your group might want to identify community members at risk for state sponsored displacement or removal from their homes for various reasons such as ICE raids. In this situation you may want to build relationships with various individuals in your community who may be interested in more long-term or deeper level safe houses. These houses should not display any visible signs. People offering this resource should be highly trusted and have background checks completed on them by your watch group. To build this resource it is important to build connections with vulnerable or at risk people in your neighborhood who may be facing removal from their homes. Build a list of these people and never share them online, keep them on paper in a safe and secure location. From there, build ties with individuals in the neighborhood who may be interested in housing these people should they need to flee their homes. Introduce these people to some of the folks who may be in need of this resource, have them exchange contact information so that if the need should arise they can rapidly take refuge in the safe house providers residence.
Never share the names or the list of vulnerable people in your area with anyone outside of your core group. Always solicit consent and make totally clear what you are doing with this information before adding anyone to such a list. If you can don’t use a list at all and work to connect people who may need this resource in a more informal fashion on a case by case basis.

Look up those who are providing the safehouses facebook page and see what their political beliefs are to ensure they do not have right-wing or racist beliefs. If you can try to solicit references on these people from individuals who can vouch for their character.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS**

Many ARNW groups may choose to use Neighborhood Patrols on foot or in vehicles to keep their community safe. Patrols may be effective for your group, but you should discuss it with your local Antifa liaison if one exists. Two or more individuals patrol during designated times and may detect activity not noticed by stationary observers.

Racist graffiti, individuals wearing hate group insignias, active street harassment, etc might all be observed. In addition, patrols might look out for general safety and well-being of the neighborhood, lost children, stranded motorists, stray dogs and automobile accidents are often discovered by citizen patrols. Patrol members should be trained by local Antifa, or other community groups on conflict de-escalation, how to intervene in dangerous situations safely, community self-defense, or emergency response skills such as first aid. It should be emphasized to members that they should not engage in dangerous situations they are not equipped for or have been trained to handle. Members should never confront members of hate groups who could be armed and dangerous if they are not adequately trained in how to keep themselves safe. Patrol members ought to be equipped for their duties. For example, flashlights or searchlights are necessary for night patrols. Mobile patrols might use cell phones or two-way radios to contact a neighborhood-manned base station, which in turn contacts local Antifa if they are participating and have agreed to support the patrol program.

Patrol members will want to come equipped to take notes on any hate related activity that they discover while on patrol. Take pictures of any signs of hate activity or individuals wearing identifiable hate group insignias or patches. Take note of the time, date, location of the event and write down detailed descriptions. You may hold this information for your group to reflect on later or pass this information to local Antifa chapters in your area.

Patrols may also keep an eye on any phone tree, Celly text communications or rapid response networks so that they can be ready to go to the location of any neighbors facing harassment or intimidation. They may then offer to assist the person in walking them home or keeping them company so they feel safe.

**COPWATCH/ICEWATCH AND RAPID RESPONSE NETWORKS**

As the risk of police harassment and deportations targeting immigrant communities is on the rise under the Trump regime, your Anti-Racist Neighborhood Watch may want to incorporate rapid response networks
that can quickly mobilize the community to stand in solidarity with neighbors facing deportation or police harassment. Whether you’re using a phone tree or a Celly app based system a rapid response network can be easily set up to inform the community of such incidents and to quickly mobilize them to take a stand in solidarity at the location where they are needed.

Similarly you can use your rapid response network as a way to quickly dispatch volunteers or group members who are interested in copwatching. Have a few people who have committed to doing copwatching who have access to phones with a camera or a video camera itself. If reports come in of police harassment or sightings of ICE in the neighborhood CopWatchers can be mobilized to keep an eye on the situation, to ensure police accountability and to alert the community to further movements by ICE.

COPWATCH/ICE WATCH

CopWatch has been a tried and true method to hold police accountable for decades around the world.

