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# **Downtown's Political Tragedy: It's Not Acceptable Anymore *A Public Rights and Privileges Plan***

## **Occupy Los Angeles**

**November 2011**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

**City Hall does not Have a Business Lobbying Crisis; It Has a Public Rights and Privileges Crisis.**

We define "lobbyists" as the various people or groups, from private-sector, individuals or corporations, fellow legislators or government officials, and advocacy groups. Lobbyists may be among a legislator's constituents, meaning a voter or block of voters within his or her electoral district, or not; they may engage in lobbying as a business, or not.

Professional lobbyists are people whose business is trying to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest who hire them. Individuals and nonprofit organizations can also lobby as an act of volunteering or as a small part of their normal job or an activist or individual meeting with his/her legislator in an unpaid capacity.

While this definition of "lobbyist" may seem precise, it contributes to the general misconception that all people who lobby governments can be categorized together as a single societal group.

We believe that our generalized use of the descriptor "lobbyist" is tantamount to saying that cancer, influenza, and chicken pox are all "illnesses" so their causes, symptoms, and potential treatments can be the same. In fact, those who we commonly refer to as "Lobbyists" are an equally divergent amalgam of populations that must be considered separately.

For the purposes of this paper, we will describe several different populations that are typically referred to as "lobbyists" or part of the "influence of politics".

These include:

- Citizen Lobbyists**
- Advocacy Group Lobbyists**
- Legislators and Government Official Lobbyists**
- Financial-Sector Lobbyists**
- Corporate Lobbyists**

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Each of these populations has a different cause for their lobbying or reason for trying to influence legislation. As such, each of these populations needs to be identified and treated separately.

### **Finding room for the Citizen Lobbyists is a PUBLIC RIGHTS Issue**

The first group we call the **“Citizen Lobbyist”** – those who have lost the economic wherewithal to pay for lobbying. The Citizen Lobbyists are individuals and their families who, due to economic burdens or responsibilities, employment, social hardships or problems cannot find affordable or adequate lobbying and must struggle to lobby with friends or family, in a City Hall, County offices, State buildings and if they are capable at Federal offices.

We believe that the Citizen Lobbyists are most likely to benefit from reformed lobbying programs including public encampments, lobby days, lobbying training, subsidized income for time lost to lobbying and government-assistance programs such as Citizen Lobbying Empowerment Projects.

The Citizen Lobbyists typically cannot contribute to their own lobbying and struggle to seek ways to rectify their situation wherever possible. There are not many agencies that exist to help this population. And many of those that did exist have had to close their doors do to the economic crisis

We do not believe that current Citizen Lobbyists significantly affect policies and politics and, as such, will be addressed in another Plan.

In fact, this Plan will address the issues standing in the way of Citizen Lobbyists meeting their fullest potential. Southern California’s citizen lobbying shortage, including LA’s lack of affordable lobbying, is a crisis that Occupy Los Angeles hopes to address here, and will continue to address, separately. This plan is only intended to address public Rights and Privilege issues in politics.

However, it is true that most of the public Rights and Privilege problems discussed here are created by populations that are now commonly referred to as “lobbyists.” So therein lies the problem, since we believe that the blanket use of the term “lobbyists” to describe several non-related populations contributes to our difficulty in solving our public Rights and Privileges crisis. Consequently, it is our intent to bifurcate the term “lobbyist” in the public Rights and Privileges discourse.

[This is not an officially approved Occupy LA General Assembly statement or document. It was created by an individual as a satire. Please enjoy.]

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**OCCUPY THE INVESTIGATIONS**  
**Occupiers against Police Brutality**

Dear California Occupiers,

There is a California State law that requires all law enforcement agencies to have an official citizens' complaint process, all complaints have to be investigated, and all complaints stay on the officers' records for 5 years. The below quote comes from California State Attorney General's Office:

If you have a complaint against a police officer or sheriff's deputy, you should first contact the local law enforcement agency. Each law enforcement agency in the state is required by **Penal Code section 832.5** to establish a procedure to investigate citizens' complaints. You can obtain a written description of the procedures from the law enforcement agency. If unable to resolve your complaint with the law enforcement agency, contact the district attorney's office or the grand jury in the county that has jurisdiction. If your complaint involves alleged criminal misconduct and the local agencies do not act upon it, you may write to the Attorney General's Office. To be acted upon, your complaint must contain specifics on the alleged criminal misconduct.

You have the right to make a complaint against a police officer for any improper police conduct. California law requires police agencies to have procedures to investigate citizens' complaints. You have a right to make the complaint and have it investigated if you believe an officer behaved improperly.

I would like to see a concerted effort for all California Occupations that have been subjugated to police violence against peaceful people, to file these complaints first with the agency responsible, then after 10 days send them to the District Attorneys' offices and Grand Juries. And then after that, we send them all the State Attorney General's office. And each time, any of us sends this info, we should also write a press release and make sure the media knows about it.

