

COMMUNITY POLICING - AND - OTHER FAIRY TALES



Pull-Out
poster
inside!

COMICS & STORIES FOR A POLICE-FREE WORLD

JONAS GOONFACE • MYC DAZZLE • DENNIS MADAMBA • FERRAYA
MOLLIE W • RICARDO LEVINS MORALES • MICAH BAZANT • MPD150.COM

COMMUNITY POLICING AND OTHER FAIRY TALES

A COLLECTION OF COMICS & STORIES
FOR A POLICE-FREE WORLD. CURATED BY MPD150

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THRU OUR HALLS? • JONAS GOONFACE &
YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTION COALITION

PULLOUT POSTER BY MICAH BIZANT

ADDITIONAL ART BY RICARDO LEVINS MORALES

SUPPLEMENTAL WORDS & RESOURCES FROM MPD150



About MPD150

In 2017, to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Minneapolis Police Department, a group of organizers came together with the intention of transforming the way policing, crime and safety are understood in Minneapolis.

MPD150 members conducted a people's performance review of the department including historical research, interviews, and a vision for the future. The resulting report, *Enough is Enough*, explores the past 15 decades of police violence, corruption, and failed reform attempts in Minneapolis and outlines a plan for dismantling the department and building a police-free future.

Check out *Enough is Enough* at www.mpd150.com. The report is available as PDF, text and audio. The website also includes a wealth of resources, including examples of curriculum that we have used to facilitate conversation about police abolition.

Wouldn't A Police-Free World Create Chaos and Crime?

Police abolition work is not about snapping our fingers and magically defunding every department in the world instantly. Rather, we're talking about a gradual process of strategically reallocating resources, funding, and responsibility away from police and toward community-based models of safety, support, and prevention.

The people who respond to crises in our community should be the people who are best-equipped to deal with those crises. Rather than strangers armed with guns, who very likely do not live in the neighborhoods they're patrolling, we want to create space for more mental health service providers, social workers, victim/survivor advocates, religious leaders, neighbors and friends—all of the people who really make up the fabric of a community—to look out for one another.

But what about armed bank robbers, murderers, and supervillains?

Check out www.mpd150.com/faq for answers to this and other common questions about police abolition.

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PDF download available at MPD150.com

MPD150'S FIVE ESSENTIAL FINDINGS

1. The police were established to protect the interests of the wealthy and racialized violence has always been part of that mission.
2. The police cannot be reformed away from their core function.
3. The police criminalize dark skin and poverty, channeling millions of people into the prison system, depriving them of voting and employment rights, and thereby preserving privileged access to housing, jobs, land, credit and education for whites.
4. The police militarize and escalate situations that call for social service intervention.
5. There are viable existing and potential alternatives to policing for every area in which police engage.

design by Ashley Fairbanks

An Ordinary Day

written and illustrated by @MycDazzle

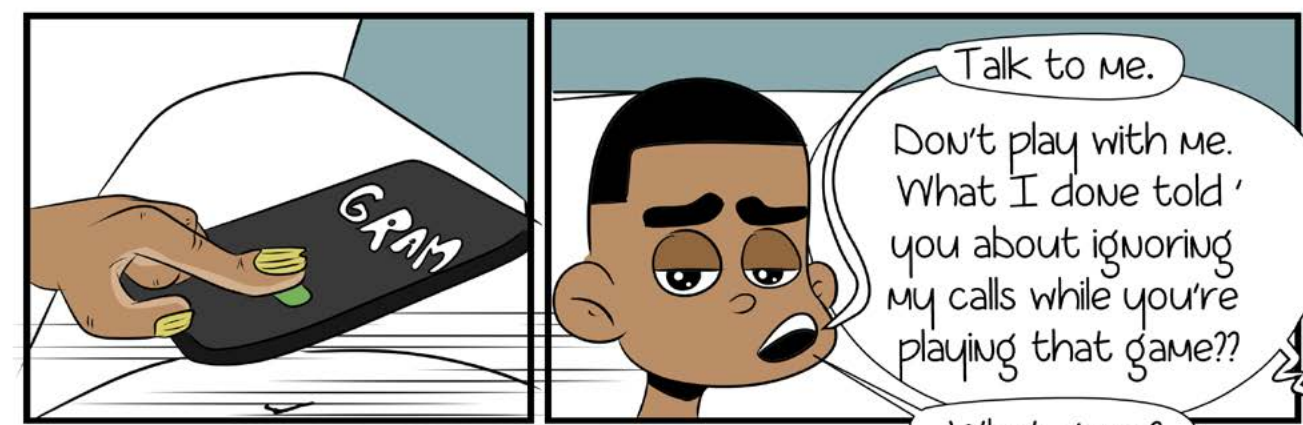
story inspired by Malcolm Jamison



You can't hold me, bro. I'm unstoppable.

Lebron and AD are unstoppable. You're a bum.

BRKGGGGG



Talk to me.

Don't play with me. What I done told you about ignoring my calls while you're playing that game??

GRAM

What game?



Get up off this couch and go get me some milk from the store! Money's in my coat.



You okay, Peanut?

Unhand me.

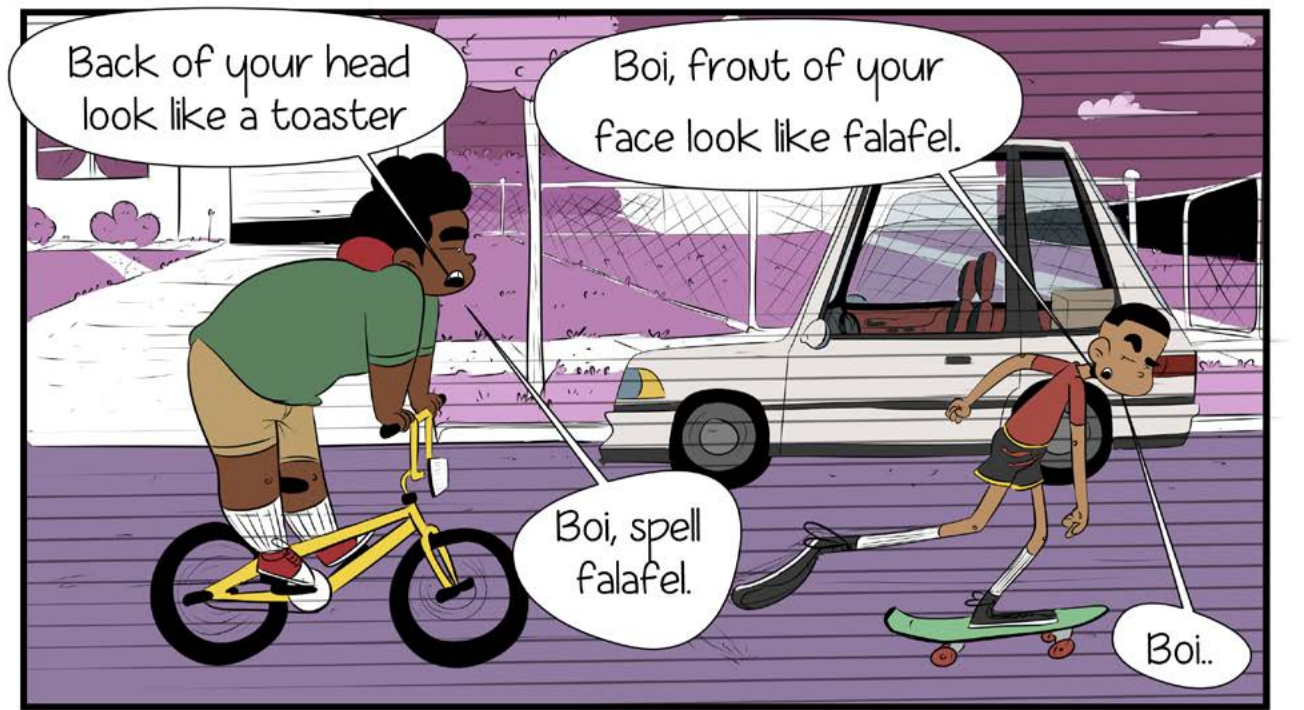


Gram always forcin' us outside like it's not 189 degrees.