To CopWatch effectively all you need is your eyes and ears and something to record the incident. A pocket size notebook and pen/pencil are most useful and the least conspicuous. A camera of any kind is also useful in recording the incident. A cell phone can also be helpful.

Remember:

1. Be legal! This means making sure that you follow the letter of the law. No drugs, alcohol, or illegal weapons on your person or in your system. This also means no jaywalking. If driving, make sure that you and all of your passengers have on their seat belts. No unnecessary honking of your horn or loud music as you drive away. Violation of noise pollution laws and ordinances can be used as a viable reason to detain and arrest you. If you are not “Letter Perfect Legal,” you may end up doing more harm than good and could get yourself arrested. Don’t give them an excuse to bust you.

2. Best done with 2 or 3 others. You are less likely to be arrested in a group. Also one person (cool headed and aware of their rights please) can take “point” to speak to officers, get their names, ranks, badge #s, district designation, squad car #, license #, description and to make them aware of you being there as observers. The others should hang back recording every detail of the encounter, being even MORE careful to not interfere and obeying the law. If you have the numbers one can even try to look and act as an individual lookout with no connection with the rest of the group. Decide on your roles before the encounter if possible.

3. Remember that you are there to defuse the situation not escalate it. Don’t encourage the police to arrest people as a way of getting back at you because of your attitude. Reign in any hostility—be polite but firm. The COPS are DANGEROUS! Walk, don’t run, and avoid quick or sudden movements around them. Don’t become a brutality statistic yourself.

4. Carry rights cards, flyers, and other information with you to give to people subject to arrest or harassment plus notebooks, pens, cameras etc. (You can get free Know Your Rights cards from the National Lawyers Guild or the ACLU —the ACLU cards are much more subservient to police “authority”). The citizen complaint review boards are often virtually useless as a way of dealing with particularly rogue cops but they can serve to document incidents. Tell people their rights, any numbers or Internet sites where they can contact a lawyer [www.nlg.org or Partnership for Civil Justice (in DC) etc.], how and where to file a complaint. For example, in DC, the Office of Citizen Complaint Review (OCCR)’s address is 730 11th Street, NW, Suite
13

500, Washington, DC 20001 (Phone: (202) 727-3838). Additionally for a lawsuit against the city in DC, as in many other cities, you must send a letter to the mayor announcing your intention to sue the District within 6 months. Tell people: “You don’t have to follow through with it but should secure your right if the incident is severe enough for you to even consider a suit.”

5. **Try to get as much information as you can.** The day, time, and exact location of the incident. The officer’s name, badge number, and physical description and district/psa they are from. Where anyone arrested will be taken. Witnesses’ names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Vehicle or license numbers for any police vehicles involved in the incident. Any other evidence available including videos, recordings, photographs, and complete descriptions of police actions and any resulting injuries. (If there were injuries of any sort be sure to include what medical attention was or was NOT offered by the police—people have been let go by officers who were “reminded” that copwatch members had observed medical attention being denied an arrestee even though the injuries had not been caused by the police). Record everything you can. If you feel it is warranted you can call 911 [easier with a cell phone] and inform them that someone is being injured. Only tell them that it is the police doing it at the end but be factual- because all 911 calls are recorded and relatively hard to “lose”, this can become a legally useful report. You can call a friend or your own answering machine/voicemail and record what is happening as it happens. This works well if the recording is long enough and can be essential if it looks like EVERYONE is getting arrested. If you get arrested—when you’re in the police vehicle, call a talk show or progressive radio station if the cops haven’t taken your cell phone yet.

6. **Try to give the arrestee a way to contact you and vice versa.** That is not to say you should give your name or get their name in front of police. Give your name ONLY if you are comfortable with the police getting it.