Maybe we can pick on day, in the near future, where each city takes these actions together in unity.

We need to reach out to those who have been victimized, help them write their complaints with as much factual details as possible. So that specific acts of violence made by individual and groups of police are investigated to their fullest extent. We need to reach out to witnesses and obtain all evidence we have, so that it can be included in the investigations.

I truly believe that together we can end police brutality by utilizing the current laws and systems to bring them to their knees. They can only get away with what we let them get away with and we have let them get away with far too much. It is our time to act, strategically and in solidarity. A blow to one occupier is a blow to all. Let's stand together and demand accountability.

One of our Principles of Unity is: "Individual and collective responsibility". We are responsible for this abuse, if we do nothing. Inaction against wrongful action is worse than the wrongful action. We may not be able to control the police from hitting us but if they hit us we can control how we respond. Let's act!

What do you think?

[This is not an officially approved occupy LA General assembly document or statement]

## CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION'S MUNICIPAL LOBBYING INTERESTS 2011

Central City Association is a business lobbying group that started in 1924. They are currently drafting **an ordinance that STRICTLY prohibits any encampments on public or private property without authorization.**

This is in direct opposition of Occupy LA and the homeless. We would like to take actions to address the issue of CCA creating this ordinance and their opposition to the **Responsible Banking Ordinance (09-0234)** that they have been opposing for over 2 years now. Next City Hall committee meeting on regarding the RBO is on Monday 11/21 at 1pm in room 1010. Join us.

If you are interested, please join the Civic Engagement Community at OLA. Our meetings are Thursdays and Saturdays at 6pm usually on the West Steps. **Thursday 11/10 we will meet at 5:30 at Salvage at 707 W 7<sup>th</sup> St. Meeting starts at 6pm.** Email [occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com](mailto:occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com) for more information.

Below is a list of local laws CCA has lobbied for or against in 2011 alone. What do you think about their lobbying efforts? Do you think they lobby to benefit the 99%? Look that their member list!

### Quarter 3

1. Hotel Worker Recall Rights Ordinance
2. Sign Ordinance
3. Responsible Banking Ordinance
4. Modified Parking Requirement SUDs
5. DWP Rate Increases
6. Shopping Cart Containment Ordinance
7. Grocery Worker Strike Motion
8. Farmers Field
9. Arizona Boycott
10. Multiple Approvals
11. Art Walk Task Force
12. Waste Hauling
13. Business Tax Reform
14. Sewer Fee Increases
15. Zoo
16. Low Impact Development
17. Development Reform
18. Planning Development Districts
19. Downtown Streetcar
20. Administrative Code Enforcement

### Quarter 2

1. Zoning Code Reform
2. Low Impact Development
3. Development Reform
4. Residential Hotel Ordinance
5. Hotel Worker Recall Rights Ordinance
6. Sign Ordinance
7. Responsible Banking Ordinance
8. Banking Development Districts

9. Lorenzo Project
10. Modified Parking Requirement SUDs
11. DWP Budget
12. Core Findings
13. Shopping Cart Containment Ordinance
14. Bunker Hill Ordinances
15. Red Light Cameras
16. Grocery Worker Strike Motion
17. DWP Rate Increases
18. Farmers Field
19. Waste Hauling

### Quarter 1

- Banking Development Districts
1. Responsible Banking Ordinance
2. Sign Ordinance
3. Office of Economic Analysis
4. Lease of Municipal Parking Garages
5. Hotel Worker Recall Rights Ordinance
6. Special Events Notification Procedure
7. CRA Board Member Confirmation
8. Lorenzo Project
9. Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project
10. Farmers Field
11. Development Reform
12. Zoning Code Reform
13. Low Impact Development
14. Waste Hauling
15. CUB Hearing for Mo-Chica
16. Solar Feed-In Tariff
17. Mobile Food Vending

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**Occupy LA's  
Civic Engagement Committee Update 9/13**

**MEETINGS**

Every Thursday and Saturday at 6pm on West Steps

**ANTI-LOBBYIST ORDINANCE**

The Demands and Objectives Committee proposed an anti-lobbying ordinance get drafted. It was approved last night at GA. I handed out copies at last night's Civic Engagement Committee meeting and GA. Demands/Objectives Committee has asked Civic Engagement to co-sponsor this proposal and help work on the language of the ordinance.

Anyone interested in that, please let me know.

**RESPONSIBLE BANKING ORDINANCE**

RBO will be discussed at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting INSIDE city hall on Monday November 21, 2011 at 1pm. We need supporters to contact their City Council Member and make sure they know the citizen want this ordinance.

Central City Association (CCA) is lobbying very hard against this ordinance. Their members include the biggest banks and corporations. Let me know if you are interested in learning more about this.

**CITIZENS UNITED**

On Dec 6, 2011, LA City Council will be discussing a resolution in support of declaring Corporations are NOT people and money is NOT Free Speech. Let me know if you are interested in this.