It'd only feel like 70 if you took off that hot ass hoodie.

IT'D ONLY FEEL LIKE TO YOU TOOK OFF THAT HOT ASS HOODIE.

Lookin boi

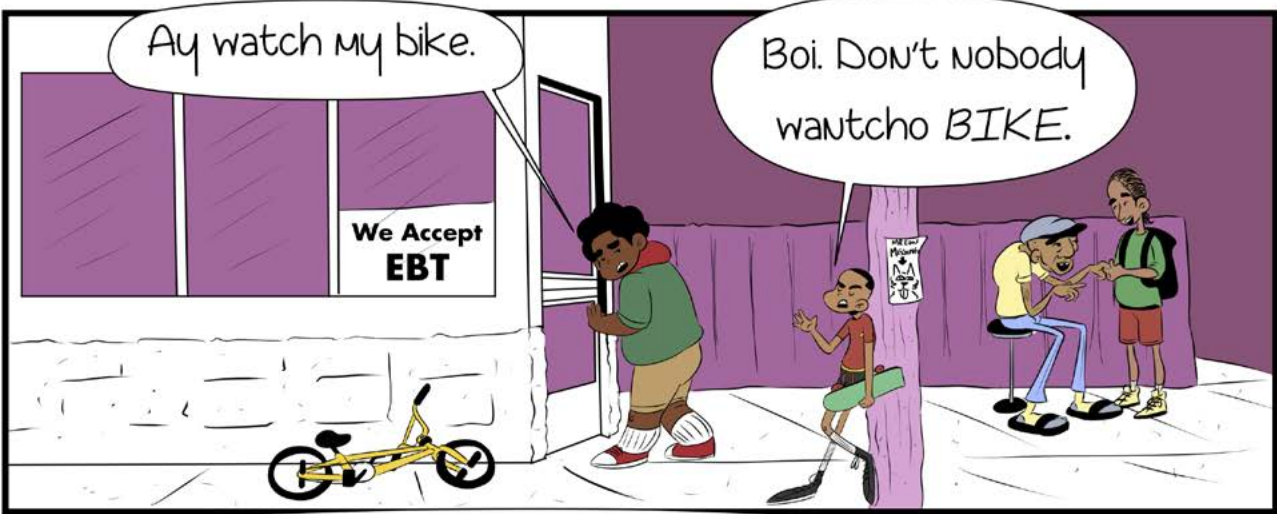


Back of your head look like a toaster

Boi, front of your face look like falafel.

Boi, spell falafel.

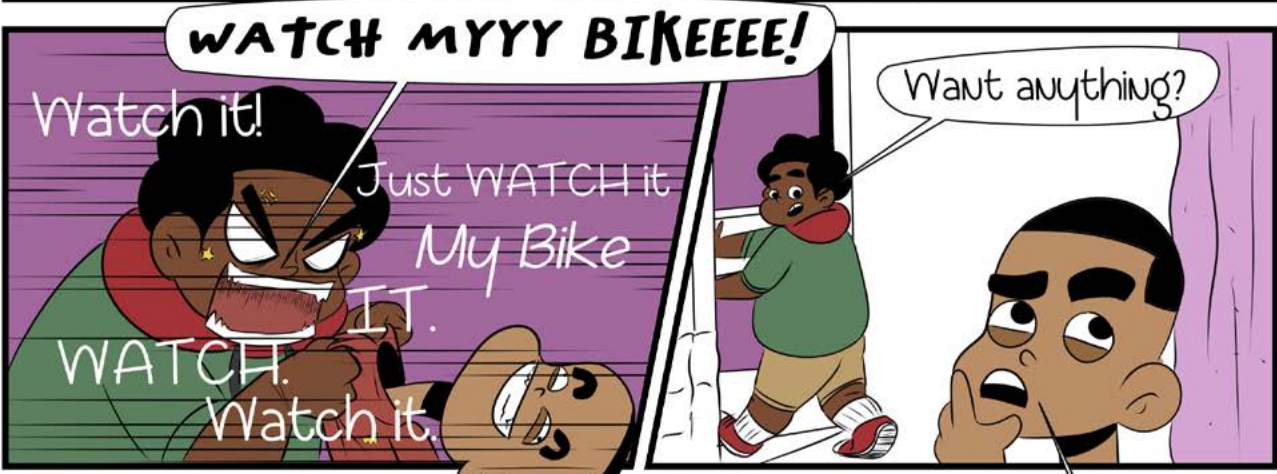
Boi..



Ay watch my bike.

Boi. Don't nobody wantcho BIKE.

We Accept EBT



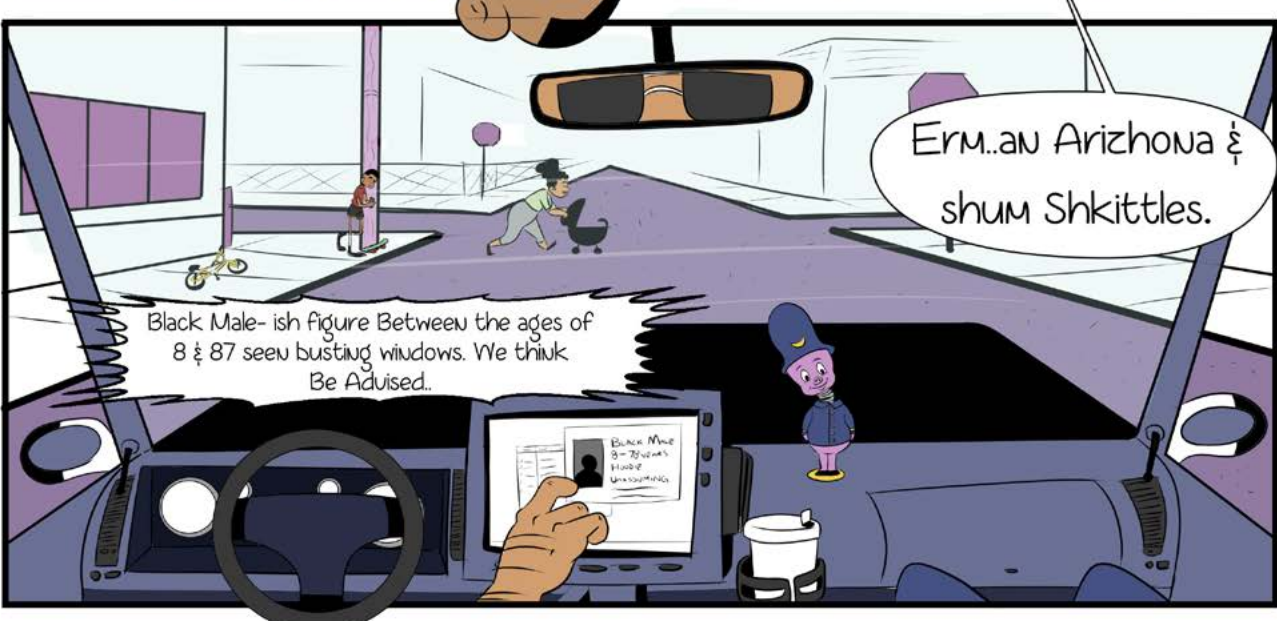
WATCH MY BIKEEEEE!