7. **Aggressive CopWatch.** If you are comfortable doing an “aggressive” copwatch then you can introduce yourself when approaching the scene and explain that you are doing a cop watch. Ask why they are detaining or arresting people but don’t speak to arrestees directly and don’t ask their name, as they might not wish the police to have it (but write down their name and address if arrestees say it to the police loud enough so you can hear). If the stop is vague, ask an officer to name the section of the law that they are enforcing. [Remember they lie and/or make mistakes—if you know better or have a copy of the code with you, respectfully speak up]. Don’t approach/speak to the arrestee directly while they are being detained or you can and probably will be arrested.

8. **Rights cards.** Give your flyers and rights cards to them if a detainee is let go or ticketed. If they are arrested you can ask the officer to give it to them (unlikely, but miracles happen). Or, instead, you can pretend the arrestee “dropped” your flyer or rights info card when they were searched/frisked and hand it back folded up to the cop. You can’t speak to an arrestee directly without getting yourself in trouble [though sometimes you have to be prepared to do just that] but you can loudly talk about what rights people have with the cop or a bystander or your compatriot. (The right to remain silent, to speak to an attorney, to refuse a search of your person, personal items, or car—that doesn’t mean they won’t search just that you should not give them permission, etc.)

9. **Be prepared to stay at least until the stop is concluded.** The Rodney King beating began with what seemed to be a routine traffic stop.

10. **Have educational conversations.** Speak to onlookers about rights, police brutality, what citizens can do and community alternatives. When answering legal questions from non-police do NOT be afraid to say, “I don’t know”. This is always better than giving out wrong information.

11. **Collect other witness statements if possible.** Many will not want to get “involved.” Try to persuade and
12. Keep the CopWatch information you have gathered if there was anything “bad” about the police behavior. Keep it somewhere organized or give it to a (hopefully your local CopWatch) group collecting the information. Keep the originals if you can. Do not edit any recordings you shoot as that may render them useless as evidence against the cops.

13. Know the laws. If you can quote laws or refer to them knowledgeably you are probably one up on the cops and can get them to “back off” a detainee. (Aggressive CopWatch) This also goes for police regulations but these are often hard to get copies of. Be assertive and not tentative during your encounter but remain polite. Carry the laws most commonly used for harassment with you if possible.

14. Remember that in a really bad situation cops may smash or steal [confiscate] your equipment to keep you from having evidence against them. Have one of your group walk away with what evidence is gathered if things look like they are escalating.

15. Be prepared to be arrested. (Though CopWatch is not illegal, they will attempt to manufacture charges). Have ID and a little [$50] money on you if you want to get out of jail easier/faster.

16. Know what you will do or not do if things get very bad. If someone is being beaten/injured/ killed by the police and witnessing does not stop them, KNOW how far you will go and what charges you are willing (or not) to risk/accept in order to stop it. Decide it ahead of time and talk about it within your group. If you copwatch in some areas, this is a situation that WILL happen. Be prepared and be aware.

17. Be prepared to follow through. If you couldn’t get an arrestee’s name and you feel that the situation was bad enough to warrant follow through or if you think the abuse/beating will continue, then go to the station they were taken to. Loudly and firmly ask how they are the details of what they were charged, explain what you saw, ask to make a complaint against the officers. This puts them on notice that people are concerned and will follow through and it may stop a back room beating.

18. Be careful leaving the area. The cops have been known to follow, ticket, target or beat CopWatchers a few blocks from where the copwatch took place. Don’t relax your guard.

19. Report what you have seen. Don’t just report back to your group, if you have one. If there is a Citizen Review Board, however ineffective, report it. Talk about it to City Council members and show them your evidence. Tell them you want hearings and change of policies. Get your information to the NLG and or ACLU. Inform community or church groups. Write it up and put it on your local Indymedia or weekly if you can. Spread the word as to what is happening in your community.

20. Always remember to have a camera or cell phone out and to record all of your interactions with the police.
Rapid Response Network

Rapid Response Networks can be used to quickly mobilize community members and neighbors to become alert to any threats in the community or to quickly get large numbers of people on the scene to defend against discriminatory violence.