**PUBLIC RECORDS PROJECT**

There are two parts to this: 1) help educate people about adding their own writings to the City File associated with the First Amendment Rights / Occupy LA / Responsible Banking Ordinance. 2) Request Public Records from the City to see what has been said about us. If this interests you, let me know.

**ANYTHING ELSE?**

**Occupy LA's Civic Engagement Committee**

Update 11/9/11

Meeting location change:

**Civic Engagement Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 6pm**

**At Salvage Bar 707 West 7<sup>th</sup> St. Los Angeles, CA**

The Downtown Artwalk is happening tomorrow, Central City Association (CCA) is having a Soiree at Salvage Bar and we're going to have a meeting there too. From 5:30 – 6p, we will mingle then at 6pm we will start talking about Civic Engagement stuff.

Today, we had an impromptu meeting about Central City Association (CCA). So, we came up with some potential actions:

- ~ Audio disruption of CCA meeting
- ~ Lobby City Council Members
- ~ Outreach to small businesses on CCA membership list
- ~ Public Records request
- ~ Create a FB page "OLA vs CCA"

So, we will be discussing this and Responsible Banking Ordinance and other civic engagement stuff.

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## SEATTLE FOLLOWS LA CITY COUNCIL'S OCCUPY RESOLUTION

LA City Council Sets Political Trend that has Gone Viral around the Occupation Movement

**Los Angeles – November 15, 2011:** Back on Oct. 12, 2011, LA City Council was the first municipal body to pass a resolution in support of an occupation's First Amendment Rights but they are not the last. Just last night, Seattle City Council passed a very similar resolution. Irvine, San Francisco, Buffalo, NY; and Victoria, BC are among the first cities to show support the in occupation movement.

Occupy Los Angles (OLA), the group of First-Amendment advocates, started its encampment at LA City Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Richard Alarcon sent a letter to the Chief of Police, City Attorney, and the Director of General Services asking them to work with OLA. Other Councilmen visited the Occupiers on the lawn and the Mayor sent rain ponchos down to protesters during their first rain.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed a Resolution, introduced by Councilmen Alarcon and co-sponsored by Councilmen Bill Rosendahl, in support of the protesters' First-Amendment Rights, acknowledging some of the specific current economic problems, and pushing a Responsible Banking Ordinance forward in committee.

Seattle's Resolution calls on a similar divestiture of the City's money from banks to ensure that public funds are invested in financial institutions that support their community.

"The Council may also consider future legislation to promote responsible banking and provide an incentive for banking institutions to invest more in our City, particularly with regard to stabilizing the housing market and supporting the creation of new businesses." Seattle Resolution #31337

Some of the language from the Seattle ordinance echoes the exact phrasing from LA City Council's Ordinance. Seattle City Council has an LA staffer to thank for such powerful language:

"WHEREAS the causes and consequences of the current economic crisis erode confidence in the social contract upon which the Constitution of the United States of America is based; namely, the ability of Americans to come together and form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all, allowing every American to strive for and share in our nation's prosperity through cooperation and hard work; and"

Seattle also followed LA's lead with a unanimous vote from all city council members supporting these sentiments.

OLA has been able to influence five city file items inside LA City Hall in the last five weeks including the resolution in support of them, the city's bond program, Responsible Banking ordinance, a resolution against the Supreme decision on Citizens United, and the cost of illegal banking activities on the City of Los Angeles. Councilmen Alracon's office has taken the lead on many of these purposed reforms.

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or statement]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CENTRAL CITY ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO BAN OCCUPY LA'S ENCAMPMENT AT CITY HALL**

**Local Biz Lobby Group Aims to Outlaw First-Amendment Protesters and Homeless with Draft Ordinance**

**Los Angeles – November 9, 2011:** Central City Association (CCA), a local business lobbying group, intends to end Occupy Los Angeles (OLA)'s encampment at City Hall and criminalize the homeless. Wednesday morning, CCA plans to draft an anti-encampment ordinance that strictly prohibits anyone from setting up an encampment on public or private property without official authorization.

OLA, the group of First-Amendment advocates, started its encampment at LA City Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Richard Alarcon sent a letter to the Chief of Police, City Attorney, and the Director of General services asking them to work with OLA. Other Councilmen visited the Occupiers on the lawn and the Mayor sent rain ponchos down to protesters during their first rain.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed a Resolution in support of the protesters' First-Amendment Rights, acknowledging some of the specific current economic problems, and pushing a Responsible Banking Ordinance forward in committee.

Carol Schatz, the CEO and President of CCA, was one of four paid lobbyist to oppose the First Amendment Rights / Occupy Los Angeles / Responsible Banking Resolution. Council heard over 3 hours of public comment on this Resolution with over 30 concerned citizens in support of it.