Watch it!

Just WATCH it My Bike

WATCH. Watch it.

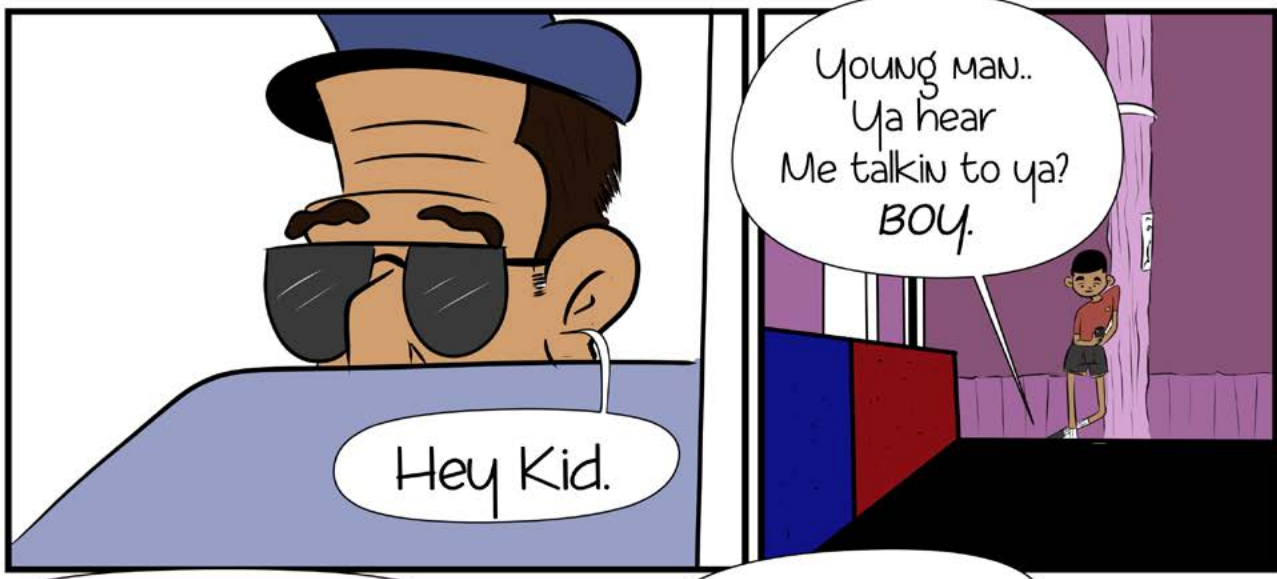
Want anything?



Erm..an Arizhona & shum Shkittles.

Black Male- ish figure Between the ages of 8 & 87 seen busting windows. We think Be Advised.

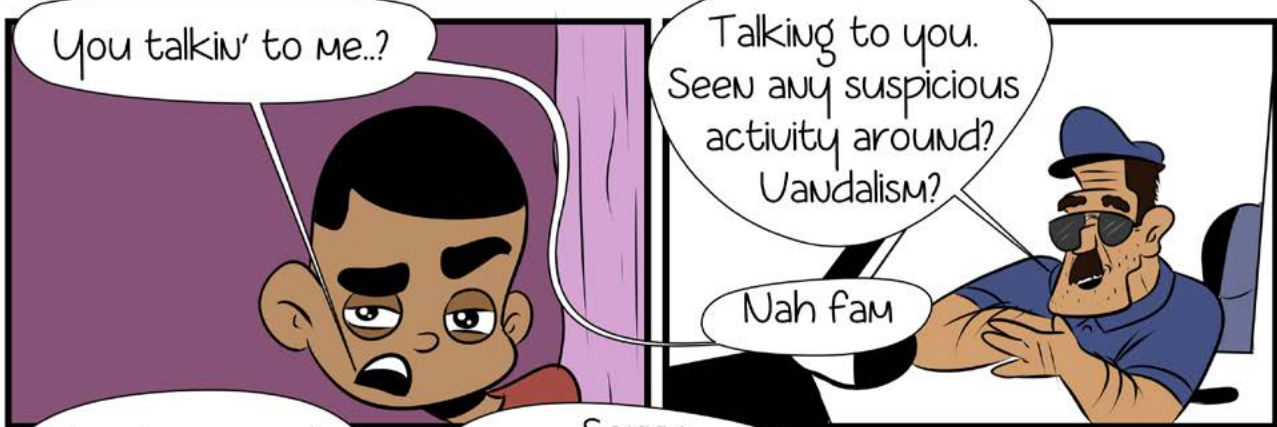
Black Male 5'-7" 150 lbs. Black. No tattoos. No piercings.



Hey Kid.



Young man.. Ya hear Me talkin to ya? BOY.



You talkin' to me..?

Talking to you. Seen any suspicious activity around? Vandalism?

Nah fam



Here's my card. see anything.. give me a ring.

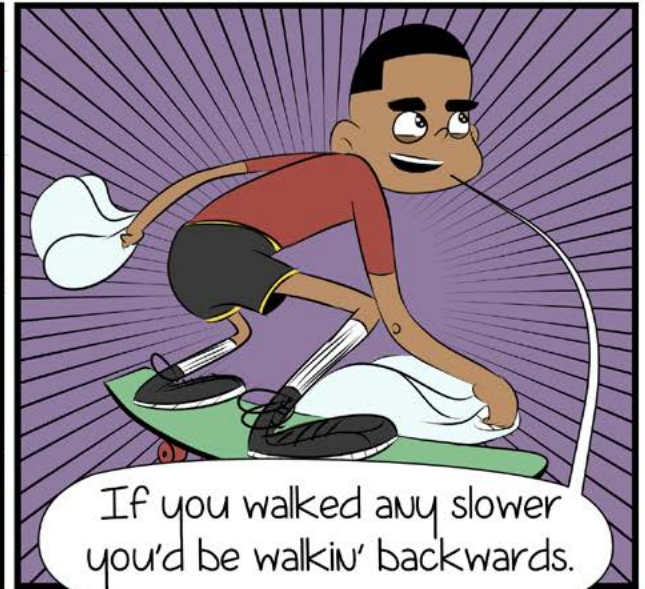
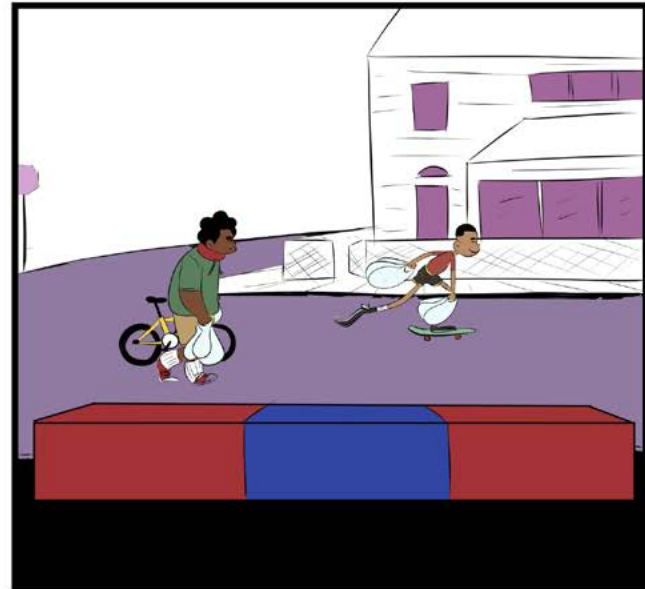
Sorry. No pockets, brehr. Guess I'll have to call yall's other number.