The best and easiest way to get a rapid response network going is by creating an SMS based “Celly” text alert system. Information on how to create such a system is located further up in this document.

Within the Celly app you can create different “cells” with different admin privileges. It is recommended that you create a cell that allows anyone to text in tips but that must be approved of by an admin before being sent out to the list. This allows the whole community to act as eyes and ears to defend against discriminatory violence. From there you can have one or several of your ARNW members be assigned as admins on this app. You can then see when information is sent but make a decision on what individuals need to be alerted on. It is recommended that you only only allow information to be sent to you and that you only send out unique texts describing the details of the situation if a simple alert is needed to keep the community aware of a developing situation or that you send out specific texts describing the situation and the time and place individuals are needed to quickly rally and also describe what if any resources or skills are needed, for instance, CopWatchers, legal aids, etc.

A rapid response network can have many uses. Historically rapid response networks have been used in Portland for various things such as in the situation of the defense of Alicia Jacksons (an elderly black homeowner) from eviction. If police showed up to the house community members were quickly alerted and mobilized to the location to stand in solidarity and to defend their neighbor from eviction.

Similarly, a rapid response network could be used to rapidly mobilize community members to defend local mosques or synagogues from racist mobilizations intended to intimidate congregants, to alert community members about racist gangs marauding the neighborhood, or to mobilize solidarity actions with community members with undocumented status facing deportations.

It’s imperative that information or alerts that are sent out to the RRN at large are fact checked and accurate. Sending out too many alerts when they are unnecessary or sending out false information will lose you credibility and trust in the community.

It is recommended that groups establish relationships with immigrant rights groups, local religious institutions or community gathering places that serve vulnerable communities let them know that you have created a rapid response network and discuss how you can work together to help keep the community safe and how this resource could be used towards those ends. It’s good to establish common ground for what sort of solidarity these community members may be looking for should they come under attack. Always attempt to get consent for solidarity actions before you take action or make community calls to ensure you set the correct emergency plans in place.
**Community Self Defense Trainings**

Community self defense trainings are a great way to both empower community members and give them the skills they need to keep themselves safe. These sorts of trainings can give neighbors the basic skills to ward off bigoted attacks or harassment.

An easy way to start learning some basic self defense skills is to have your neighborhood watch host private or public viewing parties of the following Brazilian Ji Jujitsu training videos. Watch the clips and then periodically pause them to practice the routines demonstrated in the video. You can then team up with a partner and practice them with one another. Make sure to be wearing loose clothing.

To grow on your skills and get better training consider getting in touch with a local self defense gym, MMA, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu or other gym with a focus on martial arts. Many of these gyms have skilled experts in self defense who may be interested in using their talents to help make communities safer and are looking for ways to give back to the community. Give them a call or send them an email. Let them know what your anti racist neighborhood watch is about and why it's important for community members at large to have the skills necessary to defend themselves. Inquire to see if they would be interested in hosting a one off self defense class in their gym or a regular weekly event. Alternatively, see if one of their trainers would be interested in working with your group to host a community self defense class in a local park or community space that you have acquired.

**Neighborhood Buddy System**

If you have some people in your group who are confident in their self defense skills or conflict resolution skills you can use your Telephone Tree, Celly Network or Rapid Response line to provide the service of the Neighborhood Buddy System. This program works by have a collection of individuals who are confident in their abilities in the areas mentioned above who are willing to be on stand by to escort members of targeted communities home or to safety should they come under harassment or threat of violence.

Have a phone number that community members can call or text when they need the service. Make sure that with whatever method your using for your communications, these texts or calls are received by several people, who are either the individuals willing to be on standby to personally provide the service or they are able to forward the message on and then dispatch the needed personnel to the location.

Take your call in number and create personal cards that you can give out to community members in your neighborhood and/or put that number on flyers that you can distribute throughout your neighborhood.
TOOL KIT

What follows are a collection of printable resources for your new group to use.