Schatz and other lobbyists representing big banks and corporations did not argue the merits of the First-Amendment aspect of the Resolution nor the economic crisis it details but instead focused on the Responsible Banking aspect of the Resolution.

CCA's Premier Sponsor member list includes some of the world's largest (and most corrupt) banks: Bank of America, Chase, US Bank, and Wells Fargo. With over 450 members, CCA represents many of the corporations the anti-Wall-Street protesters at OLA and around the world feel have caused the most economic grievances they are petitioning their government for redress of.

OLA has been able to influence four pieces of legislation inside City Hall in the last four weeks. Each piece of legislation adversely affects the big banks and corporations. So, it's no surprise CCA has been sent in to lobby against the peaceful protesters. It's also no surprise to homeless advocates that CCA plans to draft an ordinance targeting downtown homeless.

"I does not surprise me," said Bilal X, a homeless advocate working with Los Angeles Community Action Network, "Central City Association has waged war against the homeless in downtown LA for more than 12 years now."

This is CCA's latest attempt to criminalize the homeless in the name of public safety. Occupy LA recognizes the big corporate interest in CCA and their push to rid downtown of the homeless population. OLA sees this as a prime example of big corporate money's influence on local politics.



## Civic Engagement Committee at Occupy LA

### Update

[occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com](mailto:occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com)

The Civic Engagement Committee (CEC) is an official Occupy LA Committee that was voted on Tuesday Sept 27 at a pre-occupation GA. We will be holding workshops through the university, have daily activities, more meetings and ways for interested people to get involved. We are also working on a few other things (updates below).

### The Civic Engagement Committee should not be confused for the LEGAL committee or the City Liaison committee.

Civic Engagement means the **individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern**. It's exactly what we're all here for. "Civic" is defined as "**of or related to the duties or activities of people in relationship to town, city, or local area**". It's pretty much why we all are here.

#### Examples of Civic Engagement:

- ~ Community Problem Solving
- ~ Volunteering
- ~ Active membership in organizations
- ~ Voting
- ~ Encouraging others to vote
- ~ Displaying buttons, signs, stickers in support of something or someone
- ~ Campaigning
- ~ Political organizing
- ~ Protesting
- ~ Petitioning
- ~ Boycotting
- ~ Canvassing
- ~ Contacting officials

#### Workshops

We have proposed 3 workshops to The People's Collective University: **1) Crucial Conversations; 2) Strategic Planning 3) Speaking in front of a Civic Body.**

- 1) **The Crucial Conversations workshop** will be based off Vital Smarts' book and training based off the same name. Learn how to keep your cool and get the results you want when emotions flare. When stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong, you have three choices: 1) Avoid a crucial conversation and suffer the consequences; 2) handle the conversation badly and suffer the consequences; 3) or hold the *Crucial Conversations* and discover how to communicate best when it matters most. *Crucial Conversations* gives you the tools you need to step up to life's most difficult and important conversations, say what's on your mind, and achieve the positive resolutions you want.
- 2) **The Strategic Planning workshop** will be based off of Americans for Safe Access (ASA)'s literature. Often activists and organizations start their projects with a lot of passion, but fail to reach their goals. Sometimes this is because they never stopped to decide what success looks like before beginning their work. In other cases, well-meaning advocates get side-tracked by tangents and on dead-end projects that seem worthwhile but ultimately do not end in achieving their goals. Strategic planning is one of the most powerful tool that an activist or organization can engage in but it takes time and effort to accomplish.
- 3) **The Speaking in front of a Public Body workshop** will also be based off of Americans for Safe Access (ASA)'s literature. Elected bodies, including City Councils, County Boards of Supervisors, and Planning Commissions, often host public hearings to find out what constituents think about proposed legislation or other topics. These meetings give us a chance for elected officials to hear what we have to say in a public forum. Public hearings are a great place to influence legislation, but you need to plan ahead to make the most of your testimony.

**Please add to CF 09-0234-S1**

**Daily Activities**

On **Mondays at 1pm**, we will meet at the University for the Speaking in front of Civic Bodies workshop and at 2pm, we will go inside City Hall to visit the Budget and Finance Committee in Room 1010. This is where the Responsible Banking Ordinance is right now.

On **Tuesdays at 9am**, we will meet at the University for Speaking in front of Civic Bodies workshop and at 10am, we will go inside City Hall to visit City Council meeting in Room 340.

On **Wednesdays at 9am**, we will meet at the University for Speaking in front of Civic Bodies workshop and at 10am, we will go inside City Hall to visit City Council meeting in Room 340.

**On Thursdays we will have our Committee Meeting. What time on Thursdays works well for you?**

On **Fridays at 9am**, we will meet at the University for Speaking in front of Civic Bodies workshop and at 10am, we will go inside City Hall to visit City Council meeting in Room 340.

**On Saturdays we will also have our Committee Meeting. What time on Saturdays works well for you?**

On **Sundays**, we will rest or reserve that time for planning, researching and communicating online. We can even do an online meeting if that works well for other Committee Members.