911, right?

Er..ya-you do that. Have a nice day.



Ol' strong face. Ol chin look like it can bench 220 lookin BOI.



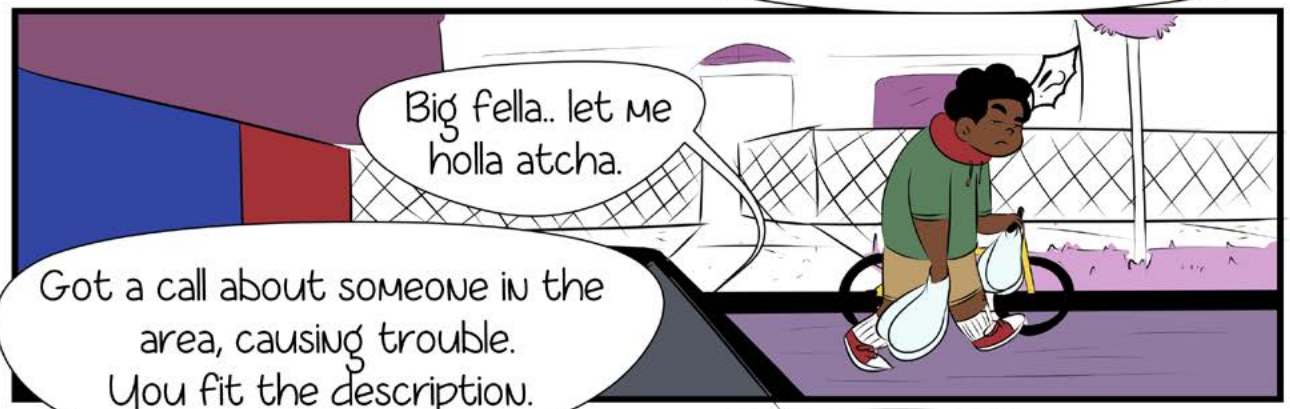
If you walked any slower you'd be walkin' backwards.



Deng, Costco. Did you forget you biked here?

I'll just walk my bike. We needed snackage.

Was just complaining about the heat. Choose a position.



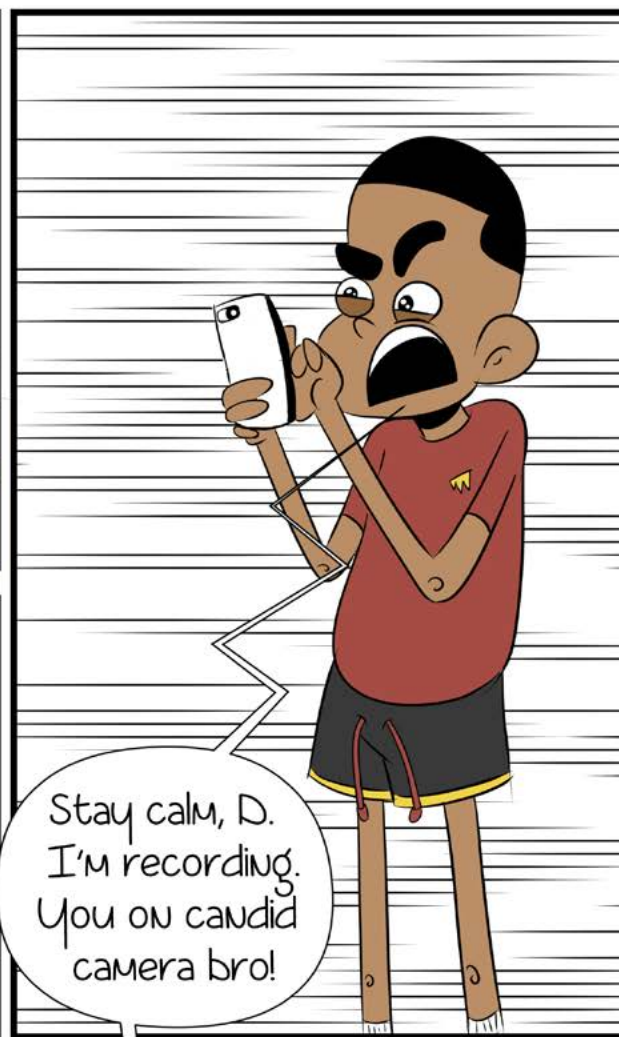
Big fella.. let me holla atcha.

Got a call about someone in the area, causing trouble. You fit the description.



Do III, thooo?

You tell me. Do ya?

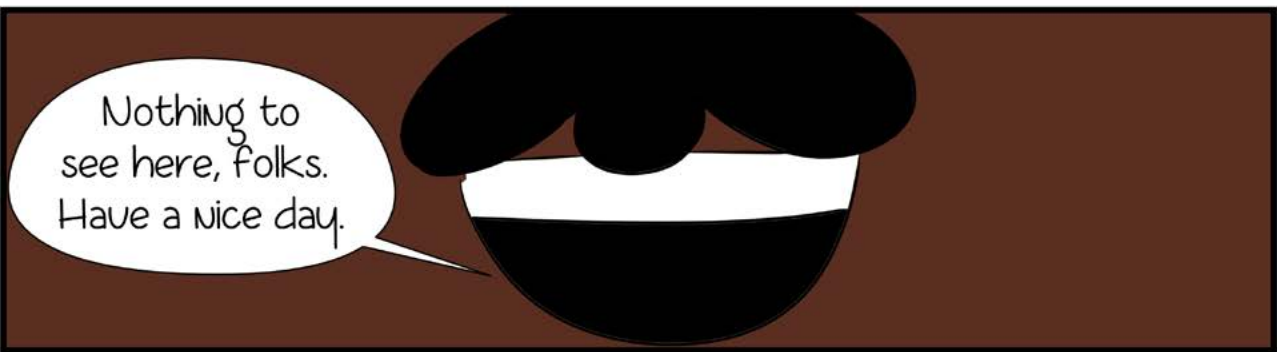




Er.. you're good to go.



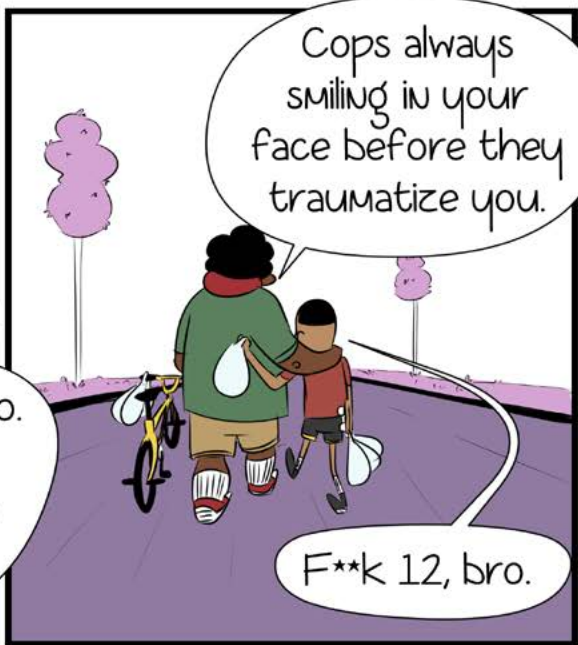
We should probably get out of here.



Nothing to see here, folks. Have a nice day.



You okay, Peanut



Cops always smiling in your face before they traumatize you.

F**k 12, bro.



shut up, bro. I'm good. just wanna go home.

★ DON'T BE BAMBOOZLED! ★

THEY'RE NOT YOUR PROTECTORS!
THEY'RE NOT YOUR PALS!