1. ANTI RACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH OBSERVATION NOTE SHEET

This sheet can be used while you are patrolling or going about your daily business in the neighborhood. Keep copies in your car or in your bag if you are walking/biking. Take notes on any hate related activity you see.

2. ARNW NEIGHBORHOOD FLYER

This is a great general flyer to wheatpaste or post around your neighborhood. It lets the community know that there are neighbors who are looking out and sends a strong message to any hate groups or bigots that their violence and intimidation will not be tolerated.

3. ATTENTION DOOR SIGN

This is a great sign to approach local businesses or social centers with. You can use it as a conversation starter and to ask them to post it in their window to send a strong message to the community that their business/space is a safe space for all.

4. A GUIDE TO RACIST SYMBOLS

This is a great informational sheet to educate community members about racist symbols. Often hate groups will use these symbols as tattoos or in their propaganda. Many of these symbols are specific to groups located in the Northwest. You can use this sheet when canvassing, going door to door or pass them out at your meetings or have them out when you are tabling at events.

5. WHY FORM AN ANTIRACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

This is a great flyer to use when going door to door and talking to neighbors about your new community project. It explains the benefit of an ARNW and entices them to join.

6. ARNW DOOR CARDS

When going door to door to talk about your ARNW chapter its always a good idea to give neighbors a small tangible task they can do in solidarity. This makes them feel included and can entice them to take more meaningful actions in the future. Ask community members to post these door cards in a visible place on their door or in their window to send a message about where they stand on hate related activity in the neighborhood.

7. ARNW MEETING FLYER TEMPLATE

This is a template poster that you can use when advertising your ARNW meetings. Simply add the location time and contact information for your group. Post these up around the neighborhood and in areas with a high volume of foot traffic.
8. SAFE PLACE SIGN

You can use this sign in conjunction with the Safe House suggested project idea. Community members who already have committed to taking small actions such as the door sign card are far more likely to be willing to open up their home as a safe space and refuge for any pursued, threatened or scared community members. Make sure that individuals doing this are first vouched for or have had some sort of background check/investigation into them to ensure they are indeed safe people for individuals to stay with in the short term.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD BUDDY SYSTEM CARDS

Use these cards if you are working on the neighborhood buddy system project idea. These cards can be passed out to community members in your area who may need the service. You can give stacks to local business or bars for them to have on hand or hold at their registers. Simply fill in the cards with your contact information.

8. ACLU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WALLET CARDS

These are great cards to use when copwatching/icewatching. They are also great to simply distribute whenever you have the opportunity or if you are canvassing your neighborhood.

9. WHAT TO DO IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR HALF SHEETS

These are great sheets to flyer, wheat paste or hand out at community events or while canvassing. It is always good to keep the community informed about their rights. Comes translated in English, Spanish and Arabic.
ANTI RACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH OBSERVATION NOTES

Post-observation activities:
1. Write down your observation as soon as possible.
2. Note the date and time.

Date: _________________ Time: _________________ Observer: _______________________

Observation: ________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Notes:

Physical Setting – specific location
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

People – What do they look like? How are they acting? How many are there?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Specific Items – What aspects are important?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Routines – Did you notice any recurring patterns or routines? How often did they occur? Who was involved?
___________________________________________________________________________

Stay calm
Remain alert to your surroundings
Begin with the basics
Move to the specifics
Broaden your perspective
Add detail
WARNING

ANTI RACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

OUR NEIGHBORS ARE WATCHING
WE REPORT ALL HATE RELATED ACTIVITY TO LOCAL ANTIFA

Call 888-765-PNWA (7692) to report any hate related activity
ATTENTION

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE
TOLERATED
TRANSPHOBIA, RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, ABLEISM ARE NOT
BIGOTRY-FREE ZONE
A GUIDE TO RACIST SYMBOLS

1. Swastika
2. Racial Slurs
3. Nazi Salute
4. White Power
5. Hitler Salute
6. Imperial Japanese Army
7. White Supremacy
8. American Nazi Party
9. White Nationalism
10. Blood and Honour
11. National Socialist Movement
12. Vanguard of the Holocaust
13. Aryan Nation
14. White Identity
15. Neo-Nazism
16. White Pride
17. White Nationalist
18. White Supremacist
19. White Power Movement
20. White National Rights
WHY FORM AN ANTI RACIST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Anti Racist Neighborhood Watch Keeps Communities Safe.