What do you think?

**Meetings**

Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays are good days for meetings since the CEC has no other activities planned. We can also hold meetings on the other days but Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays all have workshops and actions already. However, if meetings on those days work well for other members, then let's talk about it.

**Please provide feedback on how you feel about meetings.** This will help us. Thank you.

**Ways to Get Involved**

**Research:** Ok, so there's a lot of research that needs to be done for this committee. Right now, I am researching how to make Public Record Requests at each level of government, the Responsible Banking Ordinance in LA, Freedom of Information Act Requests, County Board of Supervisor meetings and agendas, etc.

**Tech Help:** It would be cool if we could get someone or multiple people to help us with tech stuff, like GR codes for anything we print, etc.

Any other suggestions?

**Other Things**

We are working on letter writing campaigns to The Mayor, to Diane Feinstein, to City Council, etc. We're also working on a Public Records Campaign to get people to submit documents to be entered into Public Record. We are also looking to connect with the Demands/Objectives Committee and Research Committee, so we can help come up with ways to make sure our demands are filled and our Objectives are met.

**Please contact: [occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com](mailto:occupylacivicengagement@gmail.com)**

## OCCUPY LOS ANGELES ////INFO

The Occupation of Los Angeles began on October 1, 2011, at City Hall, in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street and all other occupations worldwide, to protest the blatant injustices perpetuated by the 1% - the economic and political elites - whose actions affect all of us, the 99%.

Today, we proudly remain engaged in non-violent civil disobedience while building solidarity based on mutual respect, acceptance, and love.

We are the 99% and we have assumed full responsibility for the future of our society, our culture, and most importantly, our own lives.

## PRINCIPLES OF SOLIDARITY [partial] ////WORKING DRAFT

Through a direct democratic process, we have come together as individuals and crafted these principles of solidarity, which are points of unity that include but are not limited to:

- Engaging in direct and transparent participatory democracy;
- Exercising personal and collective responsibility;
- Recognizing individuals' inherent privilege and the influence it has on all interactions;
- Empowering one another against all forms of oppression;
- Redefining how labor is valued;
- The sanctity of individual privacy;
- The belief that education is human right; and
- Endeavoring to practice and support wide application of open source.

We are daring to imagine a new socio-political and economic alternative that offers greater possibility of equality. We are consolidating the other proposed principles of solidarity, after which demands will follow.

## LOS ANGELES GENERAL ASSEMBLY ////PROCESS

### //WHAT

The General Assembly is a gathering of people committed to making decisions based upon a collective agreement or "consensus." There is no single leader or governing body of the General Assembly - everyone's voice is equal. Anyone is free to propose an idea or express an opinion as part of the General Assembly. That said, in the spirit of keeping the GA as a functioning collective decision making body, it is advised that you work within affinity groups and functional committees in order to discuss and refine proposals before bringing it to the General Assembly for review by the body as a whole. (Information on existing groups, meeting times and contact persons can be found at the Welcome Tent).

### //WHY

We do not vote at the General Assembly. We are interested in searching for and finding new ideas to deal with problems presented. Most of us are used to a debate, consisting of 2 or more opposed ideas, and seeing which is more palatable to the group. Through Active Listening and Solidarity we can achieve an entirely new idea that is not only palatable to the whole, but agreeable -- regardless of our separate ideologies and experiences. This is sometimes an uncomfortable process of making collective decisions, but well worth the effort in constructing a fair, inclusive, horizontally structured society where all our voices and ideas are respected.

### //HOW

Each proposal follows the same basic format - an individual shares what is being proposed, why it is being proposed, and, if there is enough agreement, how it can be carried out. The Assembly will express its opinion for each proposal through a series of hand gestures (see next panel). If there is positive consensus for a proposal - meaning no outright opposition - then it is accepted and direct action begins. If consensus is not reached, the responsible group or individual is asked to revise the proposal and submit again at the following General Assembly until a consensus is achieved. Often this takes time, but time is what we have. We're not going away.

"This is an adaptable process, please join the Facilitation Committee and help us make this the General Assembly you would like it to be."

## LOS ANGELES GENERAL ASSEMBLY ////HAND GESTURES

We use hand signals during the General Assembly to express opinion. These 5 are not all-encompassing, but a point of reference.



Applause or I Agree  
For a proposal during consensus period



I Disagree  
I Disagree with this proposal, but I'm willing to allow the group to make a decision and carry on.



Point of Clarity, Question.  
[We can't come to consensus without being clear on the proposal, so, a valued interruption]



Point of Process.  
If you feel the process is being derailed to the detriment of the group, we use this instead of shouting people down.