MPD150.com



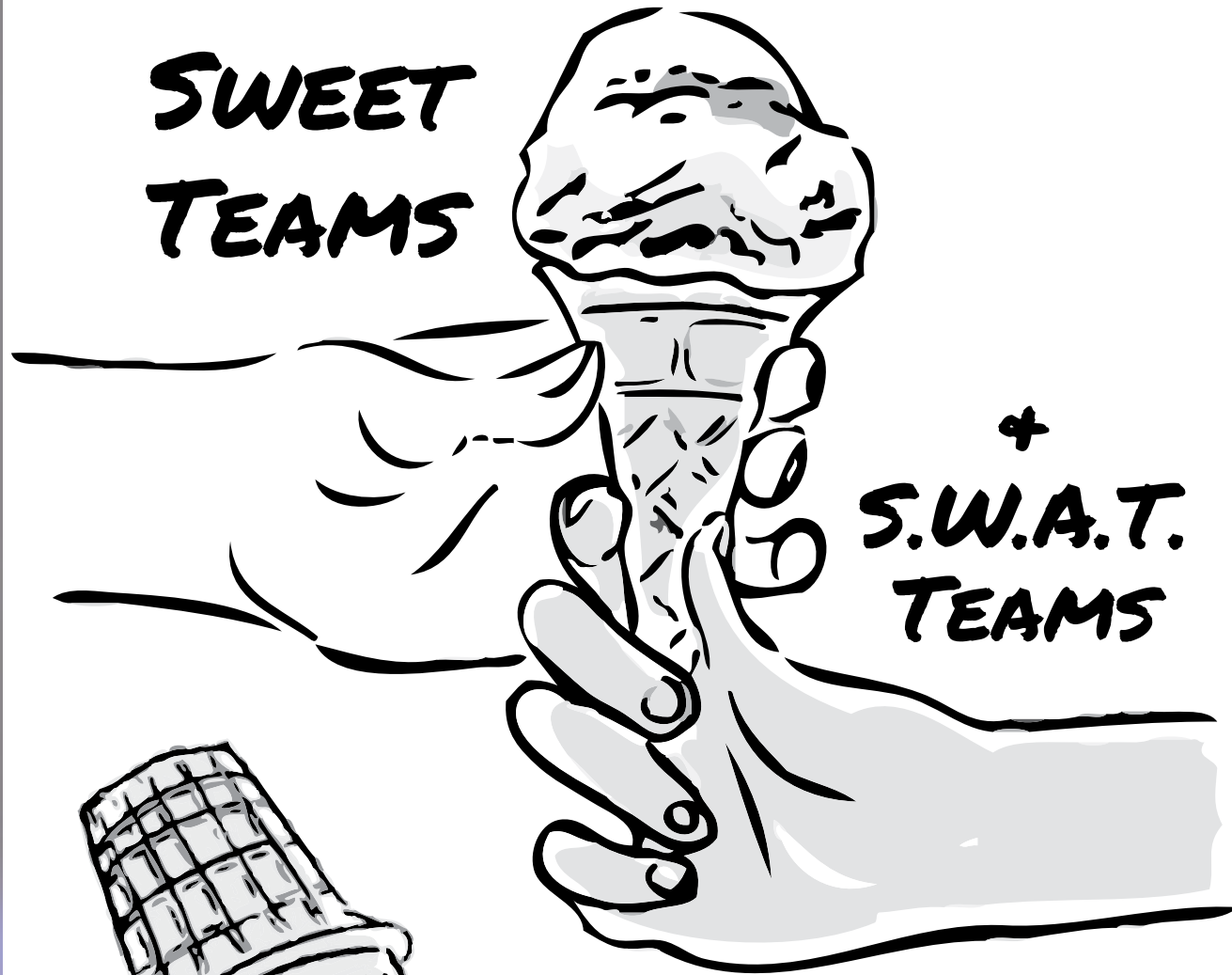
GOLLY OFFICER, YOU SURE ARE FRIENDLY!

ALL THE BETTER TO SUBDUE YOUR COMMUNITY WITH, MY DEAR...

JONAS GOONFACE



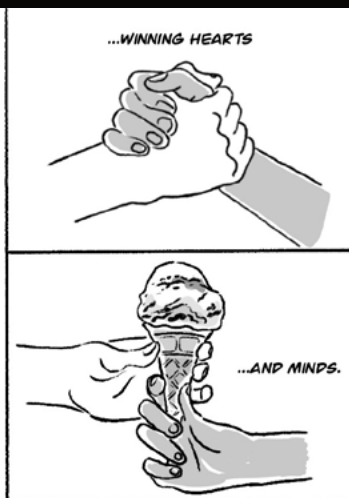
**SWEET
TEAMS**



**+
S.W.A.T.
TEAMS**

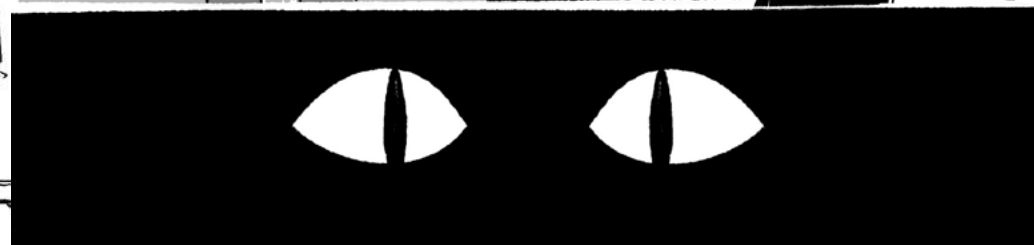


**A HISTORY
OF COMMUNITY
POLICING**



BACK IN THE 1960S, WE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A LOT OF PROTEST MOVEMENTS.

IT DIDN'T MAKE US VERY POPULAR.



NOW WHEN TROUBLE BREAKS OUT...



BLACK LIVES

WE'RE READY



MORE ICE CREAM



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

THE RESULT (AND THE MAIN GOAL) IS A STEADY INFLOW OF INFORMATION TO THE POLICE. THE "INFORMATION SHARING" BETWEEN POLICE AND COMMUNITY FLOWS IN ONLY ONE DIRECTION.



POLICE

ice cream!



TO SHOW HOW NICE WE ARE.



WE PUT TONS OF MONEY INTO OUR SWEET TEAMS...



...AND OUR S.W.A.T. TEAMS



COMMUNITY MEETINGS



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING...

WINK, WINK...

ANOTHER TOOL IN OUR BELT!



ON COMMUNITY POLICING: WHOSE COMMUNITY?

MPD150

What it is

When police are in the news for something bad, whether that's brutality, profiling, or other kinds of misconduct, we often hear calls for more "community policing." The image of the cop walking his beat, knowing the names of the people in the neighborhood, and becoming a trusted member of the community—this is an attractive story for a lot of people. But it's also full of holes.

"Community policing" is a police strategy meant to counter community suspicion and hostility caused by police racism, violence, and harassment. It arose alongside the increased impoverishment of black, brown and poor communities as the "friendly face" of racialized mass incarceration. It is a strategy to calm the outrage of communities facing structural injustice while suppressing efforts to challenge that injustice. It's about optics, not meaningful policy.

Community policing is designed to create positive relationships between the police and people in the community. These "positive relationships," however, don't change the material conditions of the community, or affect the deeply-rooted racism at the core of so many police departments. What they really do is provide the police with detailed information about the community, develop a cadre of community leaders who can be tapped when police actions spark public anger, and create a political support base for the police. This relationship-building is paired with an increasing reliance on military-style SWAT teams, surprise raids, and anonymous tips.