Since the rise of the Trump regime to power there has been a dramatic rise in the number of hate crimes and violence in cities across the United States. Dangerous hate groups and white supremacist gangs have been emboldened to organize in more public and intimidating ways than ever before. In the 1990’s white supremacist gangs terrorized the people of Portland Oregon with ruthless abandon. We are working to prevent that.

Furthermore, ICE raids, police violence and harrassment and violence against women, LGBTQIA+ communities have also been on the rise. Portland is a place and a city that values our diversity and the safety of all people. We can keep it that way if we work together.

Learn skills that you can carry on with you for the rest of your life.

Antiracist Neighborhood Watches can train you and your community members in skills such as self defense skills, educate you and your family on how to identify dangerous white supremacist gang members and everyone involved will learn valuable skills on how to work as a team to keep our communities safe.

It is a great way to meet neighbors and start supporting one another.

Come together with your community members at an ARNW meeting. Get to know eachother at community events, start talking to one another and building relationships based in solidarity and support. We need eachother now more than ever!

CONTACT:
An Anti Racist Neighborhood Watch (ARNW) program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer to reduce hate violence directed at communities of color, LGBTQIA++, immigrant communities, religious minorities and other groups targeted by bigots and far right extremists. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and start building community while making the world a better and safer place. Come on out to this open meeting and get involved!
Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT: 

Neighborhood Safety Buddy
If you are being harrassed, intimidated or threat-
ened contact us and we will have a neighbor walk 
you home or to a safe place.

CALL: 
TEXT:
If you are arrested or taken to a police station, DO...
- DO tell the police your name and basic identifying information. But nothing else.
- DO say “I want to remain silent” and “I want to talk to a lawyer.” They should stop questioning you after that.
- DO make sure you get your 3 phone calls within 3 hours of being arrested or immediately after being booked. You can call a lawyer, bail bondsman, relative, or any other person. If you have children under 18, you get 2 additional calls to arrange childcare. Memorize phone numbers ahead of time.
- DO assume the police are recording your calls (except the call with your lawyer).

If you are stopped for questioning, DO...
- DO ask “Am I free to go?” if they say yes, leave calmly. If they say no, DO ask to know why by saying, “Can you tell me why you are stopping me?”
- DO exercise your right to remain silent. Say “I want to remain silent.” You cannot be arrested or detained for refusing to answer questions. But it can look suspicious to the police if you answer questions and then suddenly stop. Make it your practice to always remain silent.
- DO make sure the officer knows you do not agree to be searched (they might search you anyway, but make your opposition known). Say “Do not consent to a search.”
- DO, if you are being given a ticket, give your name and birth date, and sign the ticket. If you don’t, you may be arrested.

If you are arrested or taken to a police station, DON’T...
- DON’T give them any information except for your name and basic identifying information.
- DON’T give explanations, excuses, or stories. Say “I want to remain silent” and “I want to talk to a lawyer.”
- DON’T talk about your case on the phone. The police might be recording your phone calls (except those to your lawyer).
- DON’T make any decisions in your case without talking to a lawyer.
- DON’T discuss your citizenship or immigration status with anyone other than your lawyer.