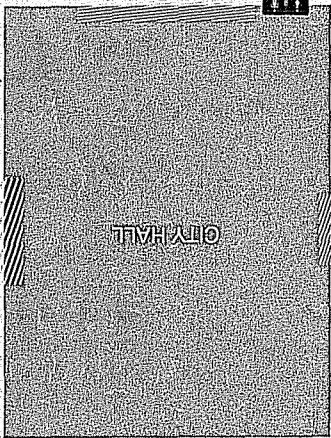


Hard Block.  
I feel strongly that this proposal threatens the Solidarity of the group or our physical safety. I will leave if this proposal gains consensus.

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TEMPLE ST

SPRING ST



MAIN ST

1ST ST

	WELCOME
	RESTROOMS
	SUPPLIES
	FOOD
	MEDICAL
	BUS STOP
	ZERO WASTE ZONE
	SOLAR ENERGY
	MEDIA

OCCUPY LOS ANGELES  
////CONTACT - LINKS - INFO

[occupylosangeles.org](http://occupylosangeles.org)

[occupyla.org](http://occupyla.org)

[occupytogether.org](http://occupytogether.org)

[occupywallst.org/](http://occupywallst.org/)

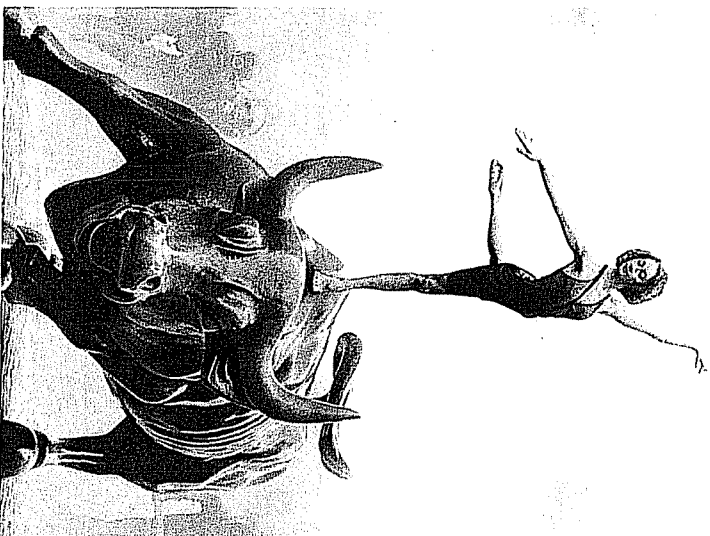
[facebook.com/occupylosangeles](http://facebook.com/occupylosangeles)  
[livestream.com/QWSLosAngeles](http://livestream.com/QWSLosAngeles)  
[flickr.com/groups/occupyla](http://flickr.com/groups/occupyla)  
[youtube.com/OccupyLAmedia](http://youtube.com/OccupyLAmedia)  
[occupyla.tumblr.com](http://occupyla.tumblr.com)  
[twitter.com/occupyla](http://twitter.com/occupyla)

OCCUPY LOS ANGELES  
////GENERAL NOTE

If you are new to the occupation or consensus building direct democracy as a decision making process, don't panic! We're all learning together. You are welcome to observe the GA for however long you need until you feel comfortable with the way it works. Remember, this is a participatory democracy, not a mandatory one. While we respect individual rights and autonomy, we ask that if you do choose to participate, you agree to respect the decisions made by the General Assembly. This pamphlet is just a basic primer, please seek out more information on the process at the Welcome Tent, or at:

<http://rakethsquare.net/2011/07/31/quick-guide-on-group-dynamics-in-peoples-assemblies>  
[www.occupytogether.org/docs/occupy-web.pdf](http://www.occupytogether.org/docs/occupy-web.pdf)

# LOS ANGELES GENERAL ASSEMBLY



#OCCUPYLA

Please add to City File 09-0234-S1

## Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

*This document was accepted by the NYC General Assembly on September 29, 2011*

As we gather together in solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice, we must not lose sight of what brought us together. We write so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world can know that we are your allies.

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known.

- They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage.
- They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses.
- They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.
- They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization.
- They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices.
- They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions.
- They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right.
- They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.
- They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.
- They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance.
- They have sold our privacy as a commodity.
- They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press.
- They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit.
- They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce.
- They have donated large sums of money to politicians, who are responsible for regulating them.
- They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil.
- They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives or provide relief in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantial profit.
- They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.
- They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media.
- They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt.
- They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad.
- They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.
- They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government contracts.\*

To the people of the world,  
We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power. Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone.

To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.

Join us and make your voices heard!

*\*These grievances are not all-inclusive.*

What follows is a living document that will be revised through democratic process of General Assembly

On September 17, 2011, people from all across the United States of America and the world came to protest the blatant injustices of our times perpetuated by the economic and political elites. On the 17th we as individuals rose up against political disenfranchisement and social and economic injustice. We spoke out, resisted, and successfully occupied Wall Street.