"Patrol officers form a bond of trust with local residents who get to know them as more than a uniform. The police work with local groups, businesses, churches, and the like to address the concerns and problems of the neighborhood. Pacification is simply

an expansion of this concept to include greater development and security assistance."

– excerpt from the RAND corporation's "War By Other Means"
report on counterinsurgency study, 2006

How it started

Community policing was born in response to the urban uprisings and protest movements sweeping the country in the mid-1960s. Violent police and FBI repression successfully destroyed the most militant organizations of the time, but at great cost to their legitimacy in the eyes of large segments of the population. Police looked to military "counterinsurgency" and "pacification" methods for answers.

They began to add helicopters, body armor, sophisticated weaponry, and advanced surveillance ability to the police arsenal. This steadily expanded in the 1970s and was widely embraced by the police establishment in the 1980s, a time when the threat was not from organized rebellion but from deep resentment of an economic environment of massive upward distribution of wealth from poor, black and brown communities to the rich (called "restructuring" in the language of politicians). Instead of just targeting oppositional organizations, the police focus shifted to controlling entire communities. They also identified the need to "re-brand" as a trusted community partner.

"The predominant ways of utilizing police and law enforcement within a COIN [counterinsurgency] strategy... consist of the adoption of the community-policing approach supported by offensive policing actions such as paramilitary operations, counter-guerrilla patrolling... and raids."

– excerpt from "Policing and Law Enforcement in COIN: The Thick Blue Line"
(Joint Special Operations University Report, 2009)

How it works

Community policing is about developing **personal relationships** with cops—via police/youth sports and social activities, cops on bikes, visible acts of charity, precinct open houses and "officer friendly" visits to classrooms. Additionally, the police cultivate neighborhood watch and block club networks, and build relationships with neighborhood (usually homeowner) organizations, attending their meetings, listening to their concerns, and providing safety trainings that rely on police involvement.

The image they seek to promote is one of police as **community friends**, promoting safety and connection, reducing crime and practicing "soft" problem-solving. Because of the

(continued)...

**I DON'T WATCH
MY NEIGHBORS.
I SEE THEM.
WE MAKE OUR
COMMUNITY
SAFER
TOGETHER.**



...(continued)

gentler, kinder image, communities subject to police violence often demand community policing in the hope of getting some relief from police violence.

The result (and the main goal) is a steady **inflow of information** to the police. Counterinsurgency/community policing relies on centralized databases and mapping out the “human terrain” of the community. The “information sharing” between police and community flows in only one direction. Human sources are supplemented with sophisticated surveillance technology, public security cameras and social media stalking.

The “problem-solving” aspect of community policing leads to a concentration of social service functions added to police duties, functions that would be better served by community-rooted organizations that do not have the repressive social control mission of the police. The mission of police has, from the beginning, involved defending privileged white access to resources and opportunities, and the protection of the holders of wealth against the demands of the poor.

The soft methods of community policing are introduced alongside **paramilitary SWAT teams**. These rapid response police squads are separate from the friendly neighborhood cops so when they break down doors and terrorize people (often based on anonymous tips), the officer friendlies are on hand to reassure their community contacts and smooth things over.

Community policing does not replace **racial profiling and street harassment**; it enables them by recruiting community leaders to defend the police based on personal relationships with individual cops. These personal interactions promote the message “see, all cops aren’t bad” and divert attention from a systemic understanding of the police role.

Broken windows policing—in which people are pursued for very minor infractions on the theory that it will prevent bigger crimes—can overlap with community policing by sending the message that it pays to stay on the good side of the cops through cooperation so as not to get the “suspect” treatment. This police tactic is often employed to make life uncomfortable for “undesirables” when a neighborhood is being gentrified.

“The research shows that community policing does not empower communities in meaningful ways. It expands police power, but does nothing to reduce the burden of overpolicing on people of color and the poor. It is time to invest in communities instead.”

– excerpt from “The End of Policing” by Alex S. Vitale

speaking up about stings



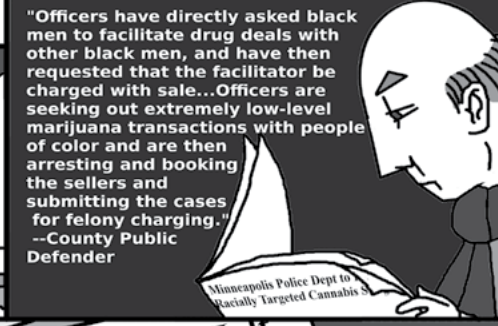
Mollie W & Ferraya



Every year the Minneapolis Police Department approaches the City Council for more money.

In June 2018, the Minneapolis Police Department announced that it would end its marijuana stings, after it was revealed that 46 of the 47 people charged with felonies were black.

"Officers have directly asked black men to facilitate drug deals with other black men, and have then requested that the facilitator be charged with sale...Officers are seeking out extremely low-level marijuana transactions with people of color and are then arresting and booking the sellers and submitting the cases for felony charging."
--County Public Defender



Minneapolis Police Dept to Racially Targeted Cannabis Stings

Minneapolis Police Dept to Halt Racially Targeted Cannabis Stings

MPD set to end a series of undercover cannabis stings after it was revealed that 46 of the 47 individuals who were charged with felonies are black.

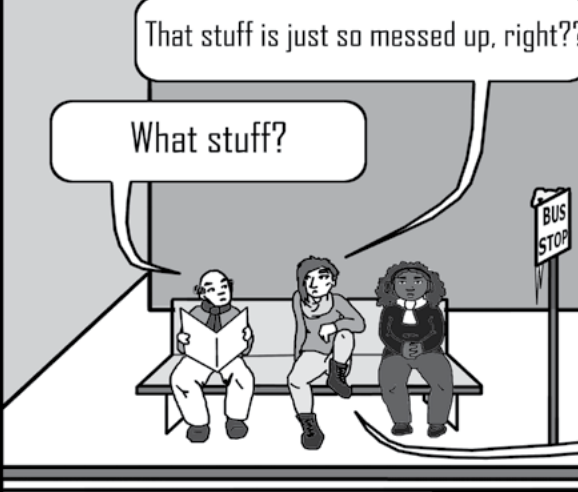
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Those targeted cannabis stings.

That stuff is just so messed up, right??

What stuff?

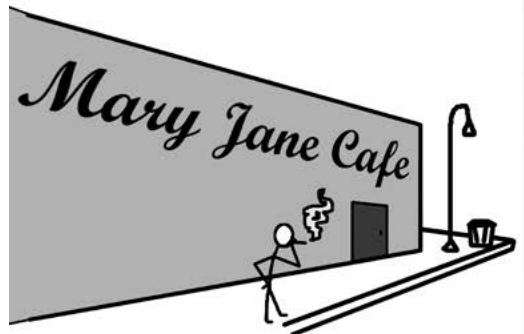


I mean, if you're going to be selling drugs in public, shouldn't you be taken off the streets?

Who are we calling dangerous in public? Cops literally kill people in broad daylight- criminalizing just isolates drug users and fills up prisons.



Weed isn't even illegal in like eleven states, but MPD has this as a top priority for some reason?



Those resources could have gone to actually treating drug addiction.

But the whole point of this?

Just setting these people up,



and then punishing them.

White sports fans can get wasted in public and light cars



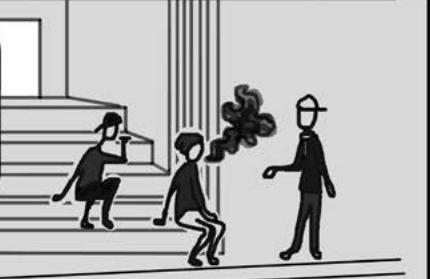
on fire, and cops won't even arrest or charge them.