If you are stopped for questioning, DON’T...
- DON’T disrespect a police officer. Although you have a constitutional right to do so, it could lead to your arrest.
- DON’T run away or physically resist a “pat-down” or search. Say “I do not consent to a search.”
- DON’T lie, tell the police you don’t want to talk to them. Say “I want to remain silent.”
- DON’T forget that police are legally allowed to lie, intimidate, and bluff.
- DON’T discuss your citizenship or immigration status with anyone other than your lawyer.

THE DO’S AND DON’TS OF POLICE STOPS
Encounters with the law can be stressful or scary. People have various experiences with law enforcement, some of which are not always fair or legal. This guide provides you practical information that could help you avoid more trouble or potentially harmful situations.

In this case you will find some language underlined. These are “magic words” that you can repeat over and over to show you know the law. Memorize them. Know your rights, so you can use them.

This guide is meant to offer some basic advice when interacting with police officers. This list applies to the state of California only. Be sure to consult a lawyer.

YOUR RIGHTS & THE POLICE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!
When you know what the law says, you can better protect yourself, your family, and your community.
The ACLU of Northern California has created Know Your Rights guides on a range of issues.
WWW.ACLUNC.ORG

If you are stopped in your car, DON’T...
- DON’T physically resist a search. Say “Do not consent to a search.”
- DON’T refuse to sign a ticket. You can be arrested for it.
- DON’T search for your license or registration until asked. It may look as if you are trying to hide something.
- DON’T disrespect the officer. Although you have a constitutional right to do so, it could lead to your arrest.
- DON’T attempt to bribe the police.
- DON’T play music loudly when the police walk up to your car.
- DON’T have any objects hanging from your rearview mirror. It may give police a reason to pull you over.

If you are stopped in your car, DO...
- DO show your license, registration, and proof of insurance when asked, if you were driving.
- DO keep your hands on the wheel and let the officer know what you are doing (“I’m going to reach for my registration now.”)
- DO say “I do not consent to a search.”
- DO sign your ticket if you are given one. Otherwise, you may be arrested.
- DO take the DUI test, unless you are willing to risk your license being suspended.
- DO keep your car interior clear of unnecessary objects. It may give the police reason to search the car.
- DO ask if you can park your car in a safe place or have a licensed driver take it away. If you are arrested, to avoid towing or impoundment fees.

NOTE: An AB 60 license should be accepted by state and local law enforcement in California, the same as other state-issued IDs.

If you are stopped in your car, DON’T...
- DON’T physically resist a search. Say “Do not consent to a search.”
- DON’T refuse to sign a ticket. You can be arrested for it.
- DON’T search for your license or registration until asked. It may look as if you are trying to hide something.
- DON’T disrespect the officer. Although you have a constitutional right to do so, it could lead to your arrest.
- DON’T attempt to bribe the police.
- DON’T play music loudly when the police walk up to your car.
- DON’T have any objects hanging from your rearview mirror. It may give police a reason to pull you over.

THE DO’S AND DON’TS OF POLICE STOPS
Encounters with the law can be stressful or scary. People have various experiences with law enforcement, some of which are not always fair or legal. This guide provides you practical information that could help you avoid more trouble or potentially harmful situations.

In this case you will find some language underlined. These are “magic words” that you can repeat over and over to show you know the law. Memorize them. Know your rights, so you can use them.

This guide is meant to offer some basic advice when interacting with police officers. This list applies to the state of California only. Be sure to consult a lawyer.
FIGHT BACK!

- Enforcement: Join your local team to defend yourself from may be able to get bail - don’t give up hope!
- Get a trustworthy attorney & explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you
- Report & Record:
  - Take time, type of car and exactly what happened!
  - Take pictures & video unless you’re on federal
- DO NOT SIGN
  - Talking to an attorney.
  - Don’t sign anything ICE gives you without
  - Say, “I plead the Fifth Amendment and choose to remain silent.”
- REMAIN SILENT
  - If you let them.
  - By a criminal court judge. They can only come
  - ICE cannot come in without a signed warrant

IF ICE COMES TO YOUR DOOR

- What to do