Today, we proudly remain in Liberty Square constituting ourselves as autonomous political beings engaged in non-violent civil disobedience and building solidarity based on mutual respect, acceptance, and love. It is from these reclaimed grounds that we say to all Americans and to the world, Enough!

How many crises does it take? We are the 99% and we have moved to reclaim our mortgaged future. Through a direct democratic process, we have come together as individuals and crafted these principles of solidarity, which are points of unity that include but are not limited to:

- Engaging in direct and transparent participatory democracy;
- Exercising personal and collective responsibility;
- Recognizing individuals' inherent privilege and the influence it has on all interactions;
- Empowering one another against all forms of oppression;
- Redefining how labor is valued;
- The sanctity of individual privacy;
- The belief that education is human right; and
- Endeavoring to practice and support wide application of open source.

We are daring to imagine a new socio-political and economic alternative that offers greater possibility of equality. We are consolidating the other proposed principles of solidarity, after which demands will follow.

The Working Group on Principles of Consolidation continues to work through the other proposed principles to be incorporated as soon as possible into this living document. This is an official document crafted by the Working Group on Principles of Consolidation. The New York City General Assembly came to consensus on September 23rd to accept this working draft and post it online for public consumption.

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**RICHARD ALARCÓN**  
Councilmember  
Seventh District,

**MEMO**

**From:** Councilmember Richard Alarcón *RA*  
**To:** Hon. Carmen Trutanich, City Attorney  
Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles Police Department  
Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services Department  
**CC:** Mario Brito, "Occupy Los Angeles"  
**Date:** Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**Re:** Providing Occupy LA Event – Tomorrow Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at City Hall- with Reasonable Accommodations to Peacefully Exercise 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights

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It is my understanding that an inter-Departmental meeting consisting of the City Attorney's office, the General Services Department, and the Los Angeles Police Department will be meeting this afternoon to discuss the planned peaceful demonstration by the group "Occupy Los Angeles" which is set to occur on the City Hall lawn tomorrow.

I'm writing to urge you to provide a reasonable accommodation to "Occupy Los Angeles" in order to both protect the City's interests and to allow this group to peacefully exercise its' First Amendment rights.

It will benefit neither the City nor "Occupy Los Angeles" if peaceful protestors are arrested at or near City Hall tomorrow night. Numerous other jurisdictions, including the Cities of New York, Boston, Washington DC, and San Francisco, have allowed these protests to proceed peaceably and without violence or arrests. It would be unwise for our City to be overly aggressive and change the story from what it is—a protest against financial institutions—into a story about the City being inhospitable to peaceful demonstrations of civil rights.

My staff and I stand willing to assist in any way possible to assure that the interests of both parties can be reasonably accommodated. I recommend that "Occupy Los Angeles" demonstrators be allowed to sleep near City Hall tomorrow night in such a way that does not disrupt pedestrian traffic and allows the previously scheduled permitted activities and City business to proceed in an undisrupted fashion.

Please add to CF 09-0234-81



**"For Submission--Community Needs" to olapeoplescollectiveuniversity@gmail.com with:**

**1) Title of workshop:** Crucial Conversation: Tools for Talking when the Stakes are high

**2) Brief Description of Workshop (3 - 4 sentences):** Learn how to keep your cool and get the results you want when emotions flare. When stakes are high, opinions vary, and emotions run strong, you have three choices: 1) Avoid a crucial conversation and suffer the consequences; 2) handle the conversation badly and suffer the consequences; 3) or hold *Crucial Conversations* and discover how to communicate best when it matters most. *Crucial Conversations* gives you the tools you need to step up to life's most difficult and important conversations, say what's on your mind, and achieve the positive resolutions you want.

**3) What community need is being met by the workshop:** You'll learn how to:

- Prepare for high-impact situations with a six-minute mastery technique
- Make it safe to talk about almost anything
- Be persuasive, not abrasive
- Keep listening when others blow up or clam up
- Turn crucial conversations into the action and results you want

**4) Brief Bio of presenters explaining how/where they gained their knowledge on the topic:** I have read this book, I have listened to the audiobook and I've sat through the training to not only learn about this but learn how to teach it. I have not mastered these skills but would love to teach others, so I can start to implement these ideas into my own life. I feel I can learn it better by teaching others.

**1) Title of workshop:** Speaking in front of a Civic Body

**2) Brief Description of Workshop (3 - 4 sentences):** Elected bodies, including City Councils, County Boards of Supervisors, and Planning Commissions, often host public hearings to find out what constituents think about proposed legislation or other topics. These meetings give us a chance for elected officials to hear what we have to say in a public forum. Public hearings are a great place to influence legislation, but you need to plan ahead to make the most of your testimony.

**3) What community need is being met by the workshop:** If we can influence civic bodies through our public comments, then we change a lot of laws and help ensure enforcement current laws. We cannot ignore the legal and political systems we live in, especially if we want to reform or revolutionize them.