Well yeah, but if someone is doing drugs in public...



Those white kids across the street are literally hitting a pen right now, you don't think there's a problem?



Uhh....

It's a double standard.



The only white person of the 47 literally walked up and tried to sell to an officer. All the others were black men targeted by undercover cops in public.

Have you gotten to that part yet?

Can you read some of that? What does it say?

"One of the black men targeted, Jacob Aikens, told the Star Tribune:"

"I feel like it's kind of ridiculous."

What if instead of cops, the city was funding much needed stuff? Why is there no shelter around this bus stop? Where the hell is the heat???

My church group has advocated for more shelter space, how does the city afford so many undercover cops when they aren't even doing good work?

It'd be cool if my kid's school could afford new textbooks. Or more than a cold cheese sandwich for lunch.

"There are people dying from fentanyl and meth,"

"and I get a felony for selling a small amount of weed."

"I feel like it's racial profiling."

Good luck fitting back there, y'all.

.....

Sixteen of the people in those Minneapolis Police Department marijuana stings had already been convicted and the County Attorney made no effort to expunge the charges.

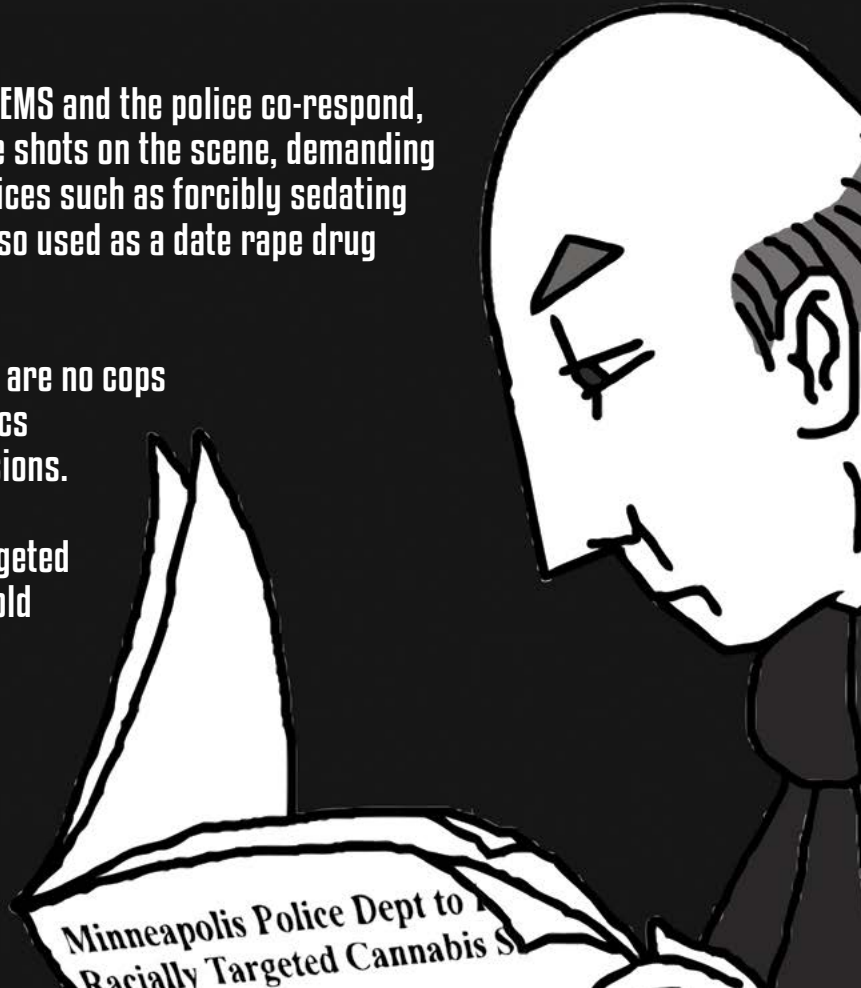
Cops do not make people safer. In the case of these stings, cops specifically targeted black people on Hennepin Avenue, asking if anyone had any weed. In the case of Jacob Aikens, he was immediately surrounded by four cops after making the sale to an undercover cop.

At this same time in June of 2018, the City of Minneapolis released a report detailing instances in which MPD pressured Emergency Medical Services to sedate patients. Cops caught on bodycam were referring to the sedative, Ketamine, as "the good stuff." One officer, after EMS double-dosed a patient, exclaimed jokingly, "he just hit the k-hole."

This report stated that when EMS and the police co-respond, cops quickly begin calling the shots on the scene, demanding that EMS enact abusive practices such as forcibly sedating patients with a drug that's also used as a date rape drug and a horse tranquilizer.

Imagine a world where there are no cops pressuring EMS. Where medics facilitate patient-driven decisions.


These same communities targeted with forcible sedation also hold sacred, ancestral knowledge about healing the body. There are so many possibilities in a police-free future.



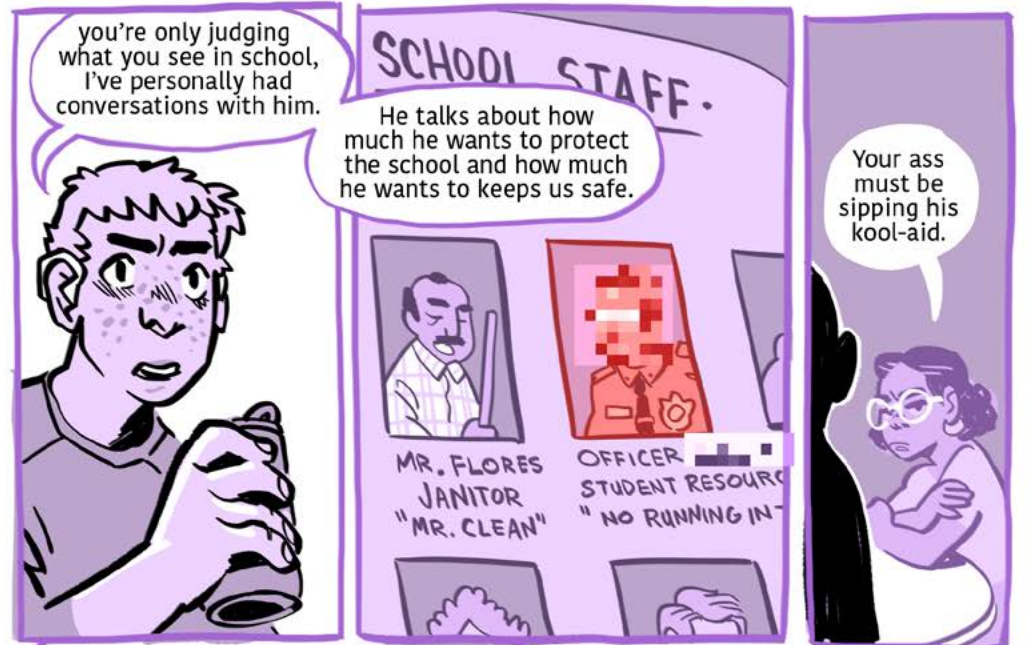
Minneapolis Police Dept to Racially Targeted Cannabis S



WHY IS THERE A COP ROAMING THRU OUR HALLS?



ART BY JONAS GOON FACE
WRITTEN BY YOUNG PEOPLES ACTION COALITION







Okay but who would protect the school?

We usually have backup cops from outside the school get called anyway if something does happen.



Personally I don't like cops and it'll always be fuck12...



...but the SRO is the basketball and football coach on our teams and I think he's cool.



I'm glad he's nice to a bunch of kids in the school, but howabout other SRO's in other schools.

Some of these officers are not the nicest or the most professional.