**4) Brief Bio of presenters explaining how/where they gained their knowledge on the topic:** The material was created by the national non-profit I am an independent contractor for. I am using it because I know they won't sue me and it's free to us. They are the best non-profit at what they do. Here's the material: [http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/testifying\\_at\\_public\\_hearings\\_2011.pdf](http://safeaccessnow.org/downloads/testifying_at_public_hearings_2011.pdf)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## OCCUPY LA GOES GREEN AND PLANTS A PORTABLE-EDIBLE GARDEN AT CITY HALL

### First-Amendment Advocates Seek to Address their Environmental Impact

LOS ANGELES – November 2, 2011: Occupy Los Angeles, the anti-Wall-Street Protesters camping outside of LA City Hall since October 1, proactively seek environmentally sustainable solutions to the economic problems and the City's concerns about the lawn and trees. Advocates plan to build a portable-sustainable-edible garden within the park this Thursday as part of an eco-friendly series.

Last weekend, a small group of Occupiers left Tent City at City Hall to do outreach at the Green Festival which took place at the Convention Center. Green Festival organizers gifted the booth to Occupiers. The advocates connected with non-profits and other eco-conscious organizations to address not only the city's concerns about the lawn but other sustainable issues of the camp, the city, state, and nation.

Tomas O'Grady, Co-founder of Enrich LA, a non-profit dedicated to edible school gardens, will help the occupiers from 10am-3pm build this installation project of a portable raised-garden bed. A group of volunteers will construct, paint, and plant winter vegetables.

This installation project is part of Occupy LA's Eco-Thursdays with speakers, entertainment, and support for the Downtown LA's Farmers' Market. The speakers are part of a noon-time speakers series.

In addition, some Occupiers want to help promote the Farmers' Market's new location across Main Street and encourage locals to buy their food there, to help minimize the Occupations impact on the small-business vendors at the market. The market was displaced from the South Lawn when the Occupation grew so large.

Furthermore, the Mayor and other city officials have shown concern for the lawn and trees. Occupiers and others believe grass is not the most eco-conscious landscape to have in this desert climate. The protesters are seeking alternative landscape ideas to help the city minimize water usage and still have a beautiful park once the occupation leaves.

As far as the trees, Occupiers met the Tree People, a non-profit dedicated to trees, at the Green Festival and hope to have them and other experts come up with a solution for any issues the city may have about maintaining the trees since sprinklers are not the most water-conservative way to water the trees.

"Eco-conscious businesses have been hit hard by this economy and corporate greed" says Magda X from Occupy LA's Green Committee. "This is our chance to draw that connection and promote sustainability." Filipinos

Do Rights Expire?

My name is Cheryl Aichele and I am a resident of Los Angeles in the district 5.

I am here to ask City Officials to stand by their oath to protect our Constitution and the Rights it affords us. And to stand by the Resolution you all passed called First Amendment Rights/Occupy LA

I realize time is an issue.

Correct me if I am wrong but as far as I know our Constitutional Rights have no expiration date on them. Our Founding Fathers did not add a provision to the Constitution that required us to only use our Rights for a few hours, or a few days, or a few months, or a few years or even a few decades.

One of my favorite provisions in the Constitution of the United States of America can be found within the First Amendment: the Right to petition our Government for redress of Grievances. To redress is to set right, remedy, or rectify. We are here to rectify and remedy our Grievances.

And our list of Grievances is long and justified. Grievances are real or imagined wrongs or other causes for complaints or protests, especially unfair treatment. I think we can agree we've all been mistreated!

I, myself, have a long list of grievances of my own (much like many of the occupiers, concerned citizens, and even civic servants such as all of you). I graduated 2 years ago from UCLA; I'm up to my eyeballs in debt. I cannot find a good enough paying job in this economy. I cannot afford a home. I have no health insurance and when I did, it did serve to take care of my health.

Again, I realize this is an issue.

We did not get into this epic mess overnight. We didn't get into this mess over a few weeks either. Because of our inactions, we have allowed these injustices to occur for far too long.

For far too long we have remained silent. For far too long we have remained inactive. For far too long we have remained irresponsible. Some of us can no longer remain silent. Some of us can no longer remain inactive. Some of us are ready take individual and collective responsibility.

Please do not squash that. Please do not deter us. Please do not displace us. Help us. You have an incredible opportunity here.

If the occupiers were gay-rights activists clamoring at city hall and strategic locations around the world demanding to cripple the systemic injustices perpetrated against gays, then would two weeks be enough time? Would you ask them to move on? What about black Civil Rights Leaders, or Women's Right activists, or Latino farmer worker organizers, or Japanese Internment camp protesters, or child labor protectors? Would you have kicked them out? Would you say: "Time's up?"

Please tell me when is the last time you had hundreds of people literally at City Hall's door step (day in and day out) ready to be heard, ready to take action, ready to right the wrongs that have been perpetrated against all of us for so long. Never until now. We're making history. Don't get in our way.