Has anyone heard about the SRO at Central High School?



I think I heard about that.

Wasn't it about how the cop got kicked out of the school because he was too rough on the student he arrested?

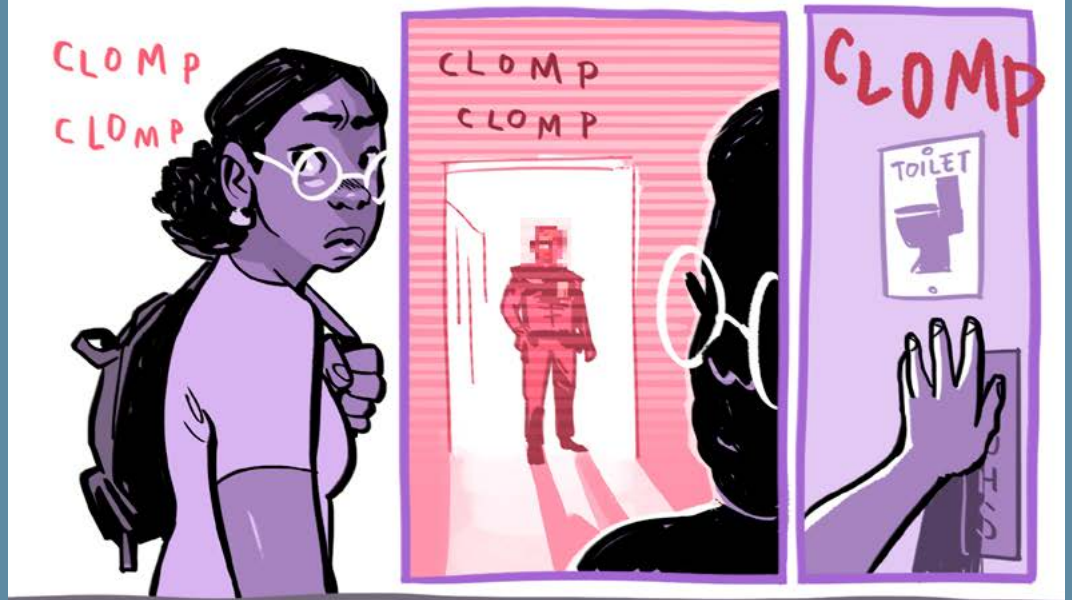
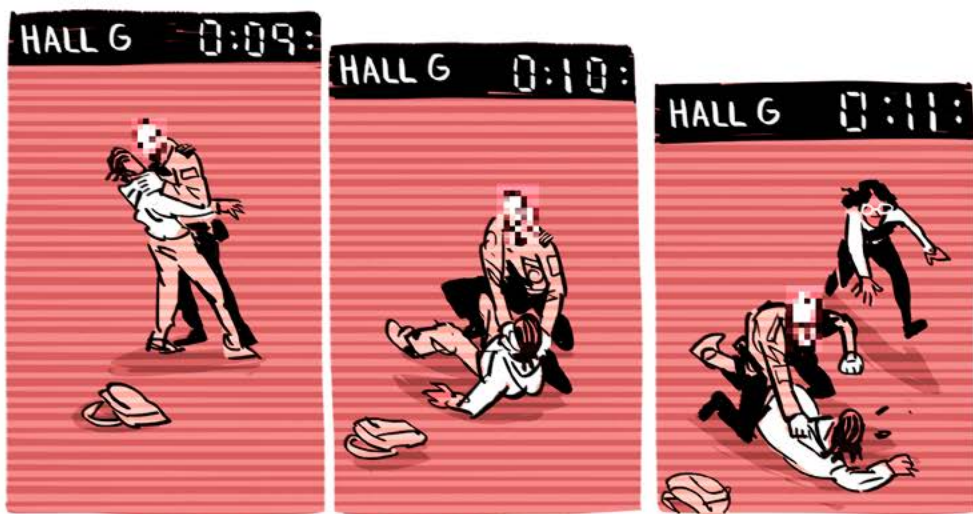


That's correct.

Yet a bunch of other teachers and parents want to keep SROs cause they say it's "safe for schools"

HALL G 0:06 HALL G 0:07 HALL G 0:08







YPAC (YOUNG PEOPLES ACTION COALITION) HAS BEEN WORKING FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS ON GATHERING INPUT FROM YOUTH ON HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT SROS (SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS) AND ENGAGING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE METRO IN DIALOGUE AND ACTION ON THE ISSUE OF COPS IN SCHOOLS. THIS COMIC REFLECTS CONVERSATIONS STUDENTS HAVE HAD WITH THEIR PEERS AND SOME OF THE VIOLENCE AND TENSION THAT HAS RESULTED FROM HAVING COPS IN SCHOOLS. IF YOU ARE A MINNEAPOLIS HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT AND YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OUR WORK, SEND US A MESSAGE ON INSTAGRAM (YPAC.MN) OR FACEBOOK, OR COME TO A MEETING!

THIS COMIC WAS MADE IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN YPAC, MPD150, AND COMIC ARTIST JONAS GOONFACE. THE SCRIPT WAS COLLECTIVELY PUT TOGETHER BY MINNEAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ABDOLIE CEESAY, A RECENT GRADUATE FROM SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL AND YPAC FACILITATOR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR WORK, YOU CAN SEND US DONATIONS VIA VENMO @WHYPAAK.



Resources

General History of Policing

Our Enemies in Blue by Kristian Williams

Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States. A Truthout Collection edited by Maya Schenwar, Joe Macaré, and Alana Yu-lan Price, foreword by Alicia Garza

History of Community Policing

Life During Wartime: Resisting Counterinsurgency edited by William Munger, Lara Messersmith-Glavin, and Kristian Williams

"The Problem with Community Policing - A World Without Police" by the Abolition Research Group - aworldwithoutpolice.org

School Resource Officers (SROs)

Freedom Inc's *"Police Free Schools"* and #PoliceFreeSchools on Instagram

ACLU's *"Cops and no Counselors: How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming Students"*

Advancement Project's *"Police in Schools Are Not the Answer to School Shootings"*

Ideas for Action

Night Out for Safety and Liberation Discussion Guide & Community Organizing Toolkit - www.nosl.us

Resources Available from MPD150.com

"Building a Police-Free Future: Frequently-Asked Questions", a one-page print-and-fold pocket zine

"Ten Action Ideas for Building a Police-Free Future", a printable 2-page handout

Links to further reading, tools and perspectives on police abolition, including both Minneapolis/Minnesota-specific and general resources



THE PERENNIAL **WILD LUPINE** IS THE
OFFICIAL POLICE ABOLITION FLOWER OF MINNESOTA.

WITH MANY PRACTICAL AND SYMBOLIC PARALLELS TO THE CULTIVATION OF A POLICE-FREE FUTURE, **WILD LUPINE** IS RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLIC SEEDING IN YARDS, GARDENS, EMPTY LOTS, ROADSIDES AND NEAR POLICE STATIONS AND PRISONS. PLANT THE MESSAGE OF THE POLLI-NATION WE WILL BRING TO LIFE.

**FOR DETAILS ON ORDERING AND CULTIVATION VISIT:
MPD150.COM**

THE WILD LUPINE WAS CHOSEN FOR ITS PROPERTIES AND SYMBOLISM AND AS A NATIVE PLANT IN MINNESOTA. OTHER REGIONS WISHING TO SEED THE FUTURE SHOULD RESEARCH NATIVE PLANT SPECIES FOR THEIR AREA.



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BRUTALITY



RACISM



MASS INCARCERATION

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**offer not valid in areas with strong community organizing due to lessened product effectiveness*